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This Week

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Asper spearheads human rights museum

Izzy Asper
[Israpet photo]

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Media mogul Israel Asper believes in giving back to his community. In 1983, he founded the Asper Foundation, which, in recent years, has poured tens of millions of dollars into philanthropic projects in Winnipeg and Israel.

His latest vision is a $200-million Canadian Museum of Human Rights to be built within the next three years at The Forks in downtown Winnipeg.

Plans for the museum were unveiled in a press conference last month by the Asper family, along with Federal Heritage Minister Sheila Copps; Stephen Owen, secretary of state and the minister responsible for western economic diversification; and Rey Pagtakhan, senior federal minister for Manitoba.

"This will be the largest human rights museum in the world," said Moe Levy, the Asper Foundation's executive director.

Continued on page 26

Mother and child reunion

There was a special surprise for five IDF soldiers from overseas. These soldiers, known as *chayalim bodedim*, are on their own with no family connections in Israel. Without the soldiers' knowledge, the Defence Ministry arranged to have their mothers flown in to be with their children for the Passover holiday. Here we see one such happy surprise reunion. *[Israpet photo]*

SARS a factor as Israel mission cancelled

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Jewish federation here cancelled a scheduled May mission to Israel early last month, largely because of public concern about the SARS outbreak in Toronto.

This, however, was not the only reason. "There were a number of other factors," said Bob Freedman, the federation's executive vice-president. He cited the war in Iraq as well, noting the last day for deposits coincided with the start of the war on March 20.

"That combined with the reality that we were scheduled to go through Toronto and a lot of people don't want to travel to Toronto for business or pleasure because of the SARS problem," he said.

The final decision to abort the mission was made even before last week's World Health Organization advisory against travel to Toronto.

Freedman said 32 people had expressed interest in going on the trip, but, in the end, only eight signed up.

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Shabbat Rosh Chodesh: Kedoshim
Candlelighting: 8:02
Havdallah: 9:07

Greater Toronto Area

French Jews worried about Muslim Council elections — see page 27

Feature

German invasion changed a child's life

Part 2 of 2

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Bianka Kraszewski gently pushes back the lid of a battered old leather suitcase, and surveys the treasures contained within.

Life in the Warsaw Ghetto

Smaller than most of today's carry-on luggage, the suitcase and its contents are one of the few mementoes she still has from a happy life in pre-war Poland – and a reminder of the devastating experiences of life under the Nazis.

Inside are an assortment of old clothes, a school uniform, a dressing gown and her "pretty," a delicate slip that was her pride and joy.

A yellowed booklet is particularly precious, as it contains the hand-written notes from her parents that helped her survive two years in hiding in wartime Warsaw.

Kraszewski, nee Rozenman, was just a child when German forces invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939. As she recalls life as a nine-year-old, things were pretty happy before the war. Residing in Lodz, her family was fairly well-to-do. Her father, Pawel, worked for a company that supplied machinery to the city's numerous textile mills. He would often travel to England, France and Germany on business.

The family enjoyed a comfortable apartment and no expense was spared to provide their children with a good education. Despite the cost involved, Bianka was enrolled in a private Jewish school so she would not have to undergo the anti-Semitic taunting experienced by her older brother, Ryszard.

Bianka Kraszewski

Though assimilated into Polish cultural life, the family celebrated all the Jewish holidays.

In the summer, the kids were sent to a rental cottage outside Lodz while at other times, she took skating and dance lessons. She even had a nanny, Kraszewski recalls.

The German invasion, of course, changed all that.

"I remember the sirens in Lodz," Kraszewski said, as well as a trip with her father to the nearby patisserie where the men discussed the military situation.

She remembers sometime later that the family moved en masse to Warsaw, where her grandmother had a flat paid for by her father. Inside the cramped quarters the family slept on folding cots and a cold draft permeated the apartment through bombed out windows that were sealed with newspaper.

The family acquired a potbelly stove to keep the apartment warm, and meals, she noticed, started getting worse.

The loss of their pre-war lives devastated the family. Thrown out of work, "my father was a broken man. My mother started selling stockings from place to place. But there was not food, only bread made of potato peels and sawdust." Sometimes the kids would get jam made of beets and saccharin or raw rhubarb with a little more saccharin.

In 1942, her father made contact with an old employee who ran the Shultz workshops that refurbished German army uniforms and sent them back out to the field.

With his experience, her father was made a manager. Her mother worked there too. Bianka was take along and with other kids was made to hide during inspections behind bales of lice-ridden, bloody army uniforms.

During that time her aged grandmother was dragged away from the factory and her father would have lost his life as well if others hadn't restrained him and cupped a hand over his mouth. "We were told they buried her alive," she said.

Many of her relatives were taken away to Poniatowa and to Trawniki where they were killed, but through luck and good contacts, her family managed to go into hiding.

In November 1942, Genia Olczak, later named a righteous Gentile, who had worked as a nanny for her aunt and uncle, smuggled Kraszewski and her mother out of the ghetto, finding hiding places in various safe houses in Aryan Warsaw.

Later, her father was put in the trunk of a car by the factory manager, Fritz Shultz, and taken to the Aryan side. The family, now separated, was taken from place to place and hidden by the Zagota Polish underground.

Meanwhile, her grandfather in Warsaw committed suicide rather than be deported, and her brother was taken to the Trawniki camp and killed. Many other aunts and uncles were also killed in the camp.

When the ghetto uprising took place on April 19, 1943, Kraszewski was in hiding and she knew little of it. Thirteen at the time, she found herself locked in a room to prevent her from running around and alerting curious neighbours about her presence.

"When I think about it, it seems like someone else. I don't know how I survived it."

Continued on page 18

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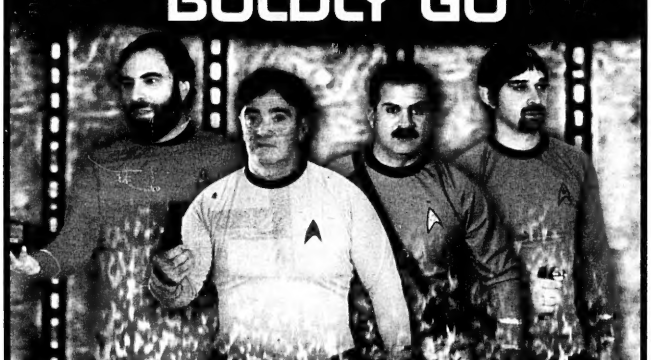

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Lastman to lead municipal leaders' mission to Israel

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman will lead the first-ever delegation of Canadian municipal officials to Israel beginning May 10.

Lastman and his wife Marilyn will join a dozen other municipal politicians and officials from Canadian Jewish Congress on the five-day CJC-sponsored mission to meet with their Israeli counterparts and get a sense of the issues they face.

Also scheduled are meetings with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, finance minister Benjamin Netanyahu and industry and commerce minister Ehud Olmert. The participants will also be briefed on how municipalities cope with the threat of terrorism.

There will be a strong contingent from York Region, north of Toronto. Scheduled to go are Thornhill Tory MPP Tina Molinari, who's also associate minister of municipal affairs; York Region chair Bill Fisch; Vaughan Mayor Michael Di Biase; and Vaughan Ward 5 councillor Susan Kadis.

The participants are slated to travel to the city of Ramla in Israel, which has special significance for the City of Vaughan. The two municipalities twinned a decade ago to encourage deeper cultural and economic ties between them.

Congress says it's important to sensitize these officials to Israel's concerns because often, the municipal level is a stepping stone to bigger things in politics.

Also scheduled to take part are Ken Boshcoff, the mayor of Thunder Bay and president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Scott Northmore, mayor of Bracebridge; Frank Miele, York Region's commissioner of economy/technology/development & communications; Alex Munter, a city councillor from Kanata; James Gordon, the mayor of Sudbury; and Toronto city councillor Mike Feldman.

Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman

A statement from Lastman's office says that of "special interest" to Toronto is the changing demographic face of many Israeli municipalities and the rapidly developing infrastructures they have.

The politicians will be briefed on Israel's light rail project and will see the country's new Cross-Israel Highway, developed with Canadian know-how based on Highway 407 technology.

Meetings are slated with the mayor of Tel Aviv, Ron Huldai, and the mayor of Jerusalem, Uri Lupoliansky.

As well, participants will be briefed by Canada's ambassador to Israel, Michael Bell, and by Canada's envoy to the Palestinian Authority, Steven Hibbert.

Scheduled too is a tour of the Canada Center in Metulla, Israel's northernmost town, and tours of Christian sites, such as Capernaum and parts of the Galilee. There will also be visits to Yad Vashem and to Hadassah Hospital.

The junket's purpose is to introduce "one more group of important Canadian decision makers and policy makers to Israeli society and challenges faced by both government and people of Israel," says CJC Ontario region chair Ed Morgan, who will be accompanied by region executive director Bernie Farber; political action committee chair Rachel Turkienicz; CJC director of community development Michael Soberman; and CJC national treasurer Cary Green.

"We hope also to introduce them to environmental and urban planning issues," adds Morgan, "and to hopefully showcase innovative solutions Israel has come up with."

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Greater Toronto Area

Perception is reality

From the editor's desk

It is generally true that distance – separation from an object being measured – fosters perspective, and that perspective usually fosters more accurate perception.

This axiom of measurement only holds true, however, when the instrument measuring, either the naked eye or an assistive device, measures accurately. Otherwise, distance distorts, perspective becomes warped, perception is utterly unreliable and truth is lost.

The reaction in some quarters to the SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) situation in Greater Toronto is a case in point.

The World Health Organization (WHO) rocked Canadian health agencies and all three levels of government last week when it issued an advisory warning against travel to the Toronto area. The Geneva-based organization's press release carried sufficient public relations weight to ensure that SARS-in-Toronto instantly became one of the lead items on network news shows all around the world.

But the medical facts of the situation in Toronto did not warrant the WHO reaction; nor do they warrant the fallout that resulted from the WHO warning. Indeed, as of this writing, the ban is under review and might be modified, if not rescinded, even before this issue of *The CJN* reaches its readers. Canadian officials sent updated information to WHO and they assume an adjustment to the advisory will be forthcoming. A spokesperson for WHO virtually promised as much when he admitted on the weekend that the organization may have acted prematurely in issuing the travel warning.

As of last Sunday, there were 269 probable and suspected SARS cases in the Toronto area. Twenty-one people, alas, had died from the disease. But there had not been any new SARS infection from secondary sources in nearly a month.

The new SARS cases stemmed from direct contact with an infected individual and most, though not all, of the people who succumbed to the disease had other, complicating, pre-existing medical conditions as well. Moreover, according to health officials, some 95 per cent of the individuals who have contracted the disease thus far have recovered.

There is no denying that the situation is very serious. But because of the inaccurate lens – WHO – through which Toronto's situation has been measured, the perspective has become warped, fostering almost a quasi-hysteria in the outside world's perception of SARS-in-Toronto.

Many organizations in Toronto where large numbers of the public gather, including most synagogues, have adopted anti-SARS protocols to minimize opportunities for possible infection. But in the main, it is prudence, not suspicion, that governs. And it is compassion, not disassociation, that is the rule.

WHO's pronouncement confirmed in the worried and wavering minds of many individuals who were on their way to the Toronto area, that they should cancel their plans. Thus, many conferences and concerts scheduled and already booked for Toronto have been cancelled.

Elton John and Billy Joel, for example, cancelled scheduled appearances.

Tourists are staying away. The wide, interwoven web of tourism-related businesses is suffering. As a result, many jobs are being jeopardized. And thus, a not-insignificant threat to the overall economy looms rather menacingly.

The impact of the rampant Toronto avoidance, not surprisingly, has also effected the Jewish community.

A highly-regarded scholar and motivational speaker from Israel cancelled a lecture he was scheduled to deliver next month at a large synagogue.

Even more cutting was the cancellation of a mission to Israel originating in western Canada, largely because of concern about SARS in Toronto. Many of the passengers allegedly felt uncomfortable because the flight was scheduled to stop in Toronto and collect some passengers there.

In the result, certain observations beg to be made:

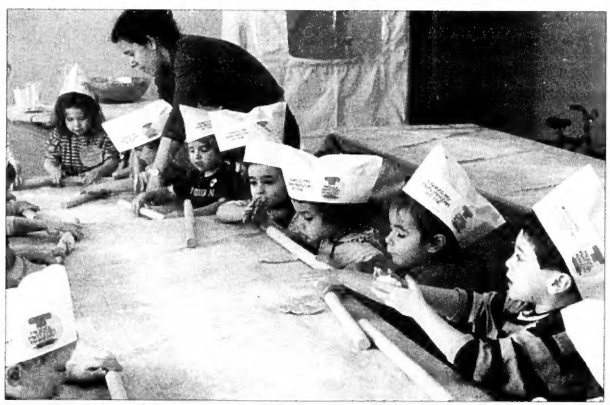
- We owe a great debt to the health-care workers who are the first-line battlers against this profoundly vexing and troubling disease. When they go to work, they risk a great deal more than we do. Their perseverance, dedication and courage are a great example to us.
- The SARS situation poignantly and painfully illustrates the deeply embedded, structural interdependence between individual well-being, narrowly defined, and societal well-being, broadly defined.
- As a result of this interdependence, it is strategically imperative – not to mention, of course, morally imperative as well – to achieve and maintain the highest possible standard of medical care for our society.
- The Toronto-avoidance response has enabled us more vividly, more directly and more personally to empathize with the Israel-avoidance response that still characterizes most North Americans' reaction to the situation there. Both cases are marked by dangers, to be sure. But the true dimension of that danger has been distorted through distance by the instruments whose perceptions have purported to depict for us the reality, but which have, in truth, merely conveyed warped perspectives.

* * *

In this week's issue we debut the reportage of Svetlana Barkan, a freelancer who, along with other new freelancers, will, in the coming weeks, help us better report on the news of the burgeoning Russian Jewish community in the Greater Toronto Area.

— MBD

SeeJN



MATZAH FACTORY:

Children at the Chabad Lubavitch downtown location matzah factory roll out dough in preparation for the baking of their own hand-made shmurah matzah. The matzah factory was one of two operated at Chabad locations for several weeks prior to Passover.

Shaarei Shomayim students see tribute to Ramon

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

It's been two months since Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon died with his American cohorts when the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated on re-entry into the earth's atmosphere Feb. 1.

The day after the tragedy, when most of the world was still in shock, David Weinberg was busy creating a slide show about Ramon and his accomplishments.

David Weinberg

The presentation, which was used Feb. 3 in a memorial service by Yeshiva University where Weinberg is a student, was picked up by Fox TV and ABC, which both later aired part of the show. Weinberg, who is from Toronto, was also interviewed by NBC, CBS, *Newsday* and *USA Today*.

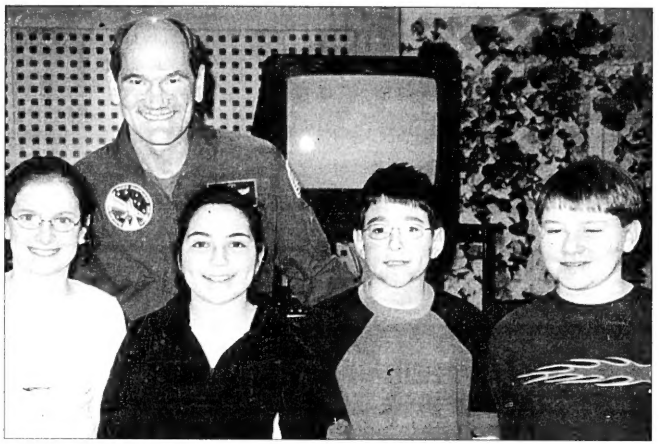
Weinberg's slide show, which combines music from the movie *Apollo 13* with images of Ramon and his achievements, was shown at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue last month as part of an evening devoted to space. The Yetta Nashman Jewish Family Institute (JFI) sponsored the event as part of its family-focused learning opportunities. NASA astronaut Guy Gardner was also present to share his space experiences.

JFI representative Bronwyn Sheppard said the tribute to Ramon is only part of the story.

"Guy Gardner teaches us about space, human achievement and how to pursue your dreams and achieve your potential," she said.

Weinberg noted that the Ramon story ties the Jewish element into the narrative.

"Ramon represents the ability of the Jewish people to endure" despite all tragedies, he said.



ASTRONAUT VISITS: Grade 4 and 5 students at The Leo Baeck enjoyed a visit from NASA astronaut Guy Gardner. Gardner spoke about space travel, science and human achievement. His film showing his own experience in space captivated the students. He and the students also remembered Ilan Ramon, Israel's first man in space. Seen here with Gardner is (from left) Erin Chesney, Rachel Parker, Charlie Prussky and Michael Adessky.

SARS claims second Jewish victim

SARS, severe acute respiratory syndrome, has claimed another Jewish victim in Toronto.

Rose Pollack died April 12, just a few weeks after her husband, Joseph, died of the same disease. Her funeral was at Bathurst Lawn Cemetery the following Monday.

Joseph Pollack was one of the first Canadian SARS patients. He contracted it when he was placed in the same room as a SARS patient at Scarborough Hospital, Grace Division.

The burial of a suspected SARS victim at Pardes Shalom cemetery led to Ontario Association of Cemeteries-mandated precautions for the cemetery staff, including gloves and masks.

A coroner's report proved that it was a false alarm.

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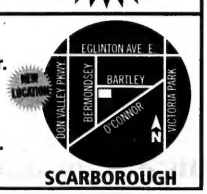

SCARBOROUGH

Former McGill principal to be honoured

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

If you ask Bernard Shapiro – the former principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University – about his legacy, he practically changes the subject.

"I do not think in terms so personal as legacy," he said in an interview.

And neither is he prepared to discuss his accomplishments at McGill, his alma mater.

"It is for others to say just what my achievements at McGill were," said Shapiro, who will be honoured by The Learning Partnership at a dinner in Toronto on May 8 for his contributions to public education.

The Learning Partnership is a charitable organization dedicated to strengthening public education in Canada.

Despite his reluctance to dwell on himself, Shapiro, who headed McGill from 1994 until last summer, admits he left it better equipped to face the future.

For starters, Shapiro – who turns 68 on June 8 – initiated the physical redevelopment of McGill.

In an ambitious reconstruction project, the likes of which had not been seen on the Montreal campus in about four decades, Shapiro oversaw the construction of a new library, a new music building, a new student centre and a new building devoted to research in genetics.

Shapiro also eliminated McGill's accumulated debt, doubled the inflow of philanthropic gifts, developed the School for the Environment, beefed up the library collections and raised the proportion of international students.

He also started outreach programs to francophone students in Quebec. "My overall enrolment model was to have half of our students from McGill – divided equally between francophones and anglophones – and half from outside Quebec, divided equally between Canadians and international students."

Present enrolment figures are very close to this objective, Shapiro said.

Most important, he successfully launched a faculty renewal program whereby 100 new professors are brought to McGill each year.

"I have no regrets," he said. "I left the principalship at this time because I felt I had done as much as I had it in me to do and that, therefore, it was time for fresh leadership."

His successor, Heather Monroe-Blum, was the University of Toronto's vice-principal.

Officially, Shapiro retires on Jan. 1, 2005. But until then, he is on sabbatical leave.

His greatest disappointment, he acknowledged, was his inability to convince the Quebec government of "the appropriate place and value of universities to the future of our community."

McGill requires about an extra $80 million per year to operate at properly funded levels, he noted.

But McGill's problem is hardly unique. As he put it, "The question of the adequate funding for all Canadian research universities remains unsettled."

Asked whether he was hard-pressed to administer McGill during an era of government cutbacks, he replied, "It was difficult but certainly not impossible. I do not recall ever throwing up my hands in despair."

He added: "The government was not right in being simultaneously parsimonious in its grants and freezing tuition. This simply undermined the quality of the education available to young persons, since in the 'free trade' of gray matter, Canadian universities must compete with their American counterparts if Canada is to achieve its own objectives."

Nevertheless, the federal government has been "very responsive" to universities through such programs as the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Millennium Scholarships, he pointed out.

Shapiro was the first Jewish principal of McGill, which once restricted the number of Jewish students on campus.

"It was very exciting for me to note that Jewishness was no longer a barrier – perceived or real – to the appointment. It gave me some confidence that over time, things can improve."

Shapiro concedes he was not that eager to accept the principalship when it was offered.

He had just retired from the Ontario Public Service, having held a series of senior posts, including deputy minister of education, and intended to work only on a part-time basis.

"I found, however, that the challenge of McGill was irresistible. In choosing to come to McGill, I made what I regard as one of the best choices in my professional and personal life."

Bernard Shapiro

Born and raised in the Montreal suburb of Hampstead, the son of Mary and Max Shapiro, he graduated from McGill in 1956, majoring in economics and political science.

As top student in the faculty of arts, he won the Alan Oliver Gold Medal.

Shortly after graduation, he and his twin brother, Harold, a future president of Princeton University, took over and managed the famous family business – the Ruby Foo's Chinese restaurant – for several years. They sold it in 1961.

"I like Chinese food, though I did not care for it as a youngster," he said.

Leaving Montreal, Shapiro took a doctorate in education at Harvard. In 1967, he joined the faculty of Boston University, where he was later associate dean of its school of education.

Returning to Canada, Shapiro was dean of the University of Western Ontario's faculty of education and then the university's vice-president.

From 1980 until 1986, he was director of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

After a six-year stint as an Ontario civil servant, he joined the University of Toronto as a professor of education and public policy.

His wife Phyllis also taught at the University of Toronto as a professor of education.

They have two married children: Arlene Cooper, who lives in Richmond Hill, Ont., and Marvin, who resides in Maitland, Fla.

Shapiro is not certain what his future holds. "I am not at all sure just what I will do."

Yet he is quite busy. He chairs the selection committee that will choose the next music director of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, and is co-chair of the Societe du Havre, an agency charged with redeveloping Montreal's harbourfront.

In addition, he chairs the board of the Royal Military College and the Canadian Bureau of International Education.

Shapiro, who intends to go on living in Montreal, is active in the Jewish community, being vice-president of Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue and of CJA Federation.

Most recently, he signed on as a volunteer consultant to the National Jewish Population Study, sponsored by the United Jewish Communities in New York.

Outside academia, he maintains an interest in keyboard instruments and reads ceaselessly, particularly in intellectual history.

He and his wife collect Japanese porcelain.

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Radio program fights anti-Israel bias in media

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

Radio host Rabbi Tovia Singer loves dismantling the anti-Israel arguments voiced by those who are committed to undermining the Jewish state.

Singer is the host of *The Tovia Singer Show*, which is dedicated to countering anti-Israel bias in the mainstream media by analyzing current events and featuring thought-provoking guests who discuss Jewish issues. While many of the show's listeners are very supportive of its pro-Israel stance, others are critical of the show's take on current events.

"When people call in challenging the fundamental aspects of the Jewish state, that's an opportunity to listen and learn how to respond," said Singer, a New York-based public speaker who lectures widely in North America, Europe and Israel. "The purpose of the show is to expose the arguments that are designed to smear the Jewish state."

Launched in January 2002, *The Tovia Singer Show* is the brainchild of Torontonian Rachelle Bronfman, who used her own funds to start the program, which continues to be funded entirely through private donations.

"I was sick of the bias against Israel in the media," said Bronfman. "The media is so critical of Israel – every time Israel does something to defend itself, it gets criticized." Spurred by her frustration, Bronfman decided to launch a radio show to provide a counterbalance to the anti-Israel rhetoric colouring the media landscape.

"I felt I had to do something to try and make a difference," she said. "So this is what I've chosen to do."

Lacking any formal training in radio, Bronfman rented a studio and learned how to produce the show. She now has 14 people working for the program, including nine based in Toronto, where it's produced. The show was first broadcast by two New York area radio stations, but was picked up by Arutz 7, Israel's National News radio, in October 2002 and is also broadcast live around the world via the Internet.

The two-hour program opens with Singer speaking on a current issue or recent event, and then features a guest speaker before opening to questions from listeners around the world.

The show's roster of guests have included comedian Jackie Mason, media magnate Israel Asper, Rabbi Marvin Hier, Middle East expert Daniel Pipes and lawyer Alan Dershowitz, among many others. Bronfman said one of the "heaviest" shows featured Dr. Judea Pearl, who spoke on the yahrzeit of his son, slain *Wall Street Journal* correspondent Daniel Pearl.

The show attracts listeners from all over the world – callers from countries as far-flung as Bahrain, Egypt and Australia have phoned in to weigh in on the issues and speak with Singer.

The show also receives a lot of calls from Canadian listeners, many of whom Singer said are "perplexed by the Liberals' stance toward Israel." He added that anti-Israel bias is rampant in the Canadian media.

"In the television and radio media in Canada, there is an anti-Israel bias presenting the state of Israel as an aggressor and not addressing the issue of terrorism that is beleaguering the state," Singer said.

According to Singer, 75 per cent of callers are pro-Israel and pro-U.S., while 25 per cent are hostile to the United States and Israel. Singer said the show thrives off the latter segment of listeners.

Bronfman echoed Singer's sentiments about the importance of airing the dissenting viewpoints expressed by some callers.

"We want people to call in that are anti-Semitic because we want to be able to dismantle them," said Bronfman. "We want to take their arguments and dissect them and show that these arguments are based on lies or mistruths." Bronfman said the show is also looking to bring on more controversial guests, such as representatives from Peace Now, an Israel-based movement which advocates reconciliation with the Palestinians.

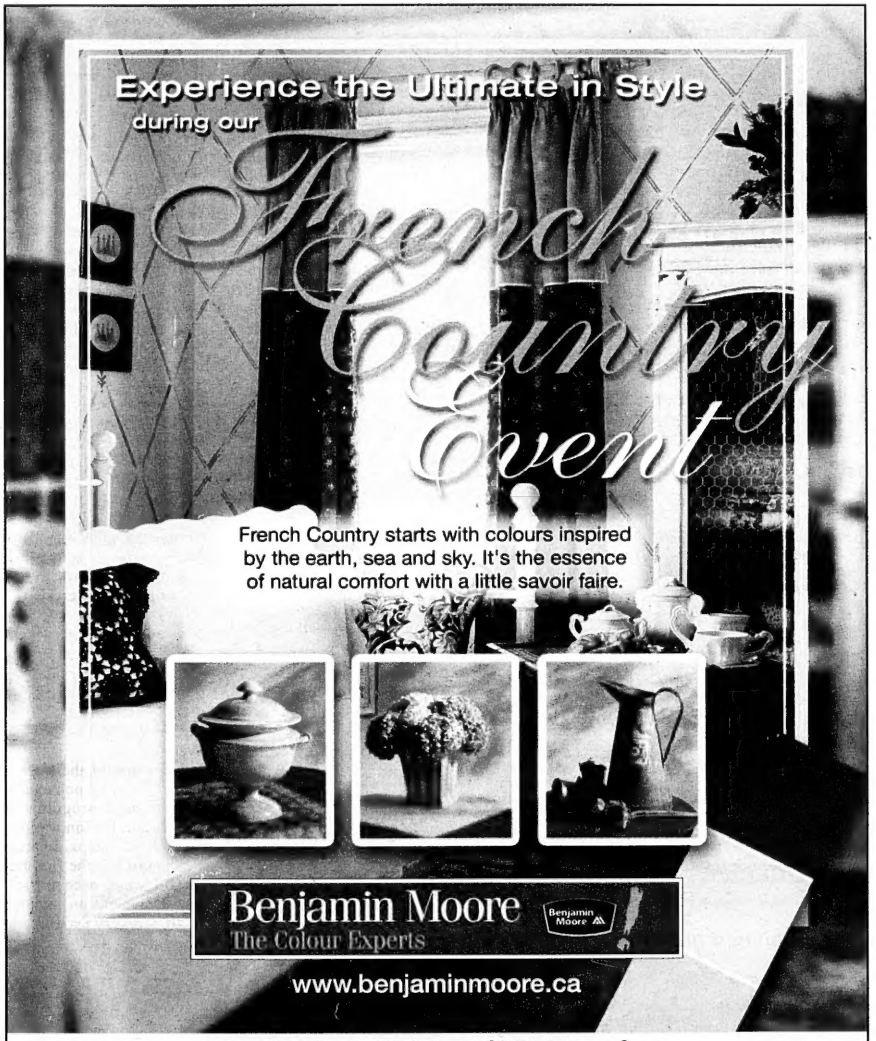
Bronfman wants the show to reach a wider, more mainstream audience. Her goal is for the show to be picked up by a syndicator or by mainstream radio or television. To help realize this goal, Bronfman is currently in negotiations to produce a pilot for TV, which would feature Singer as the host.

"We have to have a voice that works," Bronfman said. "It's not enough to have a brilliant person come out on CNN and speak for two seconds. We have to have a place to go for [everyone] who is not connected to these issues.

"All I care about is that we have a voice for the Jewish people and that people will tune in and listen and those gentiles or Jews who criticize Israel or really don't understand the issues will get it. Finally."

The Tovia Singer Show airs every Tuesday at 3 p.m. on www.toviasinger.com. For more information on the show, please e-mail Rachelle Bronfman at RB18@sympatico.ca.

Rabbi Tovia Singer with Rachelle Bronfman.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New beginning or opportunity lost?

Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, is the prime minister-designate of the Palestinian Authority. But we still do not have a clear idea of the executive and/or administrative authority commanded by his office. Nor do we know the nature of the constitutional relationship between the position of prime minister and that of the president. The latter post is still occupied by Yasser Arafat, also known as Abu Amar.

Abbas is scheduled to be confirmed in his position by the Palestinian Legislative Assembly sometime this week. Once confirmed, he will be visited by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell who will, symbolically at least, place his hands of blessing upon the forehead of the new Palestinian prime minister. That very public act will set in motion a veritable parade of visiting dignitaries who will, in their turn, also confer similar blessings of authority and recognition on the new prime minister.

Mahmoud Abbas

Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, has already extended, if cautiously, a positive hand towards Abbas. He wants Abbas to succeed and has, for the moment, cast aside whatever legitimate reservations he may have concerning Abbas and his past. For, Abbas' success will mean success for Israel as well.

The first indications of Abbas' intentions appear encouraging. On the weekend, he told European diplomats that he will use his inaugural speech to the Palestinian Legislative Council to declare an end to the use of arms to achieve Palestinian national aspirations.

Inasmuch as Israel and the world have heard those very same words before, namely at the White House lawn and at Wye Plantation, spoken loudly but falsely by Arafat, we will suspend judgement on Abu Mazen until his deeds match his words. We do however, fervently hope he is honest in his intentions.

In truth, however, for Abbas to succeed, Arafat must fail – abjectly and totally – in his designs to retain control over the governing Palestinian apparatus. Arafat has countless times proven his murderous duplicity to the entire world. He has bleakly and bloodily set back the cause of his own people.

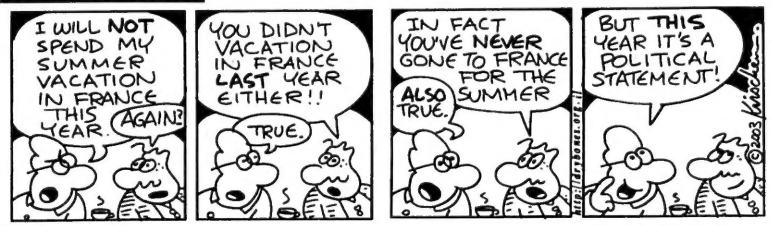
It is therefore both puzzling and distressing to watch as visiting foreign officials, such as Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, persist in their determination to resurrect Arafat's credibility.

Abu Mazen must be freed of Arafat's controlling hands. Only then will we be able to measure the worthiness of his declarations against the integrity of his efforts. And only then, too, will we be able to know if this is truly a new beginning for the Palestinians or merely another opportunity squandered.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones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TRUE.
IN FACT YOU'VE NEVER GONE TO FRANCE FOR THE SUMMER
ALSO TRUE.
BUT THIS YEAR IT'S A POLITICAL STATEMENT!
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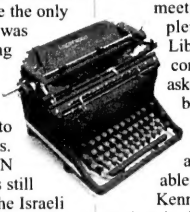
BQ's flawed logic

On March 31, 2003, Bloc Québécois MP Christiane Gagnon tabled a petition in the House of Commons opposing the Israeli army's occupation of Palestinian territory. Gagnon and her petitioners call on the Canadian government to demand that Israel "cease massacres in Palestine and withdraw without further delay from the territories."

Gagnon bases her petition on the flawed logic that Israel is not complying with United Nations resolutions and that this is comparable to the war in Iraq for non-compliance with UN resolutions. I suggest that Gagnon study the history of the Mideast conflict and the United Nations resolutions more carefully before she attempts any linkages between Iraq and Israel.

The Mideast peace talks of July 2000 between former Israelis prime minister Barak and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat led to an agreement on guiding principles, one of which was directly connected to UN resolutions 242 and 338. The statement issued after the talks at Camp David stated that "both sides agree that negotiations based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 are the only way to achieve such an agreement." The idea was to end decades of conflict and achieve a lasting peace.



What Gagnon fails to understand in comparing Israel to Iraq is that the UN Resolutions regarding the Mideast conflict put obligations to comply on both the Palestinians and the Israelis. The Palestinians have not met their UN obligations. In fact, the Palestinian authorities still fail to recognize the State of Israel, yet it is the Israeli people who are blamed by Gagnon and her petitioners. By comparison, UN resolutions on Iraq required the compliance of only Saddam Hussein.

Gagnon's actions do not contribute to the peace process in the region and are confusing to say the least. Comparing Israel to one of the world's worst regimes is simply wrong, and this petition is ill-timed, inappropriate and unhelpful.

Anita Neville
Member of Parliament
Winnipeg South Centre

* * *

Getting an education

Lawrence Gaum's absurd and wholly erroneous thesis in his letter (*CJN*, April 16, 2003) is clearly based on a misunderstanding of the word "education."

University should not only be about showing up to class, turning in papers, and leaving with your A. Education is the process by which we teach students how to be responsible, contributing members of society. If Gaum thinks these lessons are taught in biology class, he's wrong.

Universities are microcosms of society. Students take classes and earn degrees, and learn valuable life lessons in their free time. Today's campus protesters are tomorrow's politicians. Today's campus activists are tomorrow's leaders of Jewish community organizations.

As Jews, we cannot believe that life is merely about having a job and earning a living. It must also be about helping the community through political activism, social justice, public awareness and informal education.

Too many students do what Gaum recommends and limit themselves to a self-centred pursuit of individual goals and achievements. Many of these same students later complain that the atmosphere for Jews on their campuses is not to their liking.

To these uninvolved students, I say "Stand up and make your voices heard."

To Gaum, I say, "Sit down and listen."

It is amusing that Gaum's letter appeared so close to Pesach. I wonder what might have happened had someone told Moses to stop his "frivolous" struggle for freedom and instead "do something constructive."

Aliza Libman
Toronto

* * *

Liberals, NDP disappoint

I was disappointed to read about the remarks of MPPs Gerard Kennedy and Michael Prue on the Equality in Education Tax credit at the recent Canadian Jewish Congress meeting. ("Eves defends education tax cut at CJC plenary," *CJN*, April 3). Kennedy suggested a Liberal government would remove this credit and concentrate on public education in Ontario. When asked if he had any suggestions as what would work better than the tax credit, Kennedy said he had no alternatives, and that there are no easy answers (which I interpret to mean that no answers would be forthcoming for the foreseeable future).

Kennedy fails to realize that this tax credit was introduced primarily to redress a long-standing inequality in the funding of religious schools. Catholics in Ontario have always received full funding for their religiously based school system, a privilege no other religion has. Although based on historical precedent, this practice is out of touch with Ontario's current multicultural makeup. Furthermore, it is discriminatory, as has been noted by the United Nations and as is obvious to anyone who considers the issue. As well, most beneficiaries of this credit are middle class citizens who are struggling with their tuition bills, in contrast to the stereotype that it's primarily for the wealthy.

Prue of the NDP said his party is against the tax credit, but would support some form of religious elective within the public system, presumably a class that would take up, at most, a few hours a week. With our need to teach our children a second language, a knowledge of Torah and a commitment to our traditions, such an elective would simply not be effective.

Supporting all religious schools in no way detracts from the role of public schools. Indeed, we are all working together for the common good of this province in our own ways. Jewish day schools, as well as those of other religions, also teach a full range of secular subjects and train children to be productive members of society, proud of their own heritage while respecting others. It is unfortunate that only the Progressive Conservative Party has been able see the benefits of funding all religious schools.

Jerrold Landau
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

How the founding of Israel has affected our faith

To commemorate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel (the fifth day of Iyar) – which falls this year on May 7 – The CJN *has commissioned a number of essays that explore various aspects of the anniversary. The essays will appear periodically over the next few weeks.*

***

By MARTIN LOCKSHIN

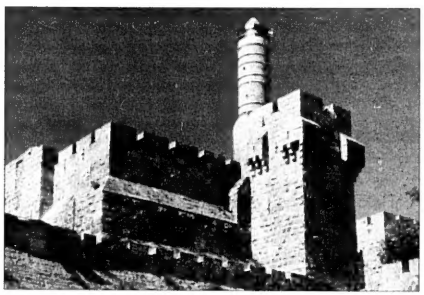
Much has changed in the world since 1948 when the State of Israel was established – Jewish identity, Jewish pride and Jewish self-perceptions. Has the Jewish religion also evolved as a result of the establishment of the state?

The State of Israel has definitely caused some surprising metamorphoses in two other religions—Christianity and Islam.

Several classical Christian religious doctrines belittled or denigrated Jews. First, the accusation of deicide: For generations, many if not most Christians were taught that Jews were collectively guilty of the worst crime imaginable – the murder of God.

Next, the doctrine of supersessionism taught that the Jewish religion was an outdated anachronistic fossil. Anyone who insisted on clinging to the old washed-up religion (Judaism) was foolish, if not worse, since it had been replaced by a far superior product (Christianity).

Lastly, Christianity taught that the powerlessness of the Jews was irrefutable proof of God's displeasure with Jews and Judaism. Jews were the eternal homeless wanderers, and so it was argued, they ought to be. If the biblical Cain was turned into "a ceaseless wanderer on earth" (Genesis 4:12) as punishment for the crime of fratricide, surely Jews deserved punishment at least that severe, as punishment for the crime of deicide.



The Tower of David in Jerusalem

The clarity and pervasiveness of these anti-Jewish attitudes and texts made many Jews, myself included, certain a couple of decades ago that Christianity would never succeed in coming to terms with Jewish power and with the State of Israel.

It made sense that the Pope would not visit the State of Israel and that the Vatican would refuse to recognize a Jewish state. When I taught my students classical Christian theology about Jews, we always concluded that serious Christians must understandably find a Jewish state problematic.

But we were wrong. Christian theology has been able to come to terms with the re-establishment of Jewish sovereignty in Israel. Serious fundamentalist Protestants are today some of the best friends that Israel has. The Pope still criticizes Israel far too much for most of our tastes but he has visited there and has normalized relations with the state.

Parallel to these salutary developments in Christendom, we have witnessed in the last few years a serious deterioration in Muslim attitudes to Jews and Jewish power. In a recent chilling publication (*Muslim Anti-Semitism: A Clear and Present Danger*), Prof. Robert S. Wistrich of the Hebrew University, demonstrates that we can now find in Muslim countries texts that rival the vitriol of the anti-Jewish writings of Nazi Germany.

This hateful literature cannot simply be seen as a continuation of the traditions of Islam.

Careful scholars point out that the Muslim attitude to Jews was hardly always "golden." There are troubling anti-Jewish passages in the Koran; the Jews were rarely granted anything above second-class status (or worse) in Muslim lands. Still the intensity of historical Christianity's anti-Jewishness is not part of classical Islam.

As Wistrich writes (p. 7): Jews under Islam were in a relatively better condition than their coreligionists in Christian lands. They did not, for instance, carry the theological odium of Christ-killers as a mark of Cain on their brows. The more self-confident medieval Muslims did not feel the same compulsion as their Christian counterparts to negate Judaism as a religion, to engage in endless denigratory polemics against its validity, or to replace the "Old Covenant" with a new Israel of the spirit.

In other words, judging simply on the basis of its historical theology, Islam ought to have a more positive attitude than Christianity to Jews and Jewish sovereignty today. But the truth is very different: Devout Christians support the State of Israel enthusiastically, while vile anti-Semitic canards—the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion,* or charges that the Jews are child molesters and well poisoners—now have shockingly wide circulation in Islamic countries.

The establishment of the State of Israel was obviously the confounding factor. It was the prime cause for the unprecedented growth of Muslim anti-Semitism. At the same time, once Christians came to peace (not right away, mind you) with the idea that the State of Israel was here to stay they made the necessary theological adjustments to their religion, for the good.

It is tempting to conclude that theology doesn't really matter as much as geopolitical considerations. Or perhaps, to phrase it more generously, both modern Islam and modern Christianity could find in their traditional holy texts many disparate texts about Jews, both positive and negative. New realities, like the establishment of the State of Israel, affect the choices that believing Christians and Muslims make among those texts.

A similar pattern of changes has taken place within Judaism because of the State of Israel. One hundred years ago the vast majority of rabbis — both Reform and Orthodox — were opponents of the Zionist movement. Today almost all Jews see the establishment of the State as a wonderful event.

Classical Judaism consists of a wide variety of texts that balance the roles of humans and God in history. Some texts suggest that it is pretentious for Jews to try to force God's hand and that the Jews will be liberated only by God, through supernatural events. Other texts suggest that Jews should take an active role in their own liberation.

Rabbi Shlomo Goren proclaims the reunification of Jerusalem at the Western Wall during the Six Day War.

One hundred years ago, when very few Jews thought that the Zionist movement had any chance of succeeding, theologians tended to cite the first group of texts. Since Israel was established and has prospered, only the tiniest group of haredi Jews (the Neturei Karta) continues to promote the theology of waiting for God to act. Jews of almost all denominations have made the State of Israel part of their world view.

Aside from accepting the idea of a Jewish state established through human effort, has Jewish theology changed in other ways?

Immediately after the Six Day War, messianic fervour was rampant in Jewish religious circles. Gush Emunim (the "Bloc of the Faithful") based much of its world view on the assumptions that (1) the messianic process was proceeding inexorably before our very eyes; and (2) it was unthinkable for Jews to do anything that might slow down that messianic process.

Public debate in Israel was often stymied by these determinations. The country could, at one point, be divided into two groups: one group which thought that events should be analyzed and reacted to in a rational manner, based on standard geopolitical or economic or military arguments, and a second group that felt that Jewish reactions to demographic or military threats ought to be based primarily on the recognition of the unfolding messianic process.

The messianic world view, never very popular outside of limited religious circles, now has relatively few Jewish proponents. Particularly when Israelis have been subjected to frequent merciless and random terror attacks for more than two years, it is hard for rabbis to promote the idea that God's messianic plan is apparent. Gush Emunim theology appears to be a spent force in Judaism.

Are there any other identifiable changes in Jewish theology now that the State of Israel has been created? I would argue that there has been an important development that has not been sufficiently noted.

Western religions generally believe that things of consequence in this world come into being due to a combination of the efforts of God and of human beings. For the last two millennia (since the failure of the Bar Kochba revolt), religious Jews have been inclined to see the role of humans in world developments as minor. Geopolitically and militarily, Jews were able to accomplish very little through their own efforts. Jewish theology became, for the most part, one of dependence on God to shape world events. The only action expected from Jews was to observe God's mitzvot.

The last 50 years have witnessed a serious shift away from such thinking. While most religious Jews (myself included) feel that God has played in a role in the restoration of the Jewish nation, we admit that humans, too, played a very significant role in that restoration.

As a result of the creation of a strong State of Israel, Jewish theology today, in virtually all movements, sees a significant place for human effort in the unfolding of world events. Prayer for God's help and intervention is still crucial to religion but it is no longer accompanied by religious quietism. Religious Jews have re-entered the world of political and military activism and they are unlikely to leave it any time soon.

Martin Lockshin is the director of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University.

Maximizing your 15 minutes

"You can't summarize a life in 15 minutes" is an oft-repeated platitude. While it's true that you can't recite a person's biography in 15 minutes, you can summarize a life in 15 minutes. I know this, because I summarize lives all the time. I give eulogies.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Eulogies are more than mere summaries. When I perform a funeral for someone I didn't know, often when I meet the families, they are (understandably) quite nervous.

"You must mention this," a family member will admonish me, as they recite critical information. Certain phrases are repeated compulsively, trying to make certain that I, an outsider, get the story right. It's important to the family, because the eulogy is no mere summary. Rather, it is a public statement of legacy and memory. And legacies matter.

No one wants to live a forgettable life. This is not due to vanity. It is an essential, existential need. Man's most powerful quest is the search for meaning. We hope that we've made a genuine contribution, that the sum total of our labours will have made this world a better place. And after all is said and done, we hope that's how everyone else remembers us as well.

Maybe it's because I'm closing in on 40, or maybe it's because I attend too many funerals, but I've started to think about my own legacy. Perhaps it's odd, but at funerals, when I listen to the family pay tribute, I wonder what the 15-minute summary of my life will sound like. I suspect I'm not alone in doing this, that many of you think about your legacies as well.

My experience at funerals has taught me what a real legacy sounds like. First off, (for those of you in the market for sports cars), in the nearly 300 funerals I have been to, not once has the deceased's car been mentioned. Nor have the person's children spoken about how large his house was or which caterer he used for simchahs.

These may be biographical facts, but they aren't a part of a legacy.

The eulogies that I remember years later are about mothers who worked full time to support their family, and woke up at 3 a.m. to cook dinner; about teenagers who volunteered to fight in the Israeli army during the War of Independence; about grandmothers who lovingly baked cookies; about Holocaust survivors who had the courage to survive and rebuild; about restaurant owners who regularly fed hoboes.

Genuine legacies are made of love and courage, determination and devotion.

Biographies can takes hours to recite, only to be forgotten immediately. Legacies can be summarized in a few short minutes, but they're always unforgettable. For my 15-minute summary, I'm striving for an authentic legacy.

Shas' changing fortunes alters political landscape

One of the most dramatic results of last February's election in Israel is the absence of the haredi party Shas from the second Sharon government. The impact of this is only now beginning to be felt.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Shas was formed in the early 1980s as a party of dissent. It challenged the dominance of Ashkenazi haredi parties, and it brought an unprecedented ethnic, socio-economic base to religious politics in Israel. Shas' learned spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yossef, and its charismatic political leader, Aryeh Deri, reflected a growing body of Talmudic scholars of Sephardi origin. While trained in traditional Ashkenazi yeshivas, they sought to establish an independent political power base using ethnic discontent as the hook. And over the course of almost two decades, Shas redrew the map of Israeli politics.

The party's political power made it a key partner in coalition governments, and it was awarded significant portfolios, such as the interior and welfare ministries. Under Deri's shrewd leadership, Shas channelled huge government allocations to a vast network of social service and educational institutions at a level far greater than that of other, publicly funded, services. The result was a steady, incremental growth support for Shas, especially from low-income Israelis.

It took about 15 years for Shas' fortunes to turn. It exploited its power too much, too early in its meteoric political career – even in Israel's bazaar-like marketplace of coalition politics. Nearly 10 years ago, Deri was convicted of fraudulently allocating public funds to organizations that supported him politically (which many of his supporters claimed was no worse than the behaviour of other politicians).

Deri's successor as party leader, Eli Yishai, lacked his charisma and political sophistication, thereby fuelling resentment of his party's practices in the broader Israeli community. More importantly, Shas found itself increasingly unpopular in its effort to straddle both sides of the Israeli fence. Its followers continued to take advantage of the historic exemption from military service available to haredi yeshiva students, while its political leaders exploited their political clout to the utmost and shamelessly milked the public coffers.

The resulting public anger contributed to the success of the Shinui party in the last election. Shinui's outspoken leader, Tommy Lapid, ran on a blatantly anti-haredi platform and pledged to join any coalition that left Shas in opposition. In fact, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon chose Shinui over Shas when he formed his latest coalition.

For the first time in nearly two decades, Shas now finds itself on the opposition benches of the Knesset, while its hold on policies and allocations in various areas is quickly dwindling. But the impact of Shas' changed fortunes goes much deeper – especially at this time. Its traditional constituency is the first to suffer from the country's economic crisis and the accelerated dismantling of the Israeli welfare state. As the numbers of unemployed swell and the social safety net shrinks, Shas is losing its pre-eminence as the social advocate of the poor. The trade union federation, the Histadrut, is re-emerging into that very role.

The fiery Histadrut leader, Amir Peretz, recently won the first round in his battle against Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's radical economic plan, but the critical showdown was to come after the Passover break. Whatever the outcome, thousands of mature yeshiva students with large families will face reduced income, both because of reduced public allocations and Shas' inability to guarantee additional, politically based subsidies.

This may finally bring to a head the long-standing debate over the link between the military exemption and guaranteed welfare incomes. The majority of these students remain in yeshivas in order to avoid military service – and they lose the military exemption once they enter the workforce. Last year, the Tal Law was passed in an effort to break this deadlock. It allows yeshiva students to work for a trial year without an automatic military draft. In a changed political environment, Shas' rabbis are less likely to resist this option, and on the merits, this may be a positive development.

Shas will likely retain a core base of support that will guarantee it approximately 10 Knesset seats, but its power has been irrevocably reduced. In an always-volatile political climate, the deeper and broader impact of this will become clearer over the coming years.

We are what we eat

Passover, like many Jewish holidays, is about food. Of course, it's not only about food, or even mainly about food. But even as Jews recall the Exodus from Egypt and ponder the meaning of their liberation from slavery, they eat.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

Food plays a number of roles. For many Jews, eating matzah – with its dire consequence for the digestive tract – and avoiding chametz defines the holiday. The seder plate identifies symbolic foods that Jews are commanded to eat as part of the holiday ritual. Indeed, the fact Jews are obliged to drink four glasses of wine, if not more, sets the holiday apart from all others, with the exception of Purim, when Jews are encouraged to drink to excess.

The seder meals themselves have become lavish feasts. Over-indulgence is the rule. Jews also take a perverse pride in trying to host as many guests as possible, in a Jackie Mason-like version of "mine is bigger than yours." Twelve, 16, 24, 30 – the larger the number, the greater the status.

Menus have also expanded over the decades. It used to be that gefilte fish, chicken soup, roast chicken, a kugel and/or tzimmes, and macaroons and jellied candies – remember them? – for dessert would comprise a respectable meal. No longer.

This year, for the first time, we catered our seder, ordering a pre-set package deal. We did not know what to expect. While our guests numbered a moderate 14, the menu somehow got out of control.

For entrées, there was chopped liver, eggplant salad and gefilte fish, followed by chicken soup with matzah balls.

The main courses included stuffed cabbage rolls, brisket, stuffed chicken, chicken schnitzel, pineapple chicken, turkey roll and two kinds of meatballs, one with a tomato sauce and one with a cranberry sauce.

Side dishes included asparagus, potato kugel, a "noodle" kugel, carrot tzimmes and a green salad. Dessert options were sherbet, chocolates, apple pie, chocolate cake and fresh fruit salad.

Most of the food came from a caterer. (And to our surprise, as we had always relied on home cooking, the food was tasty, and reasonably priced.) But we added the cranberry meatballs, the turkey roll, the pineapple chicken and the green salad because of an unfounded and thoroughly irrational fear that there might not be enough.

Of course, this was ridiculous. There was more food than we had ever enjoyed at a seder. We will not overdo it again next year. But I have discovered that many other seder meals have become increasingly elaborate, and some feature fancy gourmet dishes far removed from the fare we recall from earlier decades.

Along with this trend has come the transformation of matzah and related products. No longer is there one type of matzah and few dessert options for Passover. With greater affluence has come a variety of matzot, including onion, garlic, chocolate and whole wheat, among others. Moreover, ingenuity with matzah meal has lead to all manner of cookies and cakes, some of which are actually quite acceptable.

What to make of all this? My initial reaction is to criticize this excess, including my own. It should be clear to all Jews how far removed this lavishness is from the "bread of affliction" and the story of slavery in Egypt. Surely, the meaning of the holiday is undermined by all this conspicuous consumption.

But this is only part of the story. Chronic overeating by Jews at the seders, and on Passover generally, can be taken as a celebration of freedom, and of life itself. We remember slavery, and we remember its antithesis. The expanding array of Passover foods reflects a Jewish determination to celebrate holidays to the maximum. In a sense, they make it easier to be an observant Jew.

There is a delicate Passover balance at present between two opposing forces. On the one hand, we have the seductions of affluence and Jewish commercialism. On the other, we have the natural urge among Jews (found among other religious traditions on key holidays) to maximize the festive nature of the central meal, which is as much a social occasion that bonds families to each other and to the community as it is part of a religious holiday.

One hopes this equilibrium is maintained into the future. In the meantime, pass the kugel.

The Kirshner File

A selection from the Jewish Film Festival

This year's Jewish Film Festival in Toronto runs from May 3-11 at the Bloor Cinema and presents a bumper crop of intriguing movies. A sampler:

The Nazi Officer's Wife (Friday, May 9 at 11 a.m.), a first-rate documentary turning on such universal themes as identity and love, revolves around a Viennese Jewish law student who survived the Holocaust by marrying a member of the Nazi party. Liz Garbus tells her incredible, perhaps unique, story with immense skill.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Born in 1914 into an assimilated family, Edith Hahn witnessed the German occupation and Nazification of Austria. Remaining in Austria, she battled fear and confusion, desperate not to be torn away from her half-Jewish boyfriend, Peppy Rosenfeld. She and her mother (Hahn's father died in 1936) were summarily evicted from their home, then forced into a ghetto in Vienna. Subsequently, Hahn was sent as a slave labourer to a farm in Germany. She never saw her mother – to whom she was close – again.

Returning to Vienna 13 months later, Hahn made two major decisions that could have been fatal. She failed to report to the Gestapo and removed her mandatory yellow star, going into hiding. Through various manoeuvres that required Hahn to put her trust in two Viennese Nazis, she assumed the identity of Crystl Denner, a younger non-Jewish woman whom she had tutored. Armed with new papers, she travelled to Munich, where she found a job as a Red Cross nurses' aide.

Edith Hahn

At an art gallery, she met Werner Vetter, a committed Nazi and anti-Semite who fell in love with her. After he proposed marriage, she admitted she was Jewish. It's not entirely clear why Vetter did not report Hahn to the authorities. They were married, and in 1944 she gave birth to a daughter, Maria Angelica. By all appearances, Hahn seemed like a typical German housewife. But inside, she felt buried alive. Conscripted into the army, Vetter was captured by Soviet forces and imprisoned. Very soon after the war, when Hahn reclaimed her Jewish identity, she was appointed a judge. Vetter, still a Nazi, returned in 1947. Their marriage broke up and they went their separate ways.

The film, narrated by Susan Sarandon and Julia Ormond, is non-judgmental and is never less than compelling.

***

Shanghai Ghetto (Sunday, May 11 at 5 p.m.), by Dana Janklowicz and Amir Mann, tells quite a tale. The bustling Chinese city of Shanghai, captured by Japan in 1937, was the only place where persecuted European Jews could settle without a visa. As a result, thousands of Jews, particularly those from Germany, flooded into this cosmopolitan commercial centre. There they encountered "a whole different world," as one of the refugees puts it. All but penniless, they settled in Hong Kew, a congested neighbourhood of dimly-lit alleys and open sewers.

The new arrivals were helped by Baghdadi Jews, British subjects who had come to Shanghai about a century before, and by the American Joint Distribution Committee. The grindingly poor Chinese residents of Hong Kew showed benign tolerance toward the foreigners. Japan, an ally of Germany, left them alone. Japanese leaders, having bought into a miasma of anti-Semitic theories, had no wish to antagonize American Jewry.

Amidst Hong Kew's squalor, the refugees formed a vital, self-contained community, with institutions, sports clubs, newspapers, theatres, cafes and cabarets. They felt safe until the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour in December 1941, at which point Baghdadi Jews were declared enemies and "Joint" funds were cut off. Responsibility for the refugees then fell on the shoulders of the long-established Russian Jewish community. Conditions worsened in 1943 when stateless Jews in Hong Kew were moved into a segregated area. Food was scarce and disease was rampant. Toward the close of the war, 31 refugees were killed by a U.S. bombing raid. With Shanghai's liberation, the refugees left China.

A solid documentary, *Shanghai Ghetto* unfolds through the medium of interviews with former refugees and historians and of footage from the past and present. Shanghai was a footnote in the Holocaust, but what a fascinating footnote.

***

Less than 10 per cent of the Jewish children in Nazi-occupied Europe made it through World War II. The survivors were rescued by Christians who concealed them. *Secret Lives* (Thursday, May 8 at 7. 15 p.m.), an absorbing film about these children and their rescuers, is directed by Aviva Slesin, a Lithuanian survivor.

The majority of rescuers were motivated by altruistic reasons. But some were driven by a desire for profit, a need to convert their charges to Christianity and, in a few cases, a perverted impulse to abuse the children in their care. Whatever their motives, all the rescuers risked immediate execution if found sheltering Jews.

The stories are amazing. Alice Sondike was smuggled out of the Warsaw ghetto by her parents, Adam and Julia Melcer. Ed Van Thijn, a future mayor of Amsterdam, was hidden by 18 different families. Ephraim Gat was concealed by a Polish family, spending days and nights in a closet. Paul Wagner was hidden by a family near Cracow. Harold (Hans) Gottschall survived in The Hague.

Among the rescuers was Marion Pritchard, a Dutch woman who decided to act after watching the spectacle of a Jewish child flung into a truck by her pigtails.

In some instances, rescuers and rescuees developed extremely close relationships. Sondike, for example, did not wish to be reunited with her parents after the war, but she relented. "Anyway, now she loves me," says her mother. At this, Sondike flashes a sweet smile.

***

Sam Milnik, a Russian Jew, immigrated to California after reading Jack London's novel, *The Valley of the Moon*. Captivated by the gently rolling hills and temperate climate of the Sonoma Valley, Milnik settled down as a chicken farmer in Petaluma, one of its largest towns. Friends back in Russia followed him to Petaluma, known as "the world's egg basket." By the 1920s, Petaluma was the hub of a thriving colony of Jewish chicken farmers. *A Home on the Range* (Wednesday, May 7 at 7: 15 p.m.), by Bonnie Burt and Judith Montell, skillfully recreates this phase of Petaluma's history.

The Jewish Agricultural Society provided low-interest loans to Jews who thought they could cope with clucking chickens. "For a few thousand dollars, you could buy land and be your own boss," says the descendant of a pioneer.

Although profit margins were small and chickens were susceptible to diseases, the mainly secular Jews of Petaluma fared reasonably well. They built fine homes and a tight-knit community anchored by a synagogue. But Petaluma was hardly a paradise. There was a strong whiff of anti-Semitism in the 1930s and 1940s, and the McCarthyist era fragmented the community.

Later, crushed by conglomerates, Petaluma's small farmers were forced to look elsewhere for a livelihood. Through revealing interviews with its Jewish residents, Burt and Montell paint a vivid picture of a quaint community utterly transformed by time.

***

Last April, in Operation Defensive Shield, the Israeli army stormed into Jenin's Palestinian refugee camp to round up suicide bombers who had wreaked havoc in Israel. In an ambush, 13 soldiers, all reservists from the Mesaya'at company, were killed in a raid. *Jenin Diary* (Thursday, May 8 at 3 p.m.), by Gil Mezuman, takes the form of a stark post-mortem during which the company's shell-shocked members relive their experiences. The camera also pans on Israeli patrols moving through Jenin in mopping-up operations raids and on heavy-duty tractors cleaning up the mess.

Although *Jenin Diary* occasionally bogs down, there are some powerful moments. Ofer, an officer, recalls the death of two of his men. Eli, a simple soldier, says, "We were hit really bad." Idan, a commander, remembers the horror of it all. In perhaps the most wrenching testimony, Oshri, a medic, talks remorsefully about a fallen comrade who drew his last breath in his arms.

The interviewees speak thoughtfully, but one flippant soldier recalls "nailing" a Palestinian with a bullet to his head. The mental attrition the fighting exacted on ordinary soldiers is best distilled by Altschul, a reservist who confesses that he is "finished" with the army and that "nothing is worth dying for."

As *Jenin Diary* concludes, soldiers scrub their assault rifles with oil, as if readying them for further combat. In Israel, the battle for survival never ends.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

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Member, Leadership Cabinet

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Greater Toronto Area

Public loses when media keep stories under wraps

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

CNN chief news editor Eason Jordan's revelation in "The News we kept to ourselves" (*New York Times*, April 11) that his organization for years kept stories of Iraq's brutal regime under wraps has caused a mixture of surprise and outrage in media circles.

If a news organization cannot report freely and honestly – as it could not in Saddam's totalitarian police state – then why report at all? Isn't the public the big loser in such a farce?

In her *Globe and Mail* article on this topic (April 15) Margaret Wente wrote: "In its scale and sadism, the [Iraqi] regime's brutality went way beyond the cruelty of your average police state. It lasted for 20 years. Saddam's rule of terror ought to have sparked international outrage years ago. But it never did. Why not?"

Wente noted that Iraq's atrocities were well-documented and the information was available to the media. Journalists, however, dared not report them from Iraq for fear of retribution from Saddam's henchmen. Outside of Iraq few cared to publicize the horrors they knew about.

Correspondents in Iraq had to be accompanied by "minders" who directed them to the stories they were allowed to cover and monitored their words and the words of those who were "interviewed." A perennial favourite involved going to hospitals to showcase children suffering for a lack of medications, a situation attributed to U.S.-led UN sanctions.

Never seen was Iraq's prison for children or Saddam's seemingly innumerable palaces built at a cost of several billion dollars, money that should have gone to the people. Rarely discussed was the UN oil-for-food program, which, if Saddam had not interfered with it, could have addressed the needs of the Iraqi people.

But again, there was always the United States to blame.

When former CBC TV Mideast correspondent Neil Macdonald did a story from Baghdad on the10th anniversary of the 1991 Gulf War (a report in which he blamed the United States for much of the Iraqi suffering), he did draw attention to the fear in the country: "People here are so scared of their own government that they don't even utter Saddam Hussein's name."

But what of journalists themselves?

Wente reminded us that Peter Arnett, a veteran journalist and former CNN reporter from Baghdad, admitted a year ago that if you wish to report from Iraq, "you have no option other than to report the opinion of the government."

Thus nearly all the news we got from Iraq throughout the years, whether it was from Canadian journalists or others, served Saddam's interests. This gives the notion of "embedded" reporting a whole new meaning. Still, why not have prefaced each report with simple truths that would have given the report more credibility? Simple truths such as: we are accompanied by minders all the time; our copy is reviewed; we are not allowed here or there; people interviewed were not allowed to speak freely, etc. At least let the viewers know that the reporter is severely limited. Viewers can then draw their own conclusions.

Why is it that a few journalists were able to give you such simple truths and others not? Ellen Pinchuck of CTV News was one of the very few who let her Canadian audience know what limitations she faced. More about that next week.

Paul Michaels is director of communications with the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Anti Israel Rally at York University January 2003

The Campus Then and Now

Campus life in the past may have had its stresses and strains but nothing compares to the difficult position Jewish students now find themselves in on campus. Anti-Israel anti-Semitic rhetoric is forcing Jewish students to face grave challenges.

Hillel of Greater Toronto in recognizing the urgent need for a significant presence at Canada's largest University is building the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life on the northwest corner of Harbord and Huron at the heart of the University of Toronto.

In developing this project Hillel of Greater Toronto is calling on all Jewish Alumni of the University of Toronto to identify with this initiative by becoming part of the upcoming alumni campaign. A series of events directed at U of T Jewish Alumni will be held in the coming months to build a relationship between past graduates of U of T and the Jewish students of today. To assist in the campaign, to share any memorabilia of your campus years or to help build the Jewish future at U of T please contact Michelle at 416-785-1465 or visit us online at www.hilleltoronto.org

HILLEL Hillel of Greater Toronto UJA FEDERATION

If anyone can identify any of the persons in these photos please contact James Mosley at the office of Public Trustees of Manitoba, 1330-405 Broadway, Winnipeg MB R3C 3L6, Telephone: (204) 945-8398, Email: jmosley@gov.mb.ca

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UJA Federation

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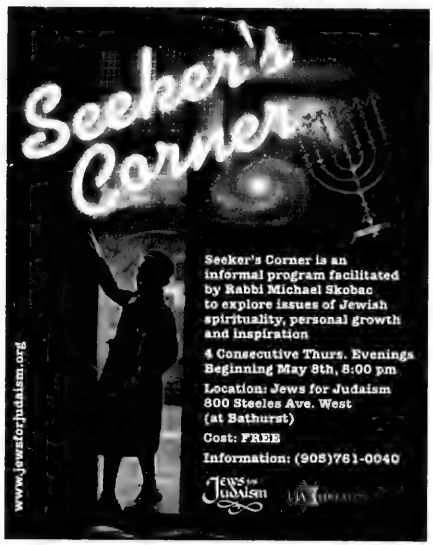
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Greater Toronto Area

Maissner carries chazzanut into the future

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The best in liturgical music – from the fun to the educational to the serious – will be presented this month by Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple when he showcases nine of his present and former students in a gala concert.

Cantor Israel Goldstein, director of the School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College in New York, will join Maissner at the concert titled the Future of the Modern Cantorate, on Sunday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple.

Maissner says the Levites who sang Psalms in the Temple are the forerunners of synagogue cantors.

"All through history, it was the cantor who led the people in tfillah and yearning to be closer to God," Maissner says.

"I have been privileged to teach and mentor cantorial students for some years now. These nine students are the future Levites who will carry on the sacred calling of the chazzan into the next millennium."

The nine featured cantors are Mo Glazman, Ted Labow, Marshall Loomer, David Rosen, Tracy Shuster, Ben Silverberg, Michael Smolash, Anna Trubashnik, and Susan Wehle.

Cantor Maissner (third from left) explains a finer point of chazzanut to his students (from left) Cantors Ted Labow, Marshall Loomer, accompanist Nadia Adler, Cantors Michael Smolash and Ben Silverberg.

"I was inspired by my teacher and master, Chazzan Shlomo Ravitz of blessed memory, to become the best there is in the field of chazzanut," Maissner says.

"The love and warmth that he had for his students and for the art of cantorial music kindled the passion I possess and try to instill in my students."

For more information on the concert, or to purchase tickets, call Mari Lynn Rusak, 416-789-3291, ext. 224, or e-mail mlrusak@holyblossom.org.

UJA Federation announces nominees

Alan Sandler, Nominations Committee Chair for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, has announced the nominees for the Board of Directors and Individual Representatives to Council.

Elections will be held during UJA Federation's annual meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2003 at Adath Israel Congregation, 37 Southbourne Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

In accordance with the by-laws, the governance consists of a Council, a Board of Directors and an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be elected by the Board of Directors from among the Directors. No nominations can be made from the floor during the annual meeting. However, any member of the Jewish community may be placed in nomination by complying with the following by-laws:

"Only members of the Federation who have made a financial commitment to the United Jewish Appeal in respect of the previous year, and are in good standing with the United Jewish Appeal, shall be eligible to serve as an individual or Group Representative on the Council.

"Any 20 Representatives may nominate any individual member of the Federation for election to the Board of Directors and the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, provided that: (a) any one Individual representative may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the Board of Directors; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the Federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of Council.

"Any seven members may nominate any individual member of the Federation for election to the Council provided that: (a) any one member may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the Council; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the Federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of Council."

Nominated for Chair of the Board is Leslie Gales and Vice-Chair of the Board is David Engel. Nominees for the Board of Directors include:

Natan Aronshtam, Lesley Binstock Offman, Barbara Bregman, Peter Cohen, Peter Ekstein, Marty Goldberg, Leo Goldhar, David Goldstein, Sheldon Goodman, Toddy Granovsky, Louis Greenbaum, Marshall Kesten, Warren Kimel, Igor Korenzvit, David Koschitzky, Julia Koschitzky, Glennie Lindenberg, Baila Lubek, Florence Minz, Berl Nadler, Barry Naiberg, Neil Nisker, Adrienne Offman, Elliott Peranson, Morris Perlis, Allan Reitzes, Dr. Miriam Rosenberg, Jacques Sayegh, Ralph Shedletsky, Allan Silber, Howard Sokolowski, Edward Sonshine, Fran Sonshine, Carole Sterling, Cyrel Troster, Richard Venn, Alan Winer, Henry Wolfond and Cecile Zaifman.

The following Individual Representatives are to be elected for a two-year term 2003-2005 to the Federation Council:

Irving Abella, Stephen Altbaum, Tammy Anklewicz, Natan Aronshtam,

Calvin Avertick, Brent Belzberg, Eric Bornstein, Michael Buckstein, Gloria Clamen, Robert Cohen, Samuel Cohen, Sharon Cohen, Stephen Cole, Helen Daniels, Richard Diamond, Lori Disenhouse, William Draimin, Wendy Eisen, Ruth Ekstein, Judy Engel, Leslie Erlich, Michael Florence, Stephen Freedhoff, Robert Furman, Henry Goldbach, David C. Green, David Y. Green, Norman Grill, Aaron Grubner, Robert Harlang, Sabrina Kerbel, Jules Kronis, Susan Maldoff, Agi Mandel, Michael Miller, Karen Morton, Berl Nadler, Harvey Naglie, Paul Nightingale, Allan Offman, Clifford Orwin, Elisa Palter, Murray Perelman, Joel Reitman, Andrea Ritter, Brooky Robins, Ariella Rohringer, Michael Rosenberg, Miriam Rosenberg, Lorraine Sandler, Mark Sarner, Honey Sherman, Eileen Silver, Helen Silverstein, Marsha Slavens, Leanne Spier, Howard Stevens, Francie Storm, Barry Tissenbam and Dodi Weill.

In addition to the Individual Representatives listed, each Group Member of the Federation shall be entitled to two representatives on the Council (Group Representatives). Any Group Member which has membership in good standing in excess of 100 persons residing in the Greater Toronto Area shall be entitled to one additional Group Representative on the Council. "Group" means any charitable, educational, social, cultural, religious or recreational agency, organization or congregation, unincorporated or incorporated (without share capital) whose activities are carried out primarily in the Greater Toronto Area (including the main Greater Toronto Area branch or division of national organizations), having a Jewish membership of at least 25 persons, or such other agency or organization which may be accepted by the Directors.

Russian scientist hosts Space Day celebration

By SVETLANA BARKAN
Special to The CJN

On April 12, 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person ever to travel in space. Since then, April 12 has been celebrated by Russians as Cosmonaut Day, or Space Day.

Dr. Zelina Iskanderova is one of the many Russian Jewish scientists who have contributed time, effort and knowledge to the understanding and development of space exploration. After working for many years in the Academy of Science in the former Soviet Union, Iskanderova moved to Canada and is now an adjunct professor at University of Toronto's Institute for Aerospace Studies (UTIAS), and a head of the Space Materials Division at ITL Inc.

Iskanderova is the first woman to hold the title of adjunct professor at UTIAS. Her husband Alex Iskanderov, also a Ph.D., is the plant manager at Richter SCI, a high-tech company in Mississauga. He was formerly involved in the development of space radiation detectors.

After moving to Canada with her family 10 years ago, Iskanderova said she has always maintained a strong connection with her Jewish roots. In an effort to contribute to the development of the Russian-Jewish community in Toronto therefore, she, along with two other women, organized and hosted a Space Day celebration on April 12.

The event included a lecture presentation and kids art exhibition at the Russian Library and Information Centre, which opened recently in the Promenade Village Shoppes (see more at www.russianlibrary.ca).

The library's founder and manager, Svetlana Roufanova, says the Russian library facilitates a cultural link between generations and provides a "cross-cultural education." All Russian-language readers are welcome to use the collections of books, journals, notes, audio materials and videos. The library also contains books by Russian Jewish authors, features paintings by Israeli and Toronto artists, and offers lectures, presented by professionals, including Jewish Russian volunteers.

The Russian library facilitates a cultural link between generations and provides a 'cross-cultural education'

M & N Segal Art School, whose headmaster Nadia Segal organized an Association of Russian Artists in Canada three years ago, also contributed to Space Day. Students of the school created space-related art works and paintings, which were featured in the Russian library. During the opening ceremony, Segal and Roufanova introduced the paintings, handed diplomas to all participants, and presented awards for some of the artwork.

Iskanderova gave a lecture about the past, present and future of space exploration, weaving together her personal experiences with well-known facts about the history of space exploration.

She began her talk with a story about Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, a poor, almost deaf boy from the small town of Kaluga near Moscow who became a school teacher and scientist. Tsiolkovsky is now considered a grandfather of modern space exploration, Iskanderova said, because he developed a jet propulsion formula used in experiments, wrote books and envisioned the day a man would soar above the earth.

Alex Iskanderova's grandmother, a Jewish woman also from Kaluga, told the audience that Tsiolkovsky was her substitute teacher throughout her school years. She said Jews in old Russia were not allowed to leave capital cities.

Many firsts were highlighted in the presentation – the first Russian space satellite called the Sputnik, the first manned space flight, the first women in space, the first joint Russian-American space flight, the first journey to the moon, the first space station and the first International Space Station (ISS) now being developed.

In her talk, Iskanderova said that on Aug. 10, 2001, she took her granddaughter Sheindl to the Kennedy Space Center where Iskanderova was an invited guest at a NASA space shuttle launch. Her space materials samples, together with others, were being sent into space on this mission for an experiment at ISS.

Iskanderova also paid tribute to the people who have sacrificed their lives in space exploration, including the crew of space shuttle Columbia. She noted that the first Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon's tragic death touched the hearts of many around the world.

Stress is more fattening than chocolate

By FRAN BRIGETTE
Positive Changes Today

Chronic stress releases a powerful hormone that signals the body to relax and refuel. This important hormone, called ***Cortisol***, is the body's way of slowing us down so that we don't burn out. The downside is that Cortisol's message to slow down usually makes us feel tired, sluggish and hungry. Therefore, while under the powerful influence of Cortisol, our tendency is to want to lie around, watch TV and snack.

Additionally, Cortisol triggers fat storage in the adipose tissue of the abdomen. When the majority of weight is in the abdomen it gives one an apple appearance. More importantly, it can lead to Cushing's syndrome, which involves storage of fat on the inside of the abdominal cavity. Cushing's syndrome can be dangerous and may lead to diabetes and heart disease.

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Yom Hazikaron

This year, on Yom Hazikaron, the 4th of Iyar, it is appropriate that we recall the life of Ilan Ramon. Dina Prager of Toronto sent The CJN the accompanying poem.

"מנשרים קלו מאריות גברו" / זיני בן סא"ל במיל".

נגדע איל באחת ונדם
נפל ממרומים ולעד נעלם.
נגדע איל באש שמים,
נפל בסערה והדמעות וזלגות על לחיים.

היית גאוותינו, תקוותינו, אור לגויים,
לוחם אמיץ, איש רוח בן - האלוקים.
אך הוא לא שמע תפילתך ובמרכבת אש חרץ גורל,
לא עוד חיים, לא עוד אהבה, רק מוות אכזרי בחלל.

כה סמלי הוא שאת נשמתך לקחה הרוח,
על כנפיה רוחפת בעוז, ללא פורא, תמיד בטוח.
שנים ארב לך בשתר מלאך המוות,
מדוע לא עשה אלוקים, שרק הפעם יטעה הוא בכתובת.

לא יכול היה להכניעך באטמוספרה,
על כן בחר בחלל במלכדת לוהטת וארורה.
זכות לכבוד השמורה רק למעטים,
הפכת לאגדה וכמה חבל שאינך עוד בין החיים.

מעתה תהלך בחברת האל ותרוחף עם המלאכים,
היית לאביר השמיים וכנפיך כנפי האלוקים.
גדול היית בחייך וענק במותך,
תחסר לנו חבר בנוכחותך ואישיותך.

אילן היקר מלאך שומר הרוח,
שמור עלינו מלמעלה והובילנו אל עתיד יותר בטוח.

(The poem has been slightly altered to protect religious sensibilities. The editor)

Navigating Mideast discussions

By DARCIE RICHLER

Typically, a debate on the Middle East will begin with a single assertion that lays sole responsibility for the current conflict at Israel's doorstep.

This is a reflection of a deliberate and sustained (not to mention effective) public relations strategy that has sought to distract the outside world into believing that a complex problem such as this one can be reduced to a simple formula that places the onus on Israel to resolve the conflict.

Imagine that you're golfing with some acquaintances and engaging in a discussion of current events, more specifically the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and terrorism, when one of your fellow golfers says: "While I don't claim to be an expert on the Middle East, it seems rather obvious that the crux of the problem there is the whole settlement issue. If the Israelis would just stop expanding onto land that does not belong to them, the terrorism would end."

Assuming that you know that terrorism has long pre-dated settlements, (see http://www.cicweb.ca/conflict/terrorism.shtml) and that in the case of peace negotiations, successive Israeli governments have always indicated a willingness to have settlements considered among the "final status" issues (although in 2000, when Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat rejected peace and chose terrorism, settlements were certainly not the obstacle to the Camp David peace talks), how would you answer?

Instead of debating the settlement issue, try something like this: "There is no cause-and-effect relationship between the settlements and terrorism. The real problem in the Middle East is the Arab world's refusal to acknowledge the existence or legitimacy of a Jewish state in the region. How can we even get into a debate about settlements when one of the parties refuses to acknowledge the other's legitimacy as a permanent nation within the region?"

When it comes to pro-Israel advocacy, we believe it is very important to clear up any misunderstandings on the topic of the Middle East. The simplistic arguments and comments that are neatly packaged by anti-Israel forces are especially attractive to Canadians who know little or nothing about the historical context of the current situation. As noted in our last column, the aim is to promote Israel by keeping control of the agenda.

Sadly, it is a well-known fact that Palestinian children are being indoctrinated on a daily basis to hate Israel and Jews. This is true whether they are exposed to the Islamic school system operated by Hamas or the PA system – and by extension, the UNRWA-operated schools in the refugee camps. In geography classes, Palestinian children are shown maps that don't include Israel. They also read textbooks that laud suicide bombing and eulogize the bombers as "martyrs" who have brought the dream of Israel's destruction closer to reality. If this were not enough, Palestinian television airs commercials that encourage children to die in the name of Allah.

Draw on these points when engaged in a debate that seeks to identify the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Our task is to remind people that the conflict is all about the acceptance of a Jewish state in the region, and that throughout the Arab world, every effort continues to be exerted to demonize and de-legitimize that state.

As a side note on settlements, it should be said that Israel has been willing to give up land for peace. This was demonstrated in the peace deals Israel signed with both Egypt and Jordan. In the case of Egypt, the Israeli government was even fearful that a civil war might be sparked by settlers in the Sinai, yet the Israelis still chose land for peace.

Arguments can be backed up with facts such as these. While any debate or discussion about the Middle East can be challenging, keep this as your core or fundamental principle. To be sure, some issues are complicated. But we encourage you to learn more about them so you can broaden the scope of your advocacy skills.

If you would like to learn more about how to effectively debate Middle East issues, e-mail me at dr@cicweb.ca.

Darcie Richler is associate director of community development with the Canada-Israel Committee.

Jewish Life

By RACHEL TURKIENICZ

You are invited

Midrashic Moments

Yom Ha'atzmaut is approaching and it's been a difficult year for Israel. Issues of safety and security have always been a part of life for the Jewish state. In fact, they have always been a part of life for Jewish communities everywhere. This past year, however, many Jews living outside Israel have found themselves in difficult situations.

This year, we witnessed the tide of popular opinion raise questions about Israel's very existence. In the best of times, political discussions with friends can be awkward. In these times, and seemingly overnight, even language that is part of an internal culture has come under political attack. Some people are uncomfortable using the word "Zionism," while others are nervous about phrases such as "peace in the Middle East," as they understand they could open the door to discussing Israel's legitimacy as a sovereign state.

While Jewish culture and religion has very strong prohibitions against gossiping, or negative speech about an individual, we were unprepared for the same negative speech aimed at Israel.

If a dear friend were verbally attacked, most of us would stand to defend them. If we are silent and listen to the attack repeated over time, eventually we may question whether there is truth to the accusations and it will inevitably affect the friendship. This is the danger of negative speech.

The Talmud asks who is most injured by gossip. Of the three individuals involved – the one speaking, the one listening and the one being spoken of – who is most harmed? According to the rabbis, the one listening is the most injured, because it is their world that will change the most. This year, Jews around the world outside of Israel have been listening, and we have been injured.

When it comes to gossip, the goal is to make it stop. At times, this can be accomplished by walking away, since often when there is no audience, there is no speaker. However, when it comes to Israel, there is always an audience. Therefore, walking away will not accomplish the goal. Just as we would defend a friend, so must we defend Israel as she is verbally attacked.

Of course, the concerns of negative speech do not negate the Jewish necessity to evaluate situations and always pursue justice. But the verbal attacks on Israel do not result in a true evaluation of, and a just solution to, Mideast conflict, since there is no safe space within which to conduct that important reflection. Our Jewish goals are sidetracked by gossip.

It has been a hard year for Israel and for all those who love Israel. On Yom Ha'atzmaut, we must attend public celebrations and openly display our support for Israel. The Talmud tells us that silence is an admission of guilt. The verbal attacks on Israel have been public and widespread. So must be our response.

This year the celebration is for us, to stand with thousands of people that we know feel as we do.

Given the year it has been, what a relief it will be.

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Yom Hashoah: Righteous Gentiles, part 2

The Jewish Highway

Knud Dyby. Irene Opdyke. Varian Fry. Their names are not as familiar as those of Oskar Schindler or Raoul Wallenberg, but Knud Dyby **[http://www.rongreene.com/dyby.html]**, Irene Opdyke **[http://www.holocaustcenter.org/oralh/opdykeirene.htm]** and Varian Fry **[http://www.almondseed.com/vfry/]** are also heroes who risked their lives to save Jews from Nazi oppression.

Today, we honour the memory of Righteous Gentiles and look at the stories of diplomats who defied their own governments in order to save Jews. Then we'll ask the difficult question: why did some people choose to risk their lives to do good while so much evil surrounded them?

During World War II, Aristides de Sousa Mendes was the Portuguese consul general to Bordeaux, France and a devout Catholic. In 1940, French Jews and Jewish refugees from all parts of Europe fled to France where they found themselves trapped. Against the orders of his government, de Sousa Mendes issued thousands of visas to allow them passage into Portugal. For his efforts, Aristides de Sousa Mendes was fired from the Portuguese foreign service. He died in neglect and poverty-stricken in 1954. **[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/biography/Mendes.html]**

Ironically, these heroes were often punished for their efforts by their own governments. In 1940, Chiune Sugihara was a Japanese consul posted in Lithuania. He ignored instructions from Tokyo and distributed thousands of visas to desperate Jews. **[http://www.remember.org/imagine/sugihara.html]** Sugihara was punished for his actions and returned to Japan in disgrace. JewishGen: The Home of Jewish Genealogy has established the Sugihara Database and has documented over 2,000 people rescued. **[http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/sugihara.htm]**

Working in Nazi-occupied Hungary, Swedish diplomat Per Anger issued provisional passports and was also able to rescue thousands of Jews. As noted in a fascinating article on the Guardian Web site, Anger's heroism continued after the war. After the Hungarian uprising of 1956, Anger, who was then based in Vienna, helped thousands of people flee Budapest. Per Anger died last August. **[http://www.guardian.co.uk/obituaries/story/0,3604,782085,00.html]**

Sugihara, de Sousa Mendes and Anger are not alone in their heroism. To date, Yad Vashem has recognized 18 diplomats as Righteous Among the Nations. Their heroism has also been been honoured in an exhibit by the Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Minnesota. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?M2B631824]**

There are (thankfully) far too many Righteous Gentiles to be acknowledged in an article such as this. For more biographies, I recommend the following sites: the Simon Wiesenthal Center Museum of Tolerance **[http://motlc.wiesenthal.com/pages/rn.html]** the Jewish Virtual Library **[http://www.usisrael.org/jsource/Holocaust/rescuetoc.html]** and A Teacher's Guide to the Holocaust-Rescuers and Resisters. **[http://fcit.coedu.usf.edu/holocaust/people/rescuer.html]**

But why did they do it? What motivates someone to risk his or her own life while others stand in silence?

According to Eva Fogelman, "From the earliest ages, rescuers were taught by their parents that people are inextricably linked to one another. No one person or group was better than any other." Fogelman is the daughter of a Holocaust survivor and founder of the Jewish Foundation for Christian Rescuers.

Nechama Tec is a professor of sociology and a survivor of the Shoah. She found that the rescuers were "individualists" who pursued personal values. Most were extremely modest people who had a long-term commitment to aid the needy. They didn't look at Jews as dehumanized symbols but as people in need. **[http://www.tulane.edu/~so-inst/slguid7.html]**

Perhaps Miep Gies, the woman who sheltered Anne Frank, explained the actions of Righteous Gentiles best. **[http://teacher.scholastic.com/frank/saving.htm]** "Jan [my husband] and I had no choice. We did foresee many sleepless nights and a miserable life if we would refuse to help, and that was not the kind of future we were looking forward to. Remorse can be worse than losing your life." **[http://www.umich.edu/~urecord/9495/Oct17_94/4.htm].**

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Web site producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Feature

'To me, I was in prison'

Continued from page 2

Occasionally, her mother would come visit her to give her strength. "I was begging my mother to take me with her. She said, 'no, it is so dangerous.'

"To me, I was in prison."

A day in December 1943 proved a brief respite for the anguished teen. "Genia took me to her apartment where my aunt and mother were. I sat with my head on her knees. I was very happy."

Back in her hiding place soon after, she was visited by her father for a few days. She recalls him reading poetry to her to pass the time.

On Feb. 1, 1944 her mother visited for the last time. She brought Bianka some chocolate and a warm coat. Later that day, her parents were betrayed by the nephew of one of the Zagota members and both her parents as well as the person hiding them were killed. It was her mother's 46th birthday.

Kraszewski remained in the tiny room until the Polish uprising in August 1944. During the fighting, the building she was in was struck by a bomb and it collapsed around her. She was knocked unconscious and when she came to, all her outer clothes had been blown away.

She decided to flee to Genia, who was hiding her nephew Gabriel, but circumstances prevented her from joining Genia when she took Gabriel to the countryside. Instead she joined other families leaving Warsaw, and managed to survive the war working on farms.

She reunited with Gabriel after the war and the two moved to Scotland to be with an uncle. There she met her husband, Ludwik, who had been a Polish soldier fighting the Nazis. In 1951 they moved to Canada and now reside in Oakville, Ont.

***

Karola Karo, 82, was born in Warsaw and grew up at Ogrodova 7 in an apartment that would later come within the borders of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Prior to the war, Karo recalls a happy childhood with a big family, a good education, lots to eat and summers spent at cottages in Ostrovsk and Shrudborov.

Karo's father, Simon, ran a successful textile store. "The happy memories were that we had a beautiful home, and a lot of relatives used to come to us from the provinces. They ate at our place and they stayed at our place. We had a big family outside Warsaw."

In September 1939, the German bombing of Warsaw commenced and early on, Karo's mother, Chava, and oldest brother Max, were killed. The store was destroyed in the bombing early on and later their apartment was destroyed. The family moved in with Karo's sister, who had an apartment in the ghetto.

Early in the occupation, a friend convinced her to leave German-occupied Poland and make their way to Russian territory.

Karo already had some experience with German soldiers. "The German soldiers beat up Jews, they cut their beards and gave them here and here," gesturing at her face with mock slaps.

Joining her friend, Karo set out for the border area (Germany had occupied western Poland, the Soviets the eastern half).

Close to the border, they ran into a German patrol who shouted "Halt." Made to lie on the ground, Karo could hear her friend reciting the *Shema*, a prayer in anticipation of death.

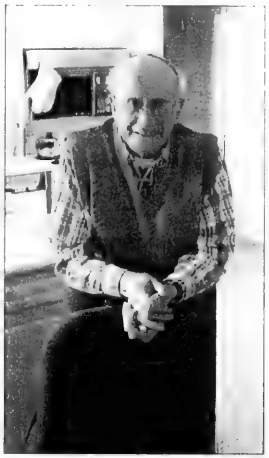
Instead, the soldiers stripped them of all valuables, taking rings, jewelry, money, documents, even photographs. Still alive, they continued their journey and through a series of adventures, crossed to the Russian side.

There she was interned for a year for entering the country illegally and afterwards, when an amnesty was granted, they were sent east, ending up in Samarkand and Tashkent. There she worked operating sewing machines.

After the war she heard "no-one was alive. I didn't have the heart to go back."

***

David Herman was born in Warsaw 84 years ago. He grew up in a home practically in the shadows of the Nozik Street shul, one of the biggest in Warsaw.



David Herman

The seventh of nine children, Herman grew up in a comfortable home. His father, Abraham, was a butcher and as a consequence, "food was never short."

As a youngster, Herman studied at a yeshiva, though he would have preferred a school with more exposure to secular studies.

His first job was as a hardware salesman and later he went into his own business, manufacturing sock garters. "I made good money," he recalled.

With the war, "life changed right away." Herman and his family went into hiding, attempting to avoid Germans conscripting people for forced labour. "They called people to work and some didn't come back," he said.

Shortly after the ghetto was created in late 1939, Herman escaped to the Russian zone. After earning some money, he returned to try to get his family out but his father convinced them to give up the escape attempt.

"He remembered the Germans from 1914 and he said we could live with them."

Herman continued in business, bribing his way in and out of the ghetto and sending parcels of food back to his hungry family.

Once the deportations began, he paid more bribes to get his parents out of the ghetto to the town of Cmielow. But not long afterwards, in 1942, the town's Jews were deported to death camps. Among them were his parents and sister Chava.

Herman went to work mining iron ore for a Polish company, living in a barracks and being fed regularly.

In January 1943, Herman was deported to a labour camp at Pionki and eventually was sent to Auschwitz and Mauthausen. When he was liberated in 1945, he weighed 79 pounds. "Another week, and I wouldn't be alive," he said.

Two of his sisters survived the war. He had an emotional reunion with one at a displaced persons camp in Landsberg, Germany after the war. In 1948, Herman and his wife, who he met in Germany, emigrated to Canada.

***

Rebeka Bialystok was already working as a bookkeeper when the war broke out.

Life for her family had been difficult. The depression had hit her father Szaya's shirt factory hard. She also recalls a climate of anti-Semitism in Poland that was made worse after Hitler came to power in Germany.

Quotas – the infamous numerus clausus – were placed on Jews, restricting their numbers in higher education while those who were allowed to attend university were forced to stand at the back of the class.

Bialystok, 89, recalls that Jews enjoyed a rich cultural life, with their own Yiddish and Polish-language papers, *Haynt* (Today) and *Moment*.

"They were part of the impoverished bourgeoisie, thoroughly Polanized," said her son, Frank Bialystok, a historian of the Holocaust and of Polish Jewry. "She considered herself a Polish citizen of the Mosaic faith."

Continued on page 19

Dialogue group takes steps toward peace

By ABIGAIL CUKIER
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON — They sit around the table talking excitedly about pizza and university applications and making inside jokes. Their loud laughter and kind-hearted teasing resembles that of any other gathering of young adults, but this group has been seen by many in the community as almost historic.

They are part of the Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Group, which is made up of about a dozen high school and university students from the Hamilton area who began sharing ideas, beliefs and stories in February at twice-a-week meetings at a Burlington mosque and a Hamilton synagogue.

Participants say they joined out of a desire for peace in the Middle East and in their own communities. Many had witnessed violence against, or harassment of, Jews and Muslims.

"I wanted to see that it was possible for Jews and Muslims to be friends, to sit around a table together, not just sit across a negotiation table, but to form relationships," said Rebecca Starkman, 17.

Sara Cuneo, 18, said she is concerned about the peace process and the relationship between Jews and Muslims.

"I thought the first step toward peace was meeting them myself and seeing they're really people," she said.

When they joined, most of their family members and friends told them the group was pointless and that they were wasting their time. But now, the group has enjoyed local news coverage, invitations to interfaith meetings, letters and comments from classmates and teachers. They are being held up as an example of what community members can do to bring about change.

"It makes me more optimistic about what can happen locally and it will hopefully spark other things in the community," said Hashem Ali, 20.

Another group is already in the works at McMaster University and students at York University have approached the young adults for advice on how to form their own circle.

The Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Group was formed by Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz of Hamilton's Temple Anshe Sholom and Muslim scholar Dr. Yahya Fadlalla, a preacher at Halton Mosque in Burlington, who saw the need for interfaith dialogue after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Rabbi Zeplowitz said after he announced the idea at High Holy Day services, congregants approached him and asked to participate.

"It is important to begin to see the other side, to see the essential humanness of the 'other,' how much Jews and Muslims have in common, even while pointing out the differences," the rabbi said. "We are not going to change the world in this generation or even the next, or the next. But we are in this for the long-term. If you keep sharing, it is possible for the good ideas to grow in people's hearts."

Rabbi Zeplowitz and Fadlalla started the group's early sessions with icebreakers and formal topics, but it soon became clear that neither was necessary. The participants were eager to discuss everything from religious holidays and the life cycle to food and dating.

Lauren Mark, 17, said it was good to learn about the many parallels between the two cultures, including kosher versus halal meat and similarities in the Hebrew and Arabic alphabets. Values such as the importance of helping fellow human beings are also shared.

Starkman said she had never before interacted with a Muslim person.

"We live in Canada, this huge mosaic. But people end up staying within their own community, either on purpose or by default," Starkman said. "People should step outside and seek out the other. Don't just look and smile. Do something."

Although the group's formal meetings ended after three weeks, the participants still talk on the phone and meet regularly for coffee. They consider each other friends.

Though they never formally discussed the situation in Israel, they now feel they are ready.

"It was important that we did not talk about it too early. We wanted to form relationships first," said Deenah Qubaia, 21. "You're going to talk to a friend differently than you would to just a stranger. You will pay more attention to how a friend is feeling as opposed to a stranger."

Naomi Klinghoffer, 17, agreed, saying if the group had discussed politics when they first met, she would have remembered the Muslim participants by what they said, not by their names.

"Now that we are friends, it would just be a conversation," she said.

The group is planning to invite more members to join or to hold an open meeting. Ali said many of his friends are interested and other participants said they want other young people to be inspired and begin their own dialogues.

"We hope this leads to larger things. Already something wonderful has been accomplished," said Starkman, who intends to start a similar initiative when she begins university.

Participation in the group has not only changed the way the young adults feel about members of their own community, but it has also affected how they view the conflict in the Middle East. They said they now realize how important the land is to the other side and they agree that compromise begins when you can see the other point of view.

"I don't even see it as the other side," said Ali. "We all want the same thing. We all want people to stop dying."

Husband had already left for Israel

Continued from page 18

"Life was hard for them because of a bankruptcy and the depression," but the family had a four or five room apartment and they employed a Polish maid who slept next to the stove, he said.

Rebeka recalls that her business was destroyed in the bombardment early in the war and she decided to flee shortly afterward.

"My parents wanted me to leave. They said maybe they would try to come later. I was very much against it, but they persuaded me to leave."

Her husband Shimon, whom she'd married one month before the war began, had already left with her younger brother Israel, to avoid Nazi roundups of young, military-age Poles.

On Nov. 11, 1939 she left the city for the Russian-occupied zone. Approaching the Vistula River, which marked the boundary between the two sides, she saw Germans confiscating people's valuables. Luckily, she was allowed to pass.

Once in the Soviet Union, Bialystok reunited with her husband in Rovno and later they were deported to Archangel in the far north and later to Uzbekistan, where they spent close to six years.

Bialystok was far away when the ghetto uprising took place, but many of her childhood friends from Hashomer Hatzair took place in the uprising. None survived.

One of her brother's good friends from Hashomer Hatzair was Mordechai Anielewicz, who went on to lead the uprising, Frank said. They were the same age, born in 1919 and "Anielewicz came from a very poor family. His mother sold fish in the market."

Today the uprising has become an important part of the Polish historical memory.

"The citizens of Warsaw have appropriated the memory of the uprising as a model for their uprising a year later," Frank said, adding it is recognized as a Jewish revolt.

Though she doesn't know specifically how they died, Rebeka's parents and many in her family were killed.

"Today it's hard for people to understand how people managed to survive, how people ran away and how people were killed," she said. "It was only a matter of luck."

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Coast to Coast

Couples renewed their vows at Temple Anshe Shalom.

Couples renew vows as shul marks 150 years

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — A sense of satisfaction with the past and optimism for the future permeated the sanctuary of Temple Anshe Sholom recently during a renewal of wedding vows service that involved 12 couples determined to reaffirm their lifelong commitment to one another.

The April 6 service, just one of a number of events held this year to mark the 150th anniversary of Temple Anshe Sholom, provided the couples, who all had been married at the temple, the unique opportunity to experience a second wedding with the same spouse.

There was a hush in the sanctuary as the beaming couples gathered under the two chupot on the bimah.

Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz, spiritual leader of Temple Anshe Sholom, and Rabbi Bernard Baskin, its rabbi emeritus, conducted the service, with Cantor Emeritus Ruth Slater singing the hymns.

"Some who share this bimah have been together for 60 years, others were married only a few weeks ago," Rabbi Zeplowitz said.

"We join in common celebration of their commitment to one another and their connection to Temple Anshe Sholom. As our congregation celebrates 150 years of existence as Canada's oldest Reform congregation, we recognize that the essence of our strength has always been the steadfastness of its members."

The congregation has flourished both because of the loyalty of the members, even those who move away, and because of the highest ideals of Judaism, Rabbi Zeplowitz said.

"These couples… embody many of those ideals: faith and loyalty, love, reliability and generosity.

Rabbi Zeplowitz said he hesitated to give marital advice to the couples, whose years of marriage totaled more than 300 years.

"It is easy perhaps not to give advice, but to give thanks to God for being lucky enough to be witness to such an amazing assembly of dedication of concerned love and commitment."

In congratulating the couples, Rabbi Baskin said perhaps he should include himself and his wife Marjorie, who will be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary this year.

"I know that the secret of a happy marriage is simple. Just keep being polite to each other as you are to your best friends. Evidently you've learned that lesson," Rabbi Baskin said.

He stressed that the renewal of vows is important because the concept of marriage is in danger, and "your experience insists that marriage is still the best way to enshrine love, raise children and overcome loneliness."

As the service ended with the breaking of the glass, Rabbi Baskin said the tradition has special significance during a renewal of the vows service.

"It means turning your backs on all the imperfections, all the problems, all the difficulties and all the sorrows of yesterday as you look forward hopefully to all the fruitful days that lie ahead."

Among those participating in the renewal ceremony were noted sculptor Anne Mirvish and her husband Ed Mirvish, the renowned Toronto retail magnate and theatre impresario. The Mirvishs were married at Temple Anshe Sholom in 1941.

Among the guests at the renewal of the vows service was former Ontario lieutenant governor Lincoln Alexander, who is a good friend of the Mirvishs.

Robert and Suzanne Passow were married at the temple in 2000. The service provided "a chance for a new beginning," Suzanne said.

There were problems with Robert's conversion to Judaism prior to the first wedding, she said. At the renewal of the vows ceremony, they had the complete support of their families, and their two-year old daughter also attended.

"We had so many initial struggles. We've been through so much as a couple. We are a lot stronger."

The other couples who renewed their vows were: Arnold and Marsha Sandler (married in 1962); Mel and Fran Petersiel (1963); Lawrence and Marla Kobetz (1970); Marvin and Lorraine Cohen (1976); Gerald and Cindy Vertlieb (1977); Steven and Cheryl Dembe (1982); Norman and Marla Weddum (1983); Irwin Rodin and Judy Mendelson (1988); Perry Sussman and Ramona Solomon Sussman (1994); and Garry Barankin and Amanda Hall (2003).

***The CJN* talks with Anne Mirvish in next week's issue.**

Coast to Coast

Negev Dinner to honour minister

By MYRON LOVE
Prairie Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Rev. John Howson, 62, national director of Bridges for Peace, has been chosen this June's Jewish National Fund Winnipeg Negev Gala honoree.

Bridges for Peace is a Jerusalem-based, Christian organization that supports Israel, and works to build relationships between Christians and Jews worldwide.

The organization's mission includes educating Christians to identify with Israel and the Jewish people; to help Israel on a practical level; to fight anti-Semitism worldwide; and to communicate Christian perspectives to Israeli leaders and the Jewish community at large.

Originally from Windsor, Ont., Rev. Howson says he first felt the call to preach when he was 13.

Over a 26-year career as a Pentecostal pastor, he served six churches in three provinces.

In 1984, he left his church in Winnipeg to take up a new position as a councillor at *100 Huntley Street*, the Christian television show, but in 1994, he lost his job due to budget cuts.

"It was the first time I had been out of work. Money was tight. My wife Ruth and I prayed for direction. We felt the call to go to Israel to volunteer for Bridges for Peace.

"We had been receiving its literature and had adopted an Israeli family," he said.

"After three months in Israel, we were hooked. Israel became my cause, and I was appointed Bridges For Peace's assistant director for Canada."

He has been the voluntary full-time director – he raises his own funds – since 1997.

As director, he travels Canada from coast to coast speaking to church groups – there are 1,200 Pentecostal congregations across Canada – explaining the Israeli and Jewish perspective.

He says there is a groundswell of support for Israel among Evangelical Christians.

He has also tried to show solidarity with the Jewish community by attending and participating in Holocaust Memorial services and Israel rallies, and contributing to the fund to restore a Winnipeg Jewish cemetery after it was vandalized two summers ago.

"It hasn't been easy. The Jewish community was slow to accept our efforts and even in my community there has been misunderstanding."

It was the current fighting in the Middle East that seems to have opened his doors to the Jewish community, he says.

He has spoken at rallies for Israel and received a plaque from the Israeli government for promoting tourism.

For the Holocaust Memorial Week this spring, he has arranged with the organizing committee to bring in a Christian speaker from Minneapolis.

"The Old Testament clearly demonstrates that God has made and kept promises to Israel," he says.

"We see the covenants being fulfilled right before our eyes. Our experiences in Israel totally changed our lives and made us realize that we want to invest our lives with the Jewish people.

"Working with the Jewish community is the most fulfilling thing I have ever done.

"It took a long time for the Jewish community to accept me. I never expected this honour."

QUEEN'S MEDAL: Mel Kotler, a prominent member of the Kelowna community in B.C., was among 20 Okanagan residents recently presented with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal. Kotler was presented with his medal by MLA Sindi Hawkins.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

צו דעם 55סטן יום העצמאות, מיט פּריידּ, דאַנקבאַרקייט אוּן האָפענונג

פֿון אַלעק סילווער

דאָס דער גורל געוואָלט, אַז דער נייער פּרעזידענט־טוב פֿון ישׂראל, **יום העצמאות**, דער יאָרטאָג פֿון ווידער־אויפֿלעבונג פֿון ידישער מלוכה־שאַפֿט אין אונדזער צייט, זאָל נאָכפֿאַלגן בלויז געצייטלטע טעג דעם יום הזכרון נאָך די זעקס מיליאָן קדושים, וועלכע זיינען אומ־געקומען אין דער שואה. די נאָענטקייט פֿון אַטּידי בייַדע געשעענישן דערמאָנט אונדז, אוּן די צוקונפֿטיקע דורות, אַז אידער ס'איז פֿאַרוואָס אומאָפּהענגיקייט אוּן פּרייהייט, איז פֿאַרוואָס; פֿאַר דער פּריידּ — אומבאַשרייבלעכע ליידן; פֿאַר אַ ניי לעבן — איז פֿאַרוואָס טויט.

בכדי צו קענען אָפּשאַצן, היטן אוּן פֿאַרטיידיקן דאָס, וואָס ס'איז אויפֿגעטאָן פֿאַרוואָס, איז עס אונדזער חוב צו דערמאָנען דעם לאַנגן קרבנותפֿולן וועג, וועלכן דאָס ידישע פֿאָלק איז דוכגאַנגען, בין עס האָט דערגרייכט די הויכקייטן פֿון נאַציאָנאַלער זעלבשטענדיקייט.

זייער אַ סך האָט דאָס ידישע פֿאָלק דורכגעמאַכט אין איר גלות־לעבן. צוזייט אוּן צושפּרייט אויבער דער וועלט, געפֿאָלגט אוּן געיאָגט פֿון איין לאַנד צום צווייטן, פֿאַרפֿאָלגט אוּן געמאָרדעט אין אַ סך לענדער, פֿאַרלירן אין איין צייט־אָפּשניט אַ דריטל פֿון איר באָפֿעלקערונג, איז עס ענדלעך צוריקגעקומען צו איר הימלאַנד ה' אייד, תש"ח. אין דעם טאָג, מיט 55 יאָר צוריק, איז פֿראָקלאַמירט געוואָרן די גרינדונג פֿון מדינת ישׂראל.

אוּן נישט בלויז די איינוווינער פֿון מדינת ישׂראל פֿייערן דעם יום־טוב, נאָר יידן איבער דער גאַנצער וועלט אייניקן זיך מיט די ישׂראל בירגער אין דער דאָזיקער גרויסער פֿייערונג. אָפּילו דער יד, וואָס וווינט נישט אין דעם לאַנד ישׂראל, פֿילט זיך ווי אַן אמתער מחזיק בייַ דער היינטיקער שמחה. גרויס איז די פּריידּ פֿון יעדן יד אוּן זיין דאָנקבאַרקייט איז אַן אַ גרענעץ. דאָס דאָך דער יד אַזוי לאַנג געוואָרט אויף, געחלומט וועגן, תפילה געטאָן פֿאַר דעם „לשנה הבאה בירושלים". אַ סך מאָל האָט עס טאַקע אויסגעזען ווי אַ בלויזע פֿאַנטאַזיע. עס איז אָבער פֿאַרווירקלעכט געוואָרן, אוּן אונדזער דור האָט זוכה געווען צו זיין אַן עדות צום דאָזיקן גרויסן נס.

ישׂראל איז אַריבער די שוועל פֿון אַ האַלבן יאָרהונדערט אוּן במשך דער צייט גאָר אַ סך אויפֿגעטאָן אויף אַלע געביטן. אוּן, ווי שוין דערמאָנט, גרויס איז אונדזער פּרייד. וואָלט זי, די פּרייד, נאָך אַ סך גרעסער געווען, ווען ישׂראל וואָלט נישט פֿאַרלירן אַזוי פּיל ידיש בלוט אוּן ידישע קרבנות; ווען ישׂראל וואָלט דערלויבט געווען אַ ביסל פּריער אָפּצואָטעמען; ווען זי וואָלט נישט געווען געצווונגען צו שטיין שטענדיק אויף דער וואַך פֿאַר איר אויסגעקעמפּטער פּרייהייט, סיי אויפֿן מילימעטריסטישן פּראָנט.

דער געבורט פֿון דער מדינה איז געווען באַגלייט מיט מלחמה אוּן קרבנות, אוּן אין משך פֿון די 55 יאָר איז ישׂראל געווען געצווונגען אַריסצוגיין אין מלחמות מיט אידע אַראַבישע שכנים, כדי צו פֿאַרטיידיקן איר זעלבשטענדיקייט. אָפּילו ווען די שיסערייַ איז אויף אַ צייט אָפּגעשטעלט געוואָרן, האָט דער ישׂראל בירגער נישט דערלויבט זיך אַ ביסל אַראָפּלאָזן זיך וואָכאַמקייט. בין דער ענדגילטיקער שלום וועט קומען, מוז די ידישע מדינה לענד טאַג־טעגלעך מיט דער געפֿאָר פֿון טעראָריסטישע אַנפֿאַלן אוּן דעם פֿאַרלוסט פֿון אומשולדיקע ידישע קרבנות.

ווילן מיר אין היינטיקן יום העצמאות פֿאַרגעסן אויף אַ ווייל וועגן די נעגאַטיוויטע פֿראַבלעמען אוּן בלויז זיך פֿריען אין היינטיקן געבורטסטאָג. צוזאַמען מיט אונדזער דאָנקבאַרקייט אוּן פֿריידּ שיקן מיר אונדזער האַרציקע באַגריסונג צום ישוב אין ישׂראל, צום פֿרעזידענט, פֿרעמיער־מיניסטער, כנסת אוּן צה"ל. זאָלן זיי — אוּן אַלע יידן — מצליח זיין אין זייערע אַנשטרענגונגן צו ברענגען אַ דיערהאפטן שלום אין מיטעלן מזרח. דאָס איז דער הייסער אוּן אייביקער וווּנטש פֿון ידישן פֿאָלק אין אוּן אויסערהאַלב מדינת ישׂראל.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New deadlines: Monday, May 5, is deadline for May 15 issue and Monday, May 12, is deadline for May 22. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 1

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

Volunteer at an IDF supply/maintenance base for a minimum of two weeks. Come to an information night about Sar-El (Canadian Volunteers for Israel) 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. For information see www.serve.com/CVI or call 416-781-6089.

OUR POLITICAL TRADITION

Adath Israel Spring Study Event begins with a series of lectures on The Jewish Political Tradition given by **Rabbi Steven Saltzman**. This three-week course will continue Thursday evenings until May 15. 37 Shelbourne Ave. at 8 p.m. For information call 416-635-5340.

Sunday, May 4

BAZAAR & AUCTION

Beth Jacob Teacher Seminary is holding a charity bazaar and auction with thousands of items including giftware, collectibles, silver, toys, clothing, electronics, computer software & hardware, jewellery, furniture, quality crystal. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 410 Lawrence Ave.

HOLY BLOSSOM BREAKFAST

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast will have a presentation by **Michael Cole** on the book *Abraham* by **Bruce Feiler**. 9:30 a.m.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Congregation Habonim is hosting **Richard** and **Joan Davidson**, a Jamaican couple who will discuss the history of the Jamaican Jewish community at the breakfast club at 10 a.m. 5 Glen park Ave. Breakfast and lecture $6.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

The Alumni Association of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto is hosting a photography exhibit by **Orah Buck** entitled Bat Yam Beats. The photos are a study of how the Russian community in Israel has retained their culture, transporting it to Bat Yam, Ashkelon and Ashdod. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 200 Wilmington Ave. CHAT Alumni are invited to a special showing with the artist from 7:30-9:30 p.m. RSVP to Julie Gonik 416-636-5984 ext. 501.

JEWISH ART AND ARTISTS

Temple Har Zion and Beit Rayim Synagogue are co-sponsoring a slide lecture on Jewish art and artists by **Rabbi Sol Tanenzapf**. 1:00 p.m. at Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Ave. Call 905 889 2252.

EARL BALES ECO FAIR

Come out for an afternoon of fun and ecology with The City of Toronto Parks and Recreation Family Fun Eco Fair. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre. For information call 416-395-7873.

WOMEN'S BOOK REVIEW

The World Below by **Sue Miller** will be discussed by The Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network at the Barbara Frum Library at 1:45 p.m. call **Ruth** for information 416-782-6414.

JEWISH HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Jewish Healing Project is sponsoring a Healing Service between 3-4 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. featuring **Rabbi Baruch Frydman Kohl** of Beth Tzedec Congregation and **Ken Rabow**, composer/arranger. An opportunity to experience hope, comfort, faith and support in the face of whatever difficulties you are experiencing. Wheelchair accessible, no fee, all welcome. For information call 416-944-3359.

Continued on page 23

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center
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ADMISSION: **FREE**

For an outline of the day's activities, please visit:
http://www.wiesenthal.com/about/office_canada.cfm

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What's New

Continued from page 22

KOFFLER BALLET GALA

The Koffler Annual International Ballet Gala, Stars of the 21st Century! takes place at 5:30 p.m. at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. For tickets call Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111.

DOCS AND TALKS

The Rosh Chodesh Group of the Beach Hebrew Institute invites women to join them for a viewing of the second video from the ten part series *Judaism: A Quest for Meaning*, to be followed by a lively discussion. Bring a dairy snack or dessert to share. Wheelchair accessible, except washrooms. 7-9 p.m. Free. For further information contact, **Dianna James** 416-763-2799 or **Sandy Winch** 416-691-9939.

PAIKIN AT INDIGO

Join **Karen Paikin**, of Jewish Family and Child Services, at Indigo, Yonge and Highway 7 at 8 p.m. for a discussion on Spirituality in the Workplace sponsored by Temple Kol Ami.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The Christian Jewish Dialogue of Toronto holds its annual Christian Service in Memory of the Holocaust. Keynote speaker is **Anglican Bishop Ann Tottenham**. Taking part will be **Cantor Ben Maissner** of Holy Blossom Temple. Kosher refreshments. 7:30 p.m. Leaside United Church, 822 Millwood Ave.

Monday, May 5

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

The Holy Blossom Temple Library book Club will view and discuss Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors* with **Andrea Most**, professor at the University of Toronto. 10 a.m. For information call **Anne** 416-789-3291 ext. 235.

SECTS AND THE CITY

Rabbi Stroh will begin a Monday night series discussing The Birth of Rabbinic Judaism. 8 p.m. Additional classes, May 12, 26 and June 2 at Temple Har Zion.

BITTERMAN LECTURE

The thirteenth annual Frances Bitterman memorial lecture will be given by **Lorrie Goldstein**, editor of the *Toronto Sun*, on the topic Media Coverage of Israel: Has David become Goliath in The Mind of the World's Press? 8 p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 3080 Bayview Ave. Free.

Tuesday, May 6

CELEBRATE ISRAEL

Join Yavneh, Bnei Akiva, Emunah Women and Mizrachi as they commemorate Yom Hazikaron and remember the men and women who have given their lives for the State of Israel. Then celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with prayer, singing and dancing. 7:15 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. 470 Glencairn Ave.

UNLEASHING SOUL POWER

Chabad Lubavitch begins an eight-week adult education course Unleashing Our Soul Power: Shedding New Light on Self & Relationships at 770 Chabad Gate between 7:30 and 9 p.m. The same course will be taught at Chabad Midtown, 1344 Bathurst St. beginning Wednesday, May 7, 7:30-9 p.m. Cost $80. For information call 905-731-7000.

Wednesday, May 7

YOM HA'TZMAUT

Join the community for a procession and celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut. Start at the BJCC, 4588 Bathurst St. and march to Earl Bales Park for the festivities, including a concert by The Moshav Band. 6:15-8:15 p.m. For information call 416-635-2883 ext. 137.

More News

BETH TZEDEC WEEKEND

Join **Stephen Berk**, professor of history at Union College, Schenectady, for a weekend of study May 2-4. Dinner Friday night with a lecture on Islam and Russia: Putin's Dilemma; Saturday pulpit speech, Germans and Jews; study luncheon, European Anti-Semitism: The Spectre of Hitler; Sunday morning lecture after 9 a.m. services, The Record of the Christian Churches during the Holocaust. Call 416-781-3511.

HUMANISTIC CONFERENCE

The Society for Humanistic Judaism is holding its biennial conference from May 2-4 at the Quality Hotel and Conference Centre, 185 Yorkland Blvd. The public is invited to participate in the conference which features over 20 events and speakers, including **Rabbi Sherwin Wine** and **Dr. Egon Mayer**. full and partial registration available. Call 416-385-3910.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada is having a special presentation by **Edward Anders**, a Holocaust survivor from Liepaja, Latvia and retired professor of chemistry, the University of Chicago. His topic is Recovering Lost Names of Holocaust Victims: A New Method Applied to a Town in Latvia. Thursday, May 8 at 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Ave. $3 for non-members.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

WALK FOR ISRAEL

Join the community on Sunday, May 25 for UJA Federation's Walk With Israel 2003, the world's largest solidarity walk on Israel's behalf. Come out to say "Israel is not alone." For information on the walk check out www.jewishtoronto.net or call 416-635-2883.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Information/registration. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Living With Teens: A six session group for parents of teenagers dealing with normal teen issues such as realistic expectations, communication, setting limits and rights and responsibilities. Begins Thursday May 1 at The Promenade Mall, suite 313 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

One Family, Two Houses: A three session series for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children participate in separate age appropriate groups. Begins Tuesday May 6 at The Promenade Mall, suite 313 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Mothers and Daughters: A six session group for mothers and their teenage daughters. The series focuses on helping mothers and daughters learn how to talk and listen so they both feel appreciated and understood. Begins Wed. May 7 at The Promenade Mall, suite 313 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday dances, May 18 with a live band. $2 members, $3 guests. Casino Rama, May 4. Call office for information 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 1, bingo, May 4, Yom Ha'atzmaut dance. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Program June 12: *The Sound of Music* at Stage West Theatre. Call 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

The Betel Centre is offering a trip to Canada's East Coast including Saint John, Charlottetown and Halifax between July 2 and July 11. Cost $1399 based on double occupancy. For information and reservations ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. May 6, Yom Ha'atzmaut party, buy your tickets in advance, May 13, lecture. For information call **Anna** ext.110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Sharing Life Stories: Finding Meaning Through Storying: Learn the tools to create a life history for your family. All invited. Wed. May 7, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Apotex Community Hall. For details, ext. 2223.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Lunch & Learn, Thursday, May 1, with **Derek Penslar discussing** Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism noon to 1:00 p.m. Cost $5.00, lunch included.

Hashomer Hatzair & The JCC present a new, downtown Jewish teen group for grades 7 & up! Sunday afternoons between 3:30-5:30 p.m. The program is designed for youth and run by youth. Discover the world of Israel and Zionism. For more information contact **Frances Enchin** JCC or **Ora Merin**, 416-736-1339.

Registration now underway for JCC Summer Camps and summer programs. Call or check out the Web site.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Art, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

In the Koffler Gallery **Wendy Oberlander**: Translating Esther.

ISCOVE HONOURED: David Ellenson, president of Hebrew Union College, recently conferred the doctor of Jewish religious education, *honoris causa*, on Esphira "Happy" Locketz Iscove during Founders' Day ceremonies in New York. Iscove spent many years working at Holy Blossom Temple Religious School. Seen from left are Martin Cohen, Iscove and Ellenson.

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Observant panel debates 'TV or not TV?'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Television exposes children to violence and immorality that can't fail to influence their behaviour.

Like everything else in the world, there is good and bad in television, and we have to approach it with common sense and intelligence.

These two opposing attitudes summed up the views of the panellists at a recent Nishma program titled "TV or not TV," which considered whether it is permissible for observant Jews to allow their children to watch television. It was the last sesssion of the year in Nishma's Religiously Incorrect series of discussions about topical issues from a Torah point of view.

Taking part were Rabbi Ephraim Applebaum, a teacher at Eitz Chaim Day Schools and founder of Parents Concerned with Media Influence; Shayna Kravetz, a lawyer, journalist and teacher; lawyer Yossi Adler; and Michael Kigel, a producer of videos on Jewish themes and star of the Vision television programs *Passages* and *Messages*. Rabbi Benjamin Hecht, founder and director of Nishma, moderated the panel.

Rabbi Applebaum called television "a magnificent machine that brings the world to our living room." However, what matters is who controls it. "It is like a knife that is benign if controlled by a housewife or a butcher, but not if it is in the hands of a murderer," he said.

"When I grew up, television programs had positive social messages. Look at *I Love Lucy*, Ed Sullivan, Jackie Gleason. Even the westerns had positive endings. Now, however, commercialism is everything – the more gory the program, the more money it makes."

Children, he said, are the most susceptible to the influence of television.

Kravetz insisted that "we all own TV. You choose what you watch. You are the consumer, and you can change things." By writing to advertisers and television producers and saying they are polluting the airwaves and so "I won't buy your soap," you can make a difference, she said.

Rabbi Applebaum said people could make a difference if everyone wrote letters to producers and advertisers, but he feared that would not happen. "In the meantime, the kids are being fed garbage."

Kigel said television, by its very nature, "creates a passive attitude" in those watching it, something that is questionable for Judaism, which encourages questioning and active learning. It makes him uncomfortable, he said, to go past houses at night and see only the blue lights of the television. "It makes me think of *avodah zarah* [idol worship]."

Kravetz agreed that TV encourages passivity, but said that is inherent in all modern inventions, including the telephone. And, she asked, "if you see a problem, do you walk away, or do something about it?"

Rabbi Hecht complained that the 22-minute sitcom offers quick and easy answers to difficult issues. "That leads the viewer to expect immediate answers and immediate gratification."

Adler said research shows no correlation between violence on television and violent acts by children. "That's not saying that aggressive kids won't go for aggressive shows, but it means that non-violent kids won't become violent."

In his own home, Adler said, he and his wife determine what shows their children can watch, and they watch with them and discuss the content. Better they should talk about issues that worry them with their parents than with their friends, he said.

Rabbi Applebaum responded that many parents are simply too busy to watch with their children. And even if they can, if something objectionable comes on, "you can't turn the set off fast enough."

Also, he said, adults become desensitized to the many acts of war, violence and immorality depicted on TV. "If adults become desensitized, how much more so do kids?"

In that case, said Rabbi Hecht, maybe adults shouldn't have a TV either, even if they don't have children.

One of the worst things about television, Rabbi Applebaum continued, is that it encourages immorality. "As religious Jews, we are told that we shouldn't go after the attractions of the eyes – that we shouldn't permit any amount of immorality. Would we accept that something is 98 per cent kosher?"

Adler countered that such a claim can be made about nearly any modern invention, noting that even telephones can be used for immoral purposes. "What people become desensitized to is fictional violence, not the real thing."

Kravetz said the campaign against television among some observant Jews is about closing off the community from the world. "More and more of the world is seen as being treif."

While she agreed that much of it is, she questioned what would happen when kids who are so protected grow up and have to face reality.

The world then becomes forbidden fruit and thus more desirable and "enticing," Adler said.

Rabbi Applebaum said the question of whether to have a television should be referred to a rabbi, who can advise each family to do what is right for them.

In response to an audience member who charged that not only are some rabbis out of touch with the world, some "are often afraid to give an answer for fear of what other rabbis will say about them," Rabbi Applebaum replied that if someone doesn't have faith in his rabbi, he should find one he does have faith in.

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MOSES is more than just a cute acronym

On Campus

MONTREAL – M.O.S.E.S: not a just a cute acronym:

In August 2002, Hillel Montreal launched Project MOSES (Masses of Students Expressing Support) – an ambitious initiative that has commissioned a sefer Torah to be donated to the Hebrew University in honour of the victims of the July 2002 terrorist attack.

Like the rest of the Jewish world, Jewish students have been shocked and pained by the ongoing terrorist attacks that have targeted innocent civilians in Israel.

Memorial services, vigils and rallies have been organized throughout North American campuses to deplore these attacks and pay tribute to the victims. Jewish students, many of whom have spent quality time in Israel, have walked along Jaffa Road in Jerusalem, had a slice of pizza at Sbarro's, danced at the Dolphinarium in Tel Aviv and waited for the bus in Haifa. These are not obscure far away places.

Many of our students have also spent the year at the Hebrew University, eating and hanging out at the Frank Sinatra Cafeteria. That attack shattered many illusions. Hebrew U has always been and continues to be an oasis of co-existence in a city that at times seems on the brink.

Following the attack, a group of students got together to find a tangible way of memorializing the victims. Secular and religious were killed at Hebrew U., religious and secular got together to memorialize them.

After hours of brainstorming it came out – a sefer Torah. It is a symbol of Judaism, Jewish history, teachings and continuity. As the initial planning committee thought about it the more excited they became. The answer to Islamic fundamentalism (Islamic Jihad had claimed responsibility for the attack) would be Judaism's contribution to the world, an ethical message that values human life and the power of the human spirit.

Jewish students from different backgrounds could agree that Torah teachings were basic and fundamental, a unifying force within Judaism.

The funds for the sefer Torah would be raised by students across North America and the siyum (completion) ceremony would be held on Mount Scopus accompanied by a delegation of Jewish students.

It was also decided that all residual funds would be donated to the Mishapacha Ehad Fund, an organization that provides much needed support to the families of victims of terror.

MOSES: Masses of Students Expressing Support, must become a household word, not just a cute acronym. MOSES is a wonderful opportunity for young and old, not only to support a student project, but to send a clear message that the Jewish spirit will not be extinguished by terrorism.

To more information about MOSES (or to make a contribution) call Hillel Montreal at 514-845-9171

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PA reforms a prelude to 'road map' for peace

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement decided Monday to back the new cabinet proposed by incoming Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas – also known as Abu Mazen – boosting chances the team of ministers will win approval in a parliamentary vote this week.

A "yes" vote would pave the way for the presentation of an internationally sponsored Mideast peace plan by the United States. The so-called road map envisions full Palestinian statehood within three years. U.S. President George W. Bush has linked the presentation of the plan to Abbas being installed as PA prime minister.

The forming of the new cabinet was preceded by five weeks of wrangling between Abbas and PA President Yasser Arafat, who has been reluctant to share power. Last week, after intense international pressure, Arafat withdrew some of his challenges to Abbas' cabinet, but he continues to wield considerable influence because of his control over Fatah, which commands a solid majority in parliament.

On Monday, Fatah's ruling body, the Central Committee, decided to instruct Fatah legislators to support the cabinet, said Nabil Sha'ath, the incoming foreign minister and a senior member of the movement.

"President Arafat and the Central Committee of Fatah will provide the new cabinet with all the Fatah support and personal support to win the vote of confidence [scheduled for Tuesday]," Sha'ath said.

However, it was not clear whether all Fatah legislators would heed the instructions. The lawmakers were to meet later Monday with Arafat and Abbas.

Fatah and its supporters control 62 seats in the 85-member parliament. The legislature, elected in 1996, initially had 88 members, but two have died and one has resigned. To confirm his cabinet, Abbas needs a majority of 43 legislators.

One lawmaker, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he has informally polled most of his colleagues and found that at least 47 would vote in favour of the cabinet.

On Sunday, Abbas handed his final list of ministers to Arafat's office, showing a number of changes from the original proposals. Missing from the list was Gen. Nasser Yusuf, who had been designated chief of police in the West Bank and Gaza. But new to the list was Maher al Masri, a Nablus man who will head a Ministry for National Economy.

There has been widespread criticism regarding Abbas's proposed team, with some legislators complaining he has appointed several politicians tainted by corruption and that he has failed to live up to expectations of a sweeping overhaul.

Abbas told European diplomats he met with in Ramallah that he will use his inaugural speech to declare an end to the use of arms to achieve Palestinian national aspirations.

Abbas told the Europeans all future inputs of money to the PA, whether from donors, Europeans, or Arab countries, would go to the PA treasury and would be overseen by Finance Minister Salam Fayyad.

On Sunday, Israel said it will allow nine members of the PLC who in the past have been described as "involved in terror" to take part in the PLC session to confirm the new government.

No reasons were given for the policy change, but it is probably because the nine said they would not take part in the session by video conference. This would prevent the necessary quorum for the PLC to confirm the cabinet.

Muslim Council ballot worries French Jews

By PHILIP CARMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — French Jews may have hoped that the election of the first council to represent France's Muslim community of five million would act as a moderating influence on its members, but they received a rude awakening earlier this month.

Representatives from more than 900 mosques across France who cast their ballots for the new Muslim Council delivered a stinging slap to moderate candidates backed by the government.

The result was a personal defeat for the man seen as the modern face of French Islam, Dalil Boubakeur, the rector of the Grand Mosque in Paris.

The main winner was the National Federation of French Muslims, a group closely linked to the large Moroccan community in France and which receives financial and political backing from Rabat. The Moroccans are regarded as more conservative than the more integrated Algerians, and more mainstream than the fundamentalist French Union of Islamic Organizations.

Candidates from the union were the second largest group with 14 seats.

Trailing behind came candidates backed by the Paris Mosque, which only placed six of its supporters on the council.

The result is troubling for the Jewish community, since it comes as anti-Semitic incidents are at their highest level in more than a decade and the majority are carried out by Muslim youths.

French Jews and government officials had hoped the election of moderate elements to the council would provide Boubakeur with increased authority to take on the more radical elements within the Muslim community.

Almost 200 years after Napoleon set up the consistorial system as a means to fully integrate France's Jewish community, Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy decided the time had arrived to "bring French Islam out of the garages and basements."

Sarkozy's intention was to provide a representative voice for the Muslim community, as well as to assure it of state support for services such as the provision of mosques and halal meat, and burial rights within municipal cemeteries.

Moreover, he sought to unite the Muslim community around Boubakeur and diminish the role played by foreign-born preachers, whose more fundamentalist brand of Islam is taking root in mosques in working-class suburbs around the big cities.

In addition to Boubakeur's moderation, the Paris Mosque is also closely associated with France's largely integrated Algerian community. President Jacques Chirac had promised his Algerian counterpart during a recent state visit that the Algerians would maintain their traditional hegemony on the new council.

Leading moderates are unlikely to win

For the government and the Jewish community, the most worrying sign was the second-place showing by the French Union of Islamic Organizations, an organization with strong links to the Muslim Brotherhood fundamentalist group.

Such fears were exacerbated by the union's reaction to the election. In fact, union officials said, the group's success was even greater than it appeared.

"A lot of the Moroccans elected on the [National Federation of French Muslims] lists are closer to us than to the federation," Lhaj Thami Breeze, president of the union, told a recent conference of his organization.

The union's conference, which had the feel of a victory rally, was attended by Sarkozy, a clear indication that the government is aware of where the real power now lies in the Muslim community.

The final makeup of the Muslim Council's general assembly remains unclear because there will be runoff elections in some areas.

Nevertheless, leading moderates such as the imam of Marseille, who has appeared on platforms together with Jewish leaders at rallies against anti-Semitism, and the rector of Lyon's Grand Mosque who attended a service at a synagogue in the city's suburbs last year following a fire-bombing incident, are unlikely to win.

And the lack of support for Boubakeur and other candidates who have attempted to reach out to the Jewish community during the recent wave of anti-Semitic attacks, concerns Jewish leaders.

Officially, Jewish organizations were supportive of the moves to integrate the Muslim community, though they largely declined to comment after the elections for fear of further harming the more moderate groups on the council.

According to Bernard Kasovitch, who is responsible for relations with the Muslim community for the CRIF, the umbrella organization of secular French Jews, the poor showing of candidates supported by Boubakeur proved that in the current climate, it is difficult for moderate candidates to win support in their own community.

"We are ready to be partners with the Muslim community, but it is important to wait and see how they work together among themselves," Kasovitch told JTA. "Like most people in France, including Sarkozy, we are afraid of violence and extremism."

Moreover, the key test for the new council is how it adapts to the secular values of the French state, he said.

"They have to choose between whether they want to be guided by the sharia [Islamic law] or by the principles of the republic," Kasovitch said. "They should also be careful not to choose the wrong target. I tell them that Jews are not against Muslims, but rather that we want the same things."

Perhaps the first indication that the union is not prepared to tone down its demands came at its conference last week.

At first, Sarkozy received a rapturous ovation for his backing of the Muslim Council. But he was widely jeered when he said he would insist that Muslim women be photographed bareheaded for their national identity cards.

The union position also contrasts sharply with that of Boubakeur, who has called on French Muslims "to live with the times.

"It's not because the French law says so that we should change our behaviour, but because the world itself is changing," Boubakeur said.

For his part, Kasovitch, who with Boubakeur co-authored a book that promotes tolerance and understanding between French Jews and Muslims, said the union was "choosing the wrong fight. The issue of head covering within state institutions is a deliberate provocation. The government is not against religious expression," Kasovitch said. "It's a shame because there are so many things that need to be done for the Muslim community."

Ultimately, the elections have presented a vision of French Muslims that is considerably more extremist in tone than either the Jewish community or Sarkozy had hoped for.

Nevertheless, Sarkozy was quick to reassure the Jewish community.

"The danger would have been there even if we had done nothing," he said. "It is important that the republic engages in dialogue with Muslims, and that in itself is a factor in maintaining a peaceful climate."

But "this mutual recognition also gives us more latitude to fight against those imams who break the law in calling for violence and anti-Semitism," Sarkozy warned. "They will be expelled."

Asper spearheads Winnepeg human rights museum

Continued from page 1

The 21-storey museum will include a 70-metre Tower of Hope, where visitors will have the opportunity to express their opinions about human rights and what they have learned; a Canadian gallery, which will explore dark periods in Canadian history; a Holocaust gallery; a hall of fame and shame highlighting such moral icons as Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela, as well as people who have become synonymous with evil; a Canadian commitment gallery, which will feature Canadian contributions to human rights; and the Garden of Contemplation, a "barometer of hate" that will measure hate levels around the world on a daily basis.

There will also be an exhibit on human rights in crisis, wireless palm pilots for students to record their impressions of the exhibits, and a "virtual museum" to connect the museum to the rest of the world through the Internet.

In his remarks, Asper, who, in the last 30 years has developed a media empire spanning three continents, said the museum will be an international symbol, celebrating a country "that is now one of the most inclusive and tolerant societies in the world, although we have had our darker periods."

Through its signature architecture, galleries, collections and programs, he said, the museum will address the "21st-century challenges of bridging and strengthening relationships between communities and vigilantly guarding our human rights. The message of universal individual rights can be Canada's legacy to the future."

The Asper Foundation is committed to an initial $50-million contribution. The federal government has already provided $600,000 to help pay for a feasibility study and has pledged another $30 million. The provincial government will give $20 million in land and tax breaks and an unspecified dollar contribution. A fundraising campaign will soon be under way to raise the balance of the funding.

The museum is expected to attract 300,000 visitors a year, including at least 100,000 students from across Canada whose visits will be subsidized by the Asper Foundation. For several years, the foundation has been paying to send all Winnipeg Jewish Grade 8 and 9 students and some non-Jewish Grade 9 students to Washington each year to tour the Holocaust Museum.

A planned $70-million second phase will include a 1,000 room dormitory to house visiting student groups.

"We are incredibly pleased with the reaction," Levy says. "We have had calls congratulating us from all around the world."

Israel mission cancelled; fear of SARS a factor

Continued from page 1

"We prefer flying El Al or Air Canada," he said.

Winnipeg's Jewish community has a goal of sending two missions a year to Israel – one in the fall and one in the spring. Fifty people signed up for the last mission, Oct. 28 to Nov. 2, 2002, including Manitoba Premier Gary Doer, and Health Minister Dave Chomiak.

The spring mission, scheduled for May 18 to 25, was to have included Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray, who plans to go on the next mission, scheduled for November.

"We are confident that the November mission will go ahead as scheduled," Freedman said.

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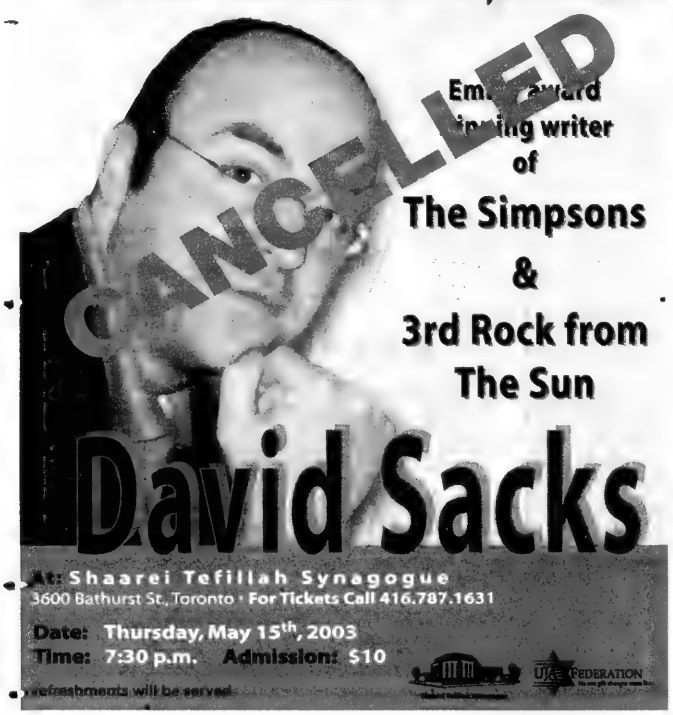

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Israel & the Jewish World

Syria feels the heat

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

Since the informal end of the three-week war in Iraq, Syria has never been so isolated. With Saddam Hussein's brutal Ba'athist regime having been handily deposed by the United States and its allies, Bashar Assad, Syria's president, has become a real oddity – the last Ba'athist ruler in the Arab world. Syria, having been vociferously denounced by Washington for assisting Iraq, may yet come under more American pressure.

Last month, after U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell threatened Syria with economic and political penalties, the United States cut off an oil pipeline from Iraq to Syria that had been a lucrative source of revenue for Damascus. And now, with the reintroduction of the Syria Accountability Act in the U.S. Congress, Syria faces additional sanctions, a possible development that Israel, Syria's undying foe, has encouraged. Washington, however, is not threatening Syria militarily.

Stigmatized by the Americans as a state that supports terrorism, Syria was criticized by the United States even before the war in Iraq began.

During a visit to Israel in February, John Bolton, the U.S. undersecretary of state, vaguely suggested it would be necessary to deal with "threats" emanating from Syria and its ally, Iran. James Woolsey, a former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, subsequently elaborated on that theme by singling out Syria and Islamic extremist groups as enemies of the United States.

With the allied invasion of Iraq, which Syria branded as an act of unbridled aggression, the United States stepped up its critique of Syria. Washington was none too pleased by Assad's comparison of the looming American occupation of Iraq with Israel's ill-fated 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon.

Several days after U.S. aircraft bombed a bus ferrying Syrian volunteers to Iraq, U.S. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld warned Damascus it would be held accountable for sending night vision goggles to Baghdad and allowing Syrians to fight alongside Iraqis.

In yet another barrage, Rumsfeld accused Damascus of letting high-ranking Iraqi government officials into Syria. Upping the ante, U.S. President George W. Bush warned the Syrians of serious consequences if they continued to harbour members of Saddam's fallen regime. Bush also spoke darkly about Syria's chemical weapons arsenal, and his press secretary, Ari Fleischer, described Syria as a "rogue nation."

Citing further "concerns" about the Syrians, Powell called on Syria to cease its support of terrorism. He was, of course, alluding to Syria's ties with Hezbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad. During the early 1980s, Hezbollah, with Iran's connivance, blew up the American embassy and the U.S. Marines barracks in Beirut. Later, again with Iran's help, Hezbollah fought a guerrilla war against Israel in southern Lebanon.

In addition, Syria permits Hamas and Islamic Jihad – which have perpetrated a succession of suicide bombings in Israel and the territories since 1994, and especially since the eruption of the second intifadah – to maintain offices in Damascus.

Powell's concern with terrorism is hardly surprising, given the Sept. 11, 2001, Arab terrorist incidents in New York City and Washington, D.C. Since then, the United States has displayed zero tolerance for terrorism, as exemplified by its relentless campaign against Al Qaeda.

More to the point, the Bush administration fears that its latest plan to defuse the Arab-Israeli dispute – the "road map" – may be sabotaged if Syria does not rein in Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, which all oppose a two-state solution.

Bush hopes that the momentum created by Saddam's downfall will shatter the status quo in the Middle East by encouraging Israel and the Palestinians to settle their differences, by promoting democracy in Iraq and, in general, by encouraging moderation and stability in the region. But these objectives may remain a pipe dream unless Syria mends its ways. Last week, in a bit of damage control, Syria announced it had sealed its border to Iraqis.

In all fairness, Syria has not played a completely destructive role in the area. Syria held peace talks with Israel in 1999 and 2000, although these negotiations bore no fruit. As well, Syria helped the United States break up Al Qaeda cells in Europe and voted for last year's United Nations resolution regarding Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. But in all other respects, Syria has been manifestly unhelpful.

April 21

• Arab countries may renew a boycott of companies doing business with Israel. Representatives of 15 Arab states met in Syria to discuss the matter. A Syrian official said the ban should remain in place until "the liberation of all occupied Arab lands under Israeli control."

April 22

• Israelis in the West Bank should begin pressuring cabinet ministers and MKs to oppose the U.S.-backed "road map" for peace, National Union MK Yuri Stern told a meeting of hawkish Israeli legislators. Israelis who oppose the plan have apparently been alarmed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's mention of specific towns that may have to be abandoned in a peace deal with the Palestinians.

April 23

• A last-minute intervention by Egypt's intelligence services chief Omar Suleiman ended a crisis in the Palestinian leadership struggle when Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat approved a government put together by prime minister designate Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen).

April 24

• A security guard at the Kfar Saba train station died while preventing a suicide bomber from entering the facility. When the guard demanded to see his ID card, the bomber detonated his explosive. Thirteen people were injured.

April 25

• Fearing SARS, an El Al flight attendant was admitted to hospital in Tel Aviv after a flight from Hong Kong. X-rays of the woman's lungs were negative, but she was isolated from other patients. It was the sixth case in Israel in which officials suspected an individual had been infected with the virus. Testing concluded SARS was not present in the five previous cases.

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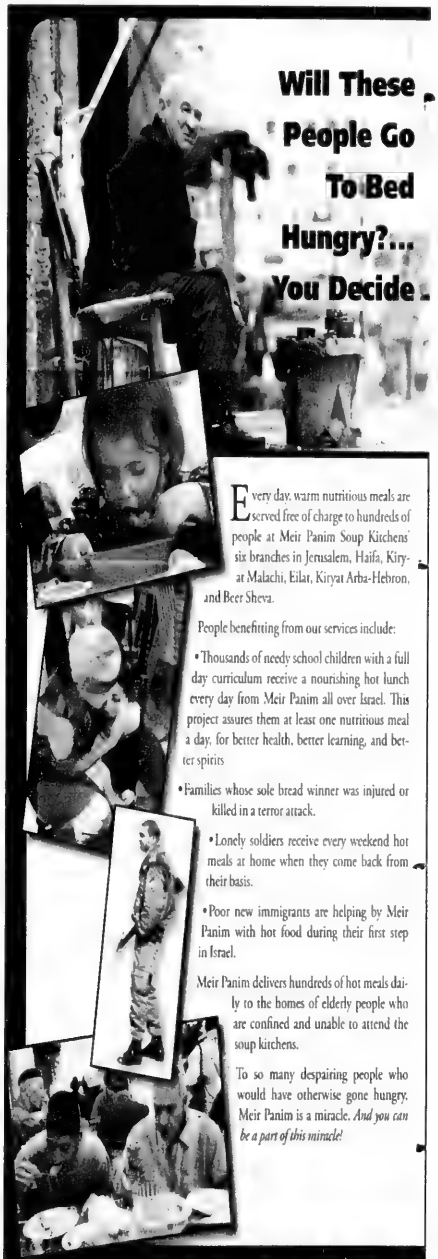

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KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

Be Careful What You Wish For...

adapted from the Midrash on Genesis 1:14-19, the fourth day of Creation

...And God made the two big lights, the big one to illuminate the day and the small one to illuminate the night... Genesis 1:16

The fourth day of Creation had arrived. The Earth had already been filled with trees, lakes, mountains, and vast oceans. And today God had created the brilliant sun and the equally brilliant moon to illuminate it, and had placed planets orbiting around them.

But all was not well, for the sun and the moon had both been created the same size, and the Moon was quite displeased with this arrangement.

The Moon questioned the Almighty, "Why did You make the Sun and me the same size? What I mean is, You made two realms, spiritual and physical. They're not equal. The spiritual realm is by far the greatest. You created fire and water. Are they equal? No, they're not. Water is much stronger, since it can extinguish a fire **just — like — *THAT*!**"

As he said the word "*that*" he did a little twist, and spun himself closer to the sun. He smiled a radiant smile, which for him was pretty easy to do. After all, he shone like the Sun, too. Then the moon spoke again: "I have a suggestion. How about shrinking the sun just a little bit? Then you could put him into orbit around that blue planet you created. After that, you can have that blue planet and all those other planets orbit around me." The moon paused, smiled, and asked the Almighty, "What do you think?"

God regarded him coolly for a moment before he responded, "Good point. Two kings can't share one crown. One of you must go. Correct?"

"Of course!" shouted the moon enthusiastically.

"Fine with me," replied God.

"Hey!" shrieked the moon as it quickly diminished in size and radiance. "No, not me! You're shrinking the wrong one! Look what You're doing! No! No! No!" he squeaked as he found himself being sucked into Earth's gravitational pull. But it was too late. He was now a small, scarred, gray mass, which was orbiting around that blue planet which he had dwarfed just minutes before.

"Well, what do you think?" asked God.

"What do I think? Couldn't You have shrunk the sun instead of...." The moon broke off suddenly when he remembered just to Whom he was speaking.

"I don't think so," said God. "I really don't think so. Look at how the sun behaved. He didn't argue with you even when you denounced him. He is truly deserving of his size."

"But what about my light? It's gone!" wailed the moon.

"You can reflect the Sun's light," explained God. "But this may console you. The Jews will use you to calculate the months in their calendar." And with that, the Almighty placed stars in the sky to light it up, and to restore some of the brightness He had removed when the moon lost its radiance. The Milky Way unfolded in a beautiful canopy of stars. Galaxy upon galaxy appeared. But the moon wasn't paying any attention to it.

"Do You think," he began humbly, "that one day, maybe even soon, I'll be as big as I used to be?"

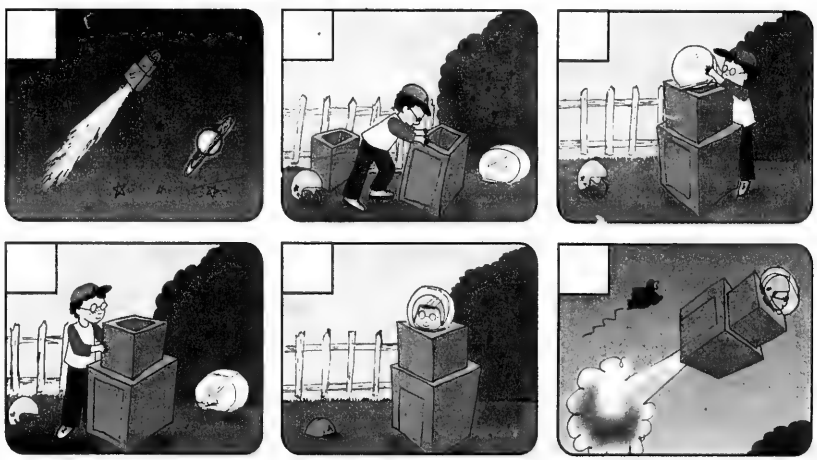
"In the end of days, I will restore you to your previous size and grandeur."

"Oh, yes!!" laughed the moon. "Do you hear that, sun? Someday I'll be as big as you again!"

"Of course," continued God, "When that happens, I will make the sun seven times as big as it is now."

SPACE STORY

Can you number the boxes to put this story in order?



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Even during war, a family finds goodness and a goat

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Most of us have never drunk goat's milk. Even more of us have never had a goat for a pet. Anna did.

Anna is a little girl, the heroine of *Anna's Goat*, by Janice Kulyk Keefer, with illustrations by Janet Wilson (Orca Book Publishers, 2000). Her story shows how, with love, courage and a little imagination, we can overcome terrible problems.

The book is set during World War II when many families left their homes and went far away to escape from the Nazis. Anna's parents and her older sister, Wanda, went to a place where it was very cold most of the time. That's where Anna was born.

Things were very hard. "It was always winter in the faraway place where Anna was born. There was hardly any wood to burn to keep their one room warm, and hardly any food to eat. The grownups had to work at the factory all day to help the soldiers who were fighting for them in the war." Anna's father had to go to work in another village.

At first, Anna was all right, because she could live on her mother's breast milk. Unfortunately, because her mother was working so hard and didn't have enough food to eat herself, her milk dried up. She went to the factory, and told her problem to the village women. Although they didn't have much either, they felt sorry for the small, hungry baby, and lent the family a goat.

Now the goat was a real help. Not only could Anna, her sister and her mother drink its milk, but they could keep warm by cuddling up beside it. Of course, they could also play with it. Mind you, the goat, as goats do, "tried to eat, not just hay, but spoons and candles and even towels dancing on the washing line!"

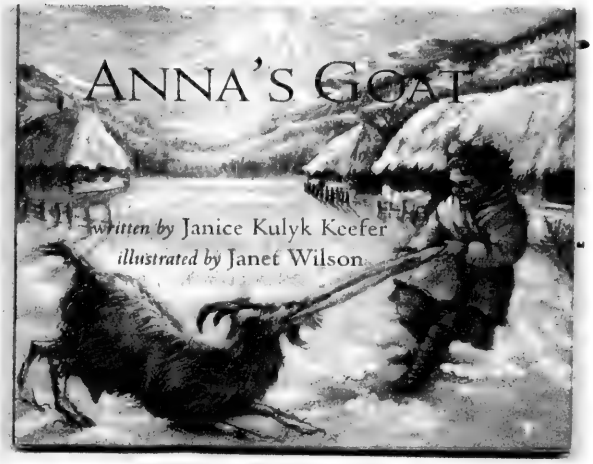
Finally, the war ended, and the family could go home. But the goat had to stay behind. Its owners needed the goat themselves, and besides, the animal could not have travelled the long distance to the family's home.

The city where they used to live had been bombed into rubble and had to be rebuilt. There were no schools, so the children played in the rubble.

One of the most exciting things the children did was to find treasures to keep – "pennies, or beads or bits of painted china." But Anna could never find anything special enough for her.

When she went crying to her mother, Mother pulled out a raggedy blue towel, with a fringe. It was made from the soft fur of the goat, and Anna "could feel, like a bright, strong star in her hands, the heartbeat of her nanny goat."

Anna's Goat is based on a true story. But it is not just one true story – there were many small children, and grown-ups too, who had to find their own special comfort at a very difficult time.



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Arts & Travel

Chaplin's Dictator challenged Nazi regime

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

This year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival runs May 3-11 at the Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W. [416- 324-9121] The CJN *continues previewing some of the films.*

* * *

The Tramp and The Dictator. This new hour-long British-made documentary looks at the contrasting worlds of the great comedian and movie star Charlie Chaplin and Nazi leader Adolf Hitler through the worthy prism of Chaplin's celebrated 1940 film, The Great Dictator.

Many people who have never seen *The Great Dictator* are familiar with its most famous scene, in which the title character, Adenoid Hynkel, plays with a balloon globe of the world as he imagines becoming its supreme dictator. Besides playing the Hitler character, Chaplin doubles as a Jewish barber who becomes a resistance fighter in the ghetto. *The Great Dictator* was Chaplin's first talkie and one of the first American films to unabashedly attack the Nazi regime.

As directors Kevin Brownlow and Michael Kloft demonstrate, Chaplin and Hitler were both born in the same week in April 1889 and both had similar childhood backgrounds. The physical resemblance between them was uncanny. The documentary finds evidence that Hitler viewed Chaplin's mocking work not once but twice, and might even have laughed uproariously at scenes that, by all reckoning, should have insulted and enraged him.

The documentary benefits enormously from some recently-found footage shot on the film set as it adeptly puts *The Great Dictator* into the context of its times and offers a multitude of behind-the-scenes glimpses. For example, we learn that Chaplin agonized over the script and revised it compulsively during the lengthy production schedule; he ultimately stepped out of character to deliver a brief political lecture as himself in the closing scene.

The Tramp and The Dictator is being screened with an early Chaplin silent short, *The Pawnshop* (1916), in which Chaplin plays a hapless assistant to a Jewish pawnshop owner. Friday May 9, 3 p.m. A screening of *The Great Dictator* follows at 5 p.m.

* * *

A Trumpet in the Wadi. Lina and Slava Chaplin, the Russian immigrants to Israel who made this ambitious Israeli film, were probably not related to the above-mentioned Charlie, since their cinematic offering seems more along the lines of dramatic tragedy than the sort of blithe comedy that was the trademark of their trampish namesake.

As a Russian-Jewish immigrant musician, Alex rents an apartment from a Christian-Arab family in a neighbourhood near Haifa, becoming not a fiddler but a trumpeter on their roof.

Floating above their house like a Chagall phantasm, he also manages to invade their sympathies, and falls in love with their daughter Huda, who blooms as a willing Juliet to this unlikely Romeo, even as the intifadah plays out like a tragic chorus on their television screens.

When the two announce their engagement, her grandfather warns, "The dogs on both sides will bite you," and her mother says: "Take him far away from this country." But it's only a matter of time before a Montague slays a Capulet, thus dooming the star-crossed lovers.

This provocative, original tale won the best film award in the Haifa Film Festival of 2001, despite its uneven direction and loose script (adapted from the book by Sami Michael). Further, the jumpy, cinéma-vérité style of cinematography is not always appropriate to the action, and the production sometimes has the look and feel of a low-budget television drama.

The excellent ensemble, however – especially Alexander Sendorovich as Alex and Khawlah Hag-Debsy as Huda – goes far towards reversing these defects. *A Trumpet in the Wadi* is being screened on Monday May 5 at 3 p.m.

* * *

Atlantic Drift. Toronto resident Henry Wellisch was interviewed extensively for this French-Austrian co-production about a convoy of some 2,000 European Jewish immigrants bound for Palestine who got sidetracked to the isolated tiny island of Mauritius, where they sat out the war under conditions only marginally better than the concentration camps they had escaped.

Director Michel Daeron combed many archives to find the rare historical footage that complements this little-known story about a ship like the Exodus that met such a markedly different fate.

Although the film might have benefited in places from a central narrative voice, the director allows the story to tell itself through the dramatic juxtaposition of voices and images.

The story unfolds like a lazy trip down a river (the Danube) into a metaphorical "heart of darkness" which lies waiting in a Mauritius prison. The film focuses on several survivors, including Wellisch, who make return trips to their childhood neighbourhoods, and whose reminiscences and diaries bring the story fully to life.

Atlantic Drift is being screened on Tuesday May 6 at 1 p.m.

* * *

Y.I.D. – Yehudeem in the Diaspora. Director Igal Hecht has patched together a rare documentary about the Toronto Jewish community – more specifically, about the relations between the Israelis living here and the rest of the community – and this alone has earned it a coveted spot in the festival line-up.

The third-largest in North America, Toronto's 170,000-strong Jewish community is certainly a worthy and overdue subject for a documentary. This noble early attempt examines a particularly narrow slice of the whole. We see familiar footage ad infinitum of the Bathurst-Steeles corridor, Earl Bales Park and other locations, and hear from a few alienated young people expressing immature opinions – but without enough requisite balance.

Preferring to see the proverbial glass as half-empty instead of half-full, Hecht takes an unswervingly negative approach to the subject, and his unsympathetic thesis becomes increasingly unfocused as the film progresses. What starts off as a harsh critique of a cold and insulated Jewish community becomes, despite itself, a portrait of a community belatedly waking up to the new threats faced in the post-Oslo, post-9/11 world.

Hecht excels in airing stereotypes, but his evidence that Toronto Jews have not done enough to welcome Israeli Jews into the mainstream is unconvincing. It is also a mistake to portray our diverse community, into which many historic waves of Jewish immigrants have already been integrated to various degrees, as monolithic.

What redeems *Yehudeem in the Diaspora* is that a credible young documentary filmmaker has turned to the subject at all. The film has many points of interest. One hopes that director Hecht and producer Ron Furman (both of whom are expected at the screening) turn to examining other aspects of our community in a more sympathetic and balanced light.

The screening is on Monday, May 5 at 5 p.m. and includes the new Canadian short, *Falafel* (director Avner Levona in attendance).

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

KLEZMER WORK HIGHLIGHTS UPCOMING SPRING CONCERT

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir is planning to perform *Dos Naye Lid*, a spirited klezmer work that was one of the last compositions of Canadian composer **Milton Barnes** (1931-2001), as a highlight of its upcoming 77th annual spring concert.

Written for the choir and a six-piece klezmer band, *Dos Naye Lid* premiered at the 2002 Ashkenaz Festival. The performance will feature the composer's son **Daniel** on drums, **Esther Gartner** (daughter of the choir's former conductor **Emil Gartner** and pianist **Fagel Gartner**) on cello, as well as violinist **Rona Goldensher**, clarinetist **Bob Stevenson**, trumpeter **Sarah McElcren** and pianist **Marilyn Lerner**.

Barnes, Stevenson and Lerner, who are members of the **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band**, will also perform a set on their own. All six musicians will join the choir in the finale, Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, with Yiddish words by **I.L. Peretz**. The **Bialik School Choir** is also scheduled to sing.

The program also includes Russian and Hebrew songs, and Yiddish songs by **Varshavsky**, **Goldfaden** and **Schaeffer**. Works by Toronto composers **John Weinzweig** and the late **Srul Irving Glick** are also featured. The choir is conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky** and soloists are soprano **Miriam Eskin** and tenor **Mark Fox**. Pianist is **Lina Zemelman**.

Lawrence Park Collegiate (Lawrence Avenue W., two blocks east of Avenue Road) Adults $20. Sunday May 25, 3 p.m. 416- 445-7222 or 416-489-7681. www.winchevskycentre.org/choir.html.

* * *

What's Doing at Israel's: Louis Applebaum is a towering figure in the Canadian arts community. A founder of the Canadian League of Composers and the Canadian Music Centre, he also aided the early development of the National Film Board, the Stratford Festival, and the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. For nearly half a century he composed music for theatre, television, radio, and film.

Walter Pitman, who has been a member of the House of Commons and the Ontario Legislature, president of Ryerson University and director of the Ontario Arts Council, reads from his book, *Louis Applebaum: A Passion for Culture*, at the launch of this major new title from Dundurn Press. Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments, no admission charge. Sunday, May 4, 8 p.m.

***

Neil Simon Play: Encore Entertainment presents *Come Blow Your Horn*, the hit comedy that established **Neil Simon** as a major force on the New York stage. **Lorn Eisen** and **Dave Lapsley** play Alan and Buddy Baker, two very different brothers who move in together, setting off a string of comic complications. Toronto Centre for the Arts (Studio Theatre), 5040 Yonge St. $24-$22. May 29 to June 8. 416-733-0558.

* * *

Klezmer Koncert: Known for combining a love for tradition with a fearless commitment to experimentation, the acclaimed Toronto-based **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band** is scheduled to perform two concerts with guest saxophonist **Jane Bunnett** and others to celebrate the launch of a new CD, *Sweet Return*. Hugh's Room, 2261 Dundas St. W. $15-$12. Saturday May 10, 8:30 p.m. & Sunday May 11, 2 p.m. 416-531-6604.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Singer **Aelita** presents *Songs from the Heart — Journey Through Jewish Music*, accompanied by **Nina Shapilsky** and **Rodion Bashoer**, as part of the Society for Humanistic Judaism's 2003 conference. Quality Hotel and Conference Centre, 185 Yorkland Blvd. Saturday May 3, 8:30 p.m. Tickets $20 from Oraynu Congregation, 416-385-3910.

• Chrylark presents **Alexander Tselyakov** in a solo piano recital, performing **Chopin**, **Rachmaninoff** and **Srul Irving Glick**. Heliconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Ave. Adults $15. Sunday May 4, 3 p.m.

• Producer **Michael Rubinoff** presents *Side By Side By Sondheim*, a tribute to composer-lyricist **Stephen Sondheim** that features numbers from landmark shows such as *A Little Night Music*, *Gypsy*, *West Side Story* and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Poor Alex Theatre, May 7 to 18. $20-$25. Ticketmaster, 416-870-8000.

• Among the many international animated films that were screened in late April during the 3rd annual Waterloo Festival for Animated Cinema were two short films by **Alexander Cherney** of Studio RIF in Israel. *The Evil Wizard* and *More Precious Than Gold* are both drawn from Jewish folklore.

* * *

Out of Town

• The Windsor-Detroit Jewish Film Festival is screening the Israeli film *A Trumpet in the Wadi* (5 p.m.) and a new Canadian feature, *The Burial Society* (8 p.m.). Palace Theatre, Windsor, Ont. May 1. 519-973-1772.

• The Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver and the Vancouver Folk Music Festival present Chicago songwriter-singer **Lucy Kaplansky** in concert. Adults $20. Norman Rothstein Theatre, Vancouver JCC, 950 W. 41st Ave. Wed. May 7, 7:30 p.m. **Maggie Dwyer** reads from *Misplaced Love* in the JCC's Isaac Waldman Jewish Public Library, Thurs. May 8, 7:30 p.m.

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It Runs in the Family *nothing more than a formulaic comedy*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

What a family!

The Grombergs, an upper middle-class American Jewish clan, win this year's prize for dysfunctionality.

Try as they might, they cannot communicate with each other.

In Fred Schepisi's film, *It Runs in the Family*, now playing in theatres, a father and a son, Mitchell (Kirk Douglas) and Alex (Michael Douglas), have little in common and no rapport.

Worse still, Alex and his wife, Rebecca (Bernadette Peters), are barely on speaking terms with their alienated sons, Asher (Cameron Douglas) and Eli (Rory Culkin), who float in their own respective worlds.

About the only person capable of bridging the lingering animosities and misunderstandings that run through this cantankerous family is Evelyn (Diana Douglas), Mitchell's level-headed wife.

The film, the first to pair the veteran actor Kirk Douglas (aka Issur Danielovitch) and his son Michael, is a comedy that delights in poking fun at the very human frailties of the Grombergs.

Even on Passover, as they nibble on gefilte fish bought at Zabars, the gourmet food store of choice in Manhattan's Upper West Side, the Grombergs can't get it right.

Mitchell's ailing brother, whose distant, frightened look signals an advanced case of dementia, breaks wind, prompting hearty guffaws from three generations of Grombergs sitting around the table trying to make sense of the Passover story.

The humour coursing through *It Runs in the Family* is not usually as crass as this. Jesse Wigutow's script is somewhat more literate.

Still, this is not a film that raises too many expectations, or meets them. In substance and tone, it is nothing more or less than formulaic.

Kirk Douglas, in effect, plays himself, a stroke victim making the best of a bad situation.

A retired high-powered lawyer who lives in the lap of opulence, Mitchell is the epitome of a crotchety old man challenging his mortality. Were it not for his wife, he would be even more unbearable.

Alex, also a filthy rich lawyer, works in the Gromberg law firm, salving his conscience as a volunteer in a community soup kitchen.

His wife, a psychologist, is stunned when she learns that Alex may be having an affair.

Michael Douglas and father Kirk team up for the first time in *It Runs in the Family*.

Even as their marriage flounders, Alex and Rebecca obsess over their inability to form a meaningful relationship with their two sons.

Asher, a shaggy, aimless university student who can't quite make the grade, pushes drugs on the side. Eli seems adrift, lost on another planet.

The film, which is only mildly amusing, does not resolve these problems. Nor does it attempt to. The dysfunctions plaguing the Grombergs are simply left to fester like an open wound.

Although, at 86, he is way past his prime, the feisty Kirk Douglas steals the movie without much effort. Next to him, everyone else seems like a forgettable stock figure.

Yet even the redoubtable Douglas cannot lift *It Runs in the Family* beyond the realm of the ordinary.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39.

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Mephisto *screening at Goethe*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Mephisto, Istvan Szabo's tightly coiled political drama, is about an actor in Nazi Germany who sells his soul in the hot pursuit of success.

The recipient of the 1982 Oscar for best foreign picture, *Mephisto* will be screened at the Goethe Institut, 163 King St. W. on May 6 at 7: 30 p.m.

Based on the career of Gustaf Grundgens, this 144-minute film is the cautionary tale of a overweeningly ambitious individual who sets aside his beliefs at the drop of a hat.

In an incandescent performance, Klaus Maria Brandauer portrays Hendrik Hofgen, who believes an actor is "nothing more than a mask."

Hofgen, based in Hamburg, directs a revolutionary workers' theatre and keeps a black mistress.

When a pro-Nazi actor in the troupe claims the theatre is "Jew-ridden," Hofgen has him fired.

With Adolf Hitler's appointment as chancellor, Hofgen's wife (Krystyna Janda) urges him to leave Germany.

Warning him that artistic freedom will be curtailed by the Nazis, she implores him to leave Germany, but to no avail. Hofgen says he would be a fish out of water without the German language.

Having committed himself to Germany, no matter what the consequences, he accepts a theatre role that uncannily mirrors his own moral flexibility.

With his face coated in white cream, Brandauer is an eerie presence.

Thanks to his actorly skills, Hofgen is drawn into the circle of the prime minister (Rolf Hoppe), a greasy ideologue whose goal is to cleanse German culture of its "foreign" (read Jewish) and Bolshevik elements.

Klaus Maria Brandauer in *Mephisto*

Currying favour with him, Hofgen acknowledges he made mistakes as a leftist actor. His toadying pays dividends. The prime minister, his patron, appoints Hofgen manager of the Prussian State Theatre in Berlin.

Even so, Hofgen is a cynical manipulator rather than a starry-eyed convert to Nazism.

He agrees to perform the plays of mediocre playwrights promoted by the Nazis, knowing full well that the best of the lot have been hounded into exile.

Yet Hofgen is not a completely empty vessel. He tries to save the jobs of employees whose racial stock is under suspicion and he lobbies the prime minister on behalf of an actor friend who has been blackballed.

But then, in an electrifying turn on the stage that elates the prime minister, he portrays Hamlet as a Nazi-like Nordic hero. Brandauer is brilliant, endowing his character with just the right blend of submission and rebelliousness. Hoppe, his bald pate glimmering and his eyes shining brightly, equally acquits himself with panache.

Szabo directs *Mephisto* with a firm, subtle hand. This is cinema of a high order.<None>

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Business Profile

Entrepreneur, politician all set for golf season

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

After a long and miserable winter, Joshua Cooper is eager to get back into the swing of things again.

He and his students will get their chance on May 3, when the golfing season officially gets under way at his instructional golf camps.

On that day, golfers of all ages and talents will line up at tees, carefully take aim and swat their clubs at little white balls resting daintily on fairways.

A 33-year-old entrepreneur, Cooper is the founder and proprietor of Par Golf Camps, one of the largest organizations of its kind in Canada.

The company runs two golf camps in the Toronto area and a third camp in the Muskokas.

In an average year, some 1,000 golfers, about half of whom are rank beginners, flock to Cooper's camps for tips on such basics as stance, alignment, grip, swing, putting, tempo, scoring and etiquette.

Touted by *Profit Magazine* as one of Canada's fastest growing companies and accredited by the Ontario Camping Association, Par Golf Camps was established by Cooper 11 years ago.

The junior camp at the Annandale Golf and Country Club caters to kids and teenagers from eight to 18.

The Eaglequest Golf Centre is strictly for adults.

The Sparrow Lake Sports Lodge, which Cooper and his partners bought four years ago, is essentially for families.

"Basically, we teach golf in a day camp setting," explained Cooper, a certified golf professional whose late grandfather and role model ran a string of local golf courses.

He offers his students a wide range of programs.

Adults can avail themselves of one-day classes where they review the basics. Alternatively, they can sign up for two or three-day advanced packages.

Juniors, on the other hand, can choose from one week, two week and one month programs.

Although Cooper has been a golfer for close to 30 years, it was necessity rather than a love of the game that prompted him to set up Par Golf Camps.

As he put it, "It all began because I couldn't find a job."

The son of Allan and Bonnie Cooper, he graduated from York University with a BA, majoring in geography.

Not certain what he would do for the rest of his life, he took a securities course and a business degree from Seneca College.

Venturing forth into an employment market scarred by a recession, Cooper submitted 350 job applications, fairly confident he would be snapped up.

"I was looking for anything," he said. "I just wanted to work. I got tons of answers – all no's. No one was hiring, or hiring me."

He thought his luck had changed when a bank called him in for an interview. But much to his disappointment, the position was given to someone who had been an intern teller.

Cooper's job record did not dovetail with the bank's needs. He had been a counsellor at Camp Timberlane, had coached at a baseball camp and had scooped ice cream at a Baskin Robbins outlet.

"One day, the idea hit me. "There was literally no place in Toronto for a kid to learn golf."

The concept, though obvious, seemed right to Cooper. "I loved camp and I loved golf."

Acting on his instincts, Cooper rented land from the Annandale Golf and Country Club, whose facilities include 18-hole and 4 hole Par 3 courses, a driving range, putting greens as well as chipping and pitching greens.

"I called existing day camps to see if they could bring their campers to me. They all said no. 'Kids don't play golf,' they claimed."

At his brother's suggestion, Cooper placed an ad in a newspaper, and the rest is history.

"We started off with one putting green and one bunker. Now we have four putting greens and one bunker."

Cooper, who was introduced to golf at the age of five by his grandfather Mike Lawrence, has never lost his enthusiasm for the game.

"It's the only true individual sport. On a recreational level, it's you against the course. And it's a sociable sport where you can meet a lot of people."

Golf runs deep in his family.

His grandfather owned golf courses in the city, and an uncle, Michael Lyons, is also very active in golf management.

Joshua Cooper

Cooper's father, a lawyer, has no connection with golf. But his mother, a property manager, grew up with it.

Mary, Cooper's wife, is not a golfer. But their young children, Mikey and Lexi, have the makings of avid golfers.

"You should see Mikey's swing," he said. "And Lexi can putt."

For the past seven years, Cooper has been the coach of the Canadian Maccabi youth team.

"We've won medals every year – gold, silver and bronze."

Cooper, though, has not attended a single competition. "They're always held at the height of the golf camp season."

Although golf is Cooper's passion, politics comes a close second.

He was one of the three organizers of a recent pro-U.S. rally in support of the invasion of Iraq.

"I felt it needed to be done. I was embarrassed by the rhetoric coming out of Ottawa. We achieved our goal. We were on CNN, ABC and all the Canadian television networks."

Last month, just hours after he was interviewed for this story, Cooper was selected as the Canadian Alliance's candidate in the riding of Thornhill, the largest "Jewish" constituency in Canada.

In the next election, which he figures will be in about a year, he will run against Liberal party incumbent Elinor Caplan, the current minister of citizenship and immigration.

"I can win in Thornhill," he said, exuding confidence. "Absolutely."

Cooper claims that the Alliance is Canada's sole pro-Israel party and that the Liberals have "turned their back on our community."

He cites two examples. "The Alliance forced the Liberals to ban Hezbollah, and Caplan took Magen David Adom to court to try to revoke its charitable status."

Should he defeat Caplan and become an MP, Cooper has no intention of giving up his duties at Par Golf Camps.

"MPs sit for six months and are off for the summer."

So as far as he is concerned, it would be business as usual on the driving range, even if Thornhill's voters select him as their member of parliament.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
President

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490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
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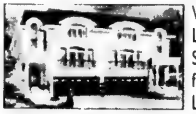

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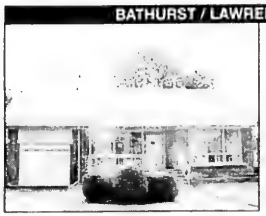

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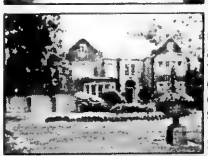

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ZELDA (SANDY) BEN-DAVID ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 4th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Anshei Minsk Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY M. FRIMERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 4th
12:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Adath Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SINAI (SAM) STERNBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 4th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Stashover (NORTH ROAD)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IRA AARON GENESOVE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 4th
10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Lubavitch Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

Klezmer concert to aid Argentine Jews

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Sarah Zelcer and Rachel Lasry have a message for Toronto klezmer aficionados. Mark June 3 on you calendars, because that's when one of South America's foremost klezmer ensembles, Klezmer En Buenos Aires, will perform in Toronto.

A feature performer at two past Ashkenaz Festivals, Klezmer En Buenos Aires will do more than simply entertain a Toronto audience, they say. The evening is being billed as an important fundraising event to help provide relief to the cash-strapped Jewish population of Buenos Aires.

As spokespeople for Ve'ahavta, a Jewish relief non-governmental organization (NGO), Lasry and Zelcer say the concert will help bring to public attention the dire circumstances facing Jews in Argentina.

Funds raised at the concert are earmarked for a pharmaceutical program in Buenos Aires. Ve'ahavta has, in the past, solicited donations of badly needed drugs – everything from antibiotics to hypertension medications – for the Central Community Pharmacy. The pharmacy is a project of the Foundation Tzedakah, an Argentine NGO, and the Joint Distribution Committee (the Joint).

Last summer, Ve'ahavta sent about $10,000 worth of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to the centre, Lasry said.

Since the Argentine economy collapsed a couple of years ago, the country's population, including its Jewish citizens, have been thrown out of work, lost their savings and found themselves facing dire poverty. More than half of Argentina's population is now living below the poverty line.

Zelcer said many Canadian Jews are just not aware at how bad things have become in Argentina. "There is a true sense of desperation," she said. "You were once a thriving community and you've been thrust into a position of desperation. You don't know where your next meal is coming from."

Ve'ahavta is working with a collection of Toronto synagogues, rabbinical organizations and campus groups to raise public awareness.

With awareness will come financial support, Zelcer suggested. In addition to providing badly need medication, funds raised in Canada will go to provide food vouchers and skills training. Ve'ahavta has a good working relationship with local Jewish agencies in Argentina and will assist them to provide aid, she said.

The Argentine agencies, in conjunction with the Joint, have established a network of 71 Comprehensive Social Assistance Centres across the country to provide a variety of social services, and some of the money raised in Toronto may be allocated through these agencies, Zelcer stated.

This past winter, Lasry, Ve'ahavta's international program director, and Rabbi Danny Gottlieb attended a conference in Sao Paulo, Brazil that focused on the poverty facing South American Jews and on community efforts to ameliorate it. The conference, sponsored by the World Jewish Congress and the Inter-American Development Bank, provided a forum for the Canadian visitors to develop relationships with local Jews who are involved in poverty-alleviation efforts, Lasry said.

For more information, visit Ve'ahavta's Web site at: www.veahavta.org.

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Israel faces Cyprus in Euro 2004 qualifier

By CJN NEWS SERVICES

JERUSALEM — Israel's national 21-man soccer squad announced last week includes first-timers Gadi Brumer and Ben Luz and omits key midfielder Eyal Berkovic of Manchester City.

Israel national team coach Avraham Grant named the team for this week's Euro 2004 home qualifier against Cyprus, which Israel was to have played in Palermo, Sicily on Wednesday.

Berkovic's absence will no doubt have been missed.

The inspirational Manchester City midfielder has been out of action since February after undergoing a hernia operation. He missed the last two qualifiers against France earlier this month and against Cyprus last month.

As well as Berkovic, Israel was also scheduled to be without two other midfielders – Maccabi Tel Aviv's Avi Nimni and Baruch Dago.

But Grant's worries did not end there. The Israeli coach also had to monitor the situation on the left side of his defence, as both Adoram Keisi and Yigal Antebi were nursing injuries.

Three players were drafted to replace the injured men, with defenders Ori Uzan and Brumer and midfielder Luz getting call-ups. Of those, only Uzan, 24, had never played in national colours before.

Grant said last week that he hoped his team would be able to recreate the same good form it showed in its narrow 2-1 defeat to France in Israel's home game in Palermo on April 2.

"I think we played to a good standard, particularly in the last game [against France], despite the result," he said.

With UEFA, European soccer's governing body, refusing to allow Israel to host matches on home soil due to the threat of terror attacks, Israel was scheduled to host the Cypriots in the Sicilian capital.

The match was postponed last October while the Israel Football Association tried to find a solution to hosting home matches.

Grant said if Israel had hosted France in Tel Aviv, things might have been very different. "I can only imagine what the result might have been had we played that way against France in front of 50,000 spectators at the National Stadium," he said.

In earlier games against Cyprus and France, Israel's performances were mixed at best. Against Cyprus, it played mediocre and uninspiring football, while against the reigning European champions, its performance was encouraging – even if it failed to register any points.

Without improved play against Cyprus this week, Israel's campaign to qualify for next summer's European Championships could well be over.

Grant faced three main dilemmas in preparation for the return leg against Cyprus.

The goalkeeper: The professional opinion of Israel and Maccabi Tel Aviv goalkeeping coach Alexander Obarov is important to Grant, but it is not, apparently, the final word. Ahead of the game against France, Obarov recommended that Shavit Elimelech replace Dudu Awat between the posts. After Zinadine Zidane's first-half goal in Palermo, Grant probably understood he had made a mistake in starting Awat.

Tactics: The game against Cyprus left the feeling that Israel wasn't capable of playing any better, especially in the absence of Berkovic. The game against France, despite Israel's loss, left a feeling that perhaps Israel had greater potential than it showed in its mediocre performance against Cyprus.

Cyprus plays with two strikers up front, a formation that forced Grant to play with three fullbacks. France however fielded a sole striker with three attacking midfielders against Israel, causing Grant to rethink his defensive lineup. Since taking over as national team coach, Grant has alternated between a 3:5:2 lineup and a 4:5:1 lineup. For this week's game against Cyprus, following the "experiment" against France, Grant was pondering whether to drop the third fullback and leave Brumer on the substitutes bench.

Benayoun: During Israel's trip to Malta, Yossi Benayoun commented that he deserved to play alongside Haim Revivo and Berkovic. However, Benayoun received a place alongside Grant on the substitutes bench. As in Elimelech's case, careless talk kept Benayoun out of the game. Since then, Benayoun has also adopted the silent tactic – not that it has helped. In Israel's two previous games against France and Cyprus, Benayoun was only brought on in the closing minutes of the game.

Before this week's game, Grant had to decide whether Benayoun would continue to enjoy his company on the bench or whether he would finally be given the chance to prove his mettle.

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Bridge with Gitelman

The American Contract Bridge League's Spring North American Championships took place in Philadelphia March 5-16. Here is what happened to me and my partner (Brad Moss from New York City) on one of the most talked-about deals from this tournament:

North (Fred)	South (Brad)
♠ J10752	♠
♥ 4	♥ AK97652
♦ Q865	♦ AK10843
♣ Q103	♣

West	North	East	South
			1♥
2♣	Pass	2♠	3♦
4♣	Pass	Pass	5♣
Pass	5♦	Pass	5♠
Pass	7♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

You don't get dealt hands like my partner's very often, but Brad bid his cards masterfully. He realized that it was going to be very difficult to describe his strange hand to me so he adopted the strategy of trying to keep the bidding low at the start of the auction in the hope that one of us would eventually learn enough to select the best final contract.

That explains why Brad bid only 1♥ at his first turn and only 3♦ at his second turn. He came out of the woodwork when it was his third turn by cue-bidding 5♣. Since the opponents had already bid clubs, Brad's 5♣ bid announced an extremely powerful hand.

Perhaps I should have bid 6♦ at this point, but I was not yet able to see the picture that Brad was trying to paint. The lights went on when Brad unexpectedly cue-bid 5♠ at his next turn. By bidding both of the opponents suits and forcing our partnership to the 6-level, it was now clear to me that Brad thought that a grand slam was possible.

Given that Brad was inviting me to bid 7♦, I could hardly refuse! After all, I had passed twice already and then grudgingly showed diamond support when I was forced to do so. I might have had a completely worthless hand for the bidding so far. My actual hand, with 4 diamonds to the Queen and what looked like a key singleton in hearts, was far from useless. I leapt to 7♦ with complete confidence that Brad would be able to win all 13 tricks without breathing hard.

And that is exactly what he did! The play of this hand was not nearly as interesting as the bidding.

Hopefully this deal provides some insight into how an expert partnership is able to deal with the bidding of unusual hands. At the highest levels bidding is much more about judgment and partnership trust than it is about point count or conventions.

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Las Vegas-based company, Bridge Base Inc., is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month in the Canadian Jewish News. Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.

Inside Back

Recommended Reading

FICTION AND POETRY

• ***The Pure Element of Time***, by Haim Be'er, Brandeis University Press, HC, $42.95.

In this magnificent autobiographical novel by one of Israel's most celebrated writers, Be'er tells the story of his childhood in an Orthodox Jewish home in Jerusalem and his early adult years. The author's development as a writer is examined as well, in what renowned Israeli novelist Amos Oz has called a "wonderful portrait of the artist as a young man."

• ***Elephant Street***, by Ron Charach, Signature Editions, SC, $12.95.

This entertaining and profound work is the seventh collection of poetry by an insightful practising psychiatrist who has succeeded in capturing the human psyche.

NON-FICTION

• ***Louis Applebaum: A Passion for Culture***, by Walter Pitman, Dundurn Press, HC, $39.99.

Louis Applebaum, a great Canadian composer, was founder of the Canadian League of Composers and the Canadian Music Centre. This illustrated biography is a must-read for anyone interested in the arts and music. (The author will appear for a book launch at Israel's, 897 Eglinton W., on May 4 at 8 p.m.)

• ***A Rabbi's Northern Adventure***, by Rabbi Yisrael Haber, Me'or Menachem Publications, HC, $32.95.

The captivating story of an American rabbi, an emissary of Chabad, who served in the United States Air Force Chaplaincy as Alaska's only rabbi until he moved with his family to the Golan Heights.

• ***When the Going Gets Tough***, by Yisroel Roll, Leviathan Press, SC, $22.95.

In this valuable self-help guide to dealing with life's challenges, the author provides useful, practical suggestions for coping along with enriching spiritual direction.

• ***The Crisis of Islam***, by Bernard Lewis, Random House, HC, $29.95.

A fascinating examination of the causes of militant Islam and the extreme, dangerous hostility in the Arab world toward the United States and Israel, by one of the foremost experts on the Middle East.

• ***Women in the Talmud***, by Rabbi Aaron Eli Glatt, MD, Noble Book Press Corp., HC, $41.99.

In this collection of stories in the Talmud about women, the author presents his view that according to traditional Judaism, women play a very significant, respected role in religious life – different yet totally equal.

A range of halachic (legal) and aggadic (legendary) commentary as well as detailed explanations of passages from talmudic and rabbinic literature are included.

• ***More Answers to Questions of the Spirit***, by Rabbi Dr. Reuven P. Bulka, Mosaic Press, SC, $20.00

This is a sequel to *Answers to Questions of the Spirit*, a compilation of inspiring responses to thought-provoking queries about faith and man's purpose in this world. They are taken from a space Rabbi Bulka has been sharing for some time with spiritual leaders representing various religions in The *Ottawa Citizen*, titled *Ask the Religious Experts*.

YOUNG ADULT

• ***Lost and Found and Other Stories***, by Rachel Yaffe, Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, HC, $20.99

Beautiful, heart-warming stories with valuable life lessons.

• ***Tough Questions Jews Ask***, by Rabbi Edward Feinstein, Jewish Lights, SC, $24.95.

As the subtitle indicates, this is the perfect "young adult's guide to building a Jewish life." The author discusses his own skepticism and anxiety before his bar mitzvah and discusses issues central to the Jewish experience.

Recommended Reading is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

APPLE, DRIED CHERRY & WALNUT SALAD W/MAPLE DRESSING

Maple Dressing
1/4 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup maple sugar
3 tblsp. white wine vinegar
2 tsp. white sugar
1/2 cup vegetable oil

Salad 1/2 cup dried tart cherries 10 cups lightly packed salad greens
1/2 cup chopped walnuts, toasted
2 Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored, cut into matchstick-size strips

Whisk mayonnaise, maple syrup, vinegar and sugar in medium bowl to blend. Gradually whisk in oil until mixture thickens slightly. Season to taste with salt and pepper. (Can be prepared 3 days ahead. Cover and refrigerate. Rewhisk before using.)

Toss greens, apples, cherries, and 1/4 cup walnuts in large bowl to combine. Toss with enough dressing to coat. Divide salad equally among plates. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup walnuts and serve. Makes 6 servings. (Bon Appetite, Sept. 2002)

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DearKarilani

Dear Karilani,

I am a high school senior and next month is our school prom. I have been looking forward to going all through high school, except now that it is so close I am having second thoughts about going. Almost all the girls in my grade have dates to go with, but no one has asked me. I guess I am just not as pretty or as thin as the other girls are. The prom is supposed to be fun, but so far all it is doing is upsetting me. What do you think I should do?

Against Prom

Dear Against Prom,

It sounds as if your problem is not that you do not have a prom date, but rather that you have low self-confidence. Before any boy will realize how beautiful and smart you are, you need to discover that yourself. Instead of comparing yourself to other girls, focus on the characteristics that you do like about yourself. There is nothing more attractive than a girl who feels good about herself.

Instead of waiting to be asked to the prom, why not ask someone yourself? Chances are, there is a boy who would love to go with you, only he is too shy to ask.

As well, remember that the prom isn't only about having someone to go with. Sometimes going with a large group of people can be more fun than going with just one person. Gather other friends without dates and you can all go together. This will let you spend your evening with a number of people, and you will not be restricted to one person. You will have plenty of opportunities to date later in life; the prom is not your only chance.

Finally, you need to put everything into perspective. It is easy to get carried away with prom preparations and it can all become overwhelming. However, you need to remember that it is only one evening, and no matter what happens, your life will be back to normal the next morning.

About Teens

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

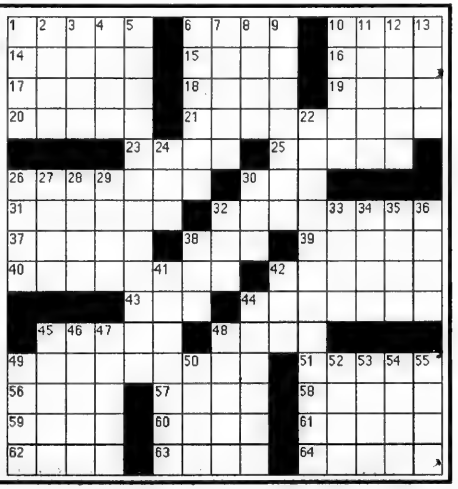
(Answers to the crossword are on page 32.)

Honoring Israel's Poets

© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Unit of time referenced in Shlonsky's "Late Adar"
6. Haze, fog
10. Cash dispensers
14. Egyptian word for Hebrews in Tel El-Amarna Letters
15. "That ____ cool!"
16. Mah? in English
17. Compare
18. "Get a ____!"
19. Answer to teacher's roll-call
20. Leavening agent
21. Nachman Bialik / Halkin
23. Villa d'____
25. Western movie
26. Halevi and 44 across
30. Suffix for Zion
31. Football great Stagg
32. Wrote the "Seventh column" for Haaretz
37. Win, ____, show at the races
38. Anger
39. Moabite, in Hebrew
40. Lea _____ (wrote "From My Mother's House")
42. House, in Honfleur
43. Invitation acronym that ends in "P"
44. See 26 across for first name; wrote "Amen", "Time" and seven other books of poetry
45. Painter of ballet dancers
48. Dump a fiance or fiancee
49. "_____ of Gold", 1967, by songwriter Nomi Shemer
51. Do a bird in the oven
56. The one after Mar., and the like
57. Cry out
58. Lazarus (American Jewish poet) and namesakes
59. A point could be this
60. Acronym for part of British capital nearest Channel
61. Hesitate, object on principle
62. Aves.
63. Middle Eastern sailing craft
64. Turkish editor Akgun, assassinated in 1994, and namesakes

Down
1. Honi soit qui ___ pense (Order of the Garter motto)
2. Off-Broadway theater award
3. Tree of the Maldives (Ficus Bengalensis)
4. "___ bien, merci"
5. Stalked African striped ruminants
6. Powers
7. Eretz Y_____l
8. Eleventh steamship?
9. Highest among others
10. "Not ____ too soon", British for "just in the nick of time"
11. Motif
12. Pesach Seder bitter herb
13. British automatic weapon
22. Le meme 'restaurant in-charge-guy'?
24. ___ Paulo, Brazil
26. Little dog's barking, for short
27. Cockney greeting?
28. Gaelic for beyond, yonder
29. Kofi Annan music production?
30. ___ de la Cité
32. S.A. nation
33. Ending that makes 'he' look epic
34. Mish-____
35. ____ Vetus, archaeological museum in Turku, Finland
36. Israeli songwriter-poet Noa's family name
38. Jewish Amer. songwriter-poet Berlin
41. Tested, tried out
42. 2050, to a Roman
44. Opposite of "sight high"
45. Freight station
46. Mistake
47. Brief blasts of wind
48. Popular gelatin brand
49. Strawberry and apricot
50. Matriarch
52. Hebrew dry weight (wheat sheaf)
53. Weapons need this
54. Tchernikhovsky
55. Nicholas I and II, for short



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This Week

National

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Associated parents angry over tuition hike. *Page 5*

Seniors Scene

Former butcher now using his knife to carve wood. *Page 24*

On Campus

Student film follows the 'travels of a T-shirt.' *Page 25*

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Jewish hero saves the world from evil Santa. *Page 45*

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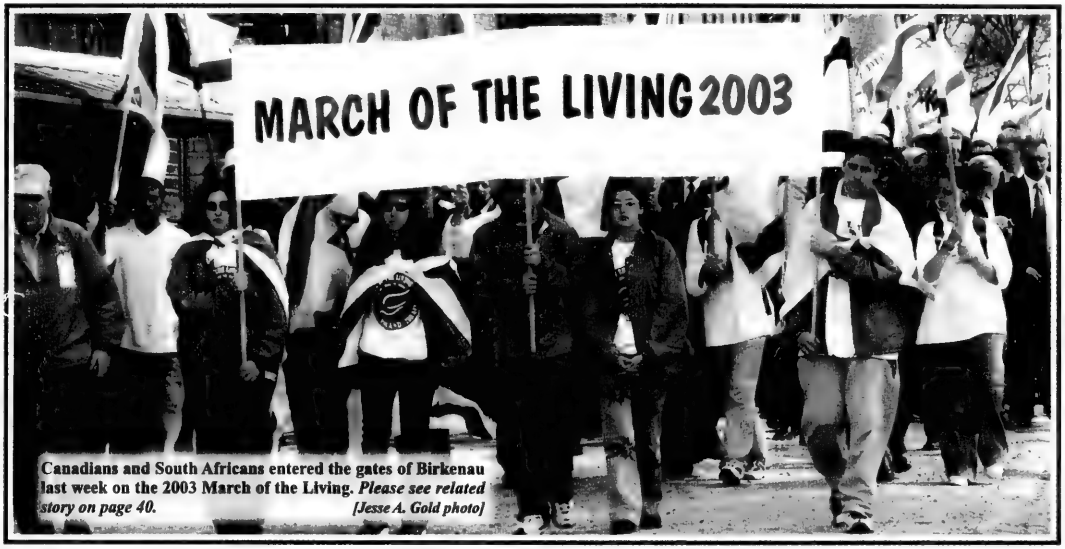

Canadians and South Africans entered the gates of Birkenau last week on the 2003 March of the Living. *Please see related story on page 40.* *[Jesse A. Gold photo]*

Israel missions undeterred by SARS

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Fourteen Israel-bound missions originating in Toronto will depart in the next two months, despite concerns over the SARS outbreak.

There have been no changes to the number of missions nor the number of participants, said Samara Kleinman, marketing and public relations manager with the Israel Government Tourism Office (IGTO) in Toronto. "I have not heard of any [groups] in Toronto postponing trips to Israel. Israel is welcoming all travellers from Toronto and Canada."

Two weeks ago, Winnipeg's Jewish federation announced it was cancelling its May mission to Israel partly out of public concern about transiting through Toronto, the epicentre for SARS cases in Canada. The Winnipeg federation made its decision before the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a travel advisory for Toronto, suggesting travellers avoid the city. Last week, the WHO rescinded the advisory, saying SARS appears to have been contained.

Fourteen trips on schedule

Kleinman said Israeli authorities had implemented screening procedures at Ben-Gurion Airport, taking passengers' temperatures as they enter the terminal and asking them several questions related to SARS.

However, following WHO's second directive, Israel's Health Ministry removed Toronto from its list of SARS hot spots.

As of *The CJN*'s press time, it remained unclear whether the SARS screening of Toronto passengers was continuing, as Ben-Gurion airport was closed for two days last week during a nationwide strike.

Continued on page 35

Zundel may be closer to deportation

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Ernst Zundel may have spent his last weekend in Canada as federal officials last week issued a security certificate declaring the neo-Nazi propagandist a threat to Canada's national security.

The certificate is subject to review by a Federal Court, but if a federal judge finds the certificate reasonable, Zundel, 64, may be deported from Canada as early as this week.

Zundel's removal to his native Germany, where he faces jail for violating the country's anti-hate laws, would bring to an end a more than 20-year saga of Holocaust denial, court cases, appeals and human rights tribunals.

Continued on page 40

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Mitzna resigns as Labor Party leader — please see page 39

The News in Brief

Canada

Anti-hate March

TORONTO — The grassroots group Canadians Against Anti-Semitism will be holding its second annual Canadian March for Humanity in Toronto on June 8 at 3 p.m. International human rights lawyer and MP Irwin Cotler, and Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry will lead the march, which will begin at Avenue Road and Bloor Street and head to Queen's Park.

Israel

Yom Hashoah Marked

JERUSALEM — Israelis came to a halt last Tuesday as a two-minute-long siren was sounded in memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. The siren was followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem and name-reading ceremonies at the Knesset and around the country. As part of this year's Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day observances, Conservative synagogues in Israel and around the world were holding readings of the first liturgical text marking the Holocaust.

Abbas and the Shoah

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas should visit the U.S. Holocaust museum, Democratic U.S. congressman and Holocaust survivor Tom Lantos said last week during a visit to Israel. Lantos said he issued the in-person invitation to Abbas because he "needs considerable insight about what happened during the Holocaust." Abbas has been criticized for his 1982 doctoral thesis that minimizes the Holocaust and accuses the Zionists of collaborating with the Nazis. Abbas has said he wrote the thesis at a time when Israel was the PLO's enemy.

Abbas and Arafat

JERUSALEM — Incoming Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas said last week he would not travel abroad to discuss peace until Israel allows PA President Yasser Arafat to travel freely again. Abbas' comments were seen as an attempt to raise his standing in Palestinian eyes.

Abbas and Terror

JERUSALEM — The new Palestinian Authority prime minister should be investigated for his alleged role in financing the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre, an Israeli law group says. Shurat Hadin-Israel Law Center said Mahmoud Abbas helped finance the PLO's Black September group that committed the attack, which killed 11 Israeli athletes. Both Israel and Germany have legal jurisdiction to prosecute those involved in the attack, but it's unclear whether this applies to Abbas, who now holds a top position in the PA.

World

Anti-Jewish Violence Up

JERUSALEM — There were more violent anti-Semitic acts last year than there have been for more than a decade, a new report from Tel Aviv University says. There were 311 cases worldwide, said the report, issued jointly last week with the World Jewish Congress. Western Europe led the world in anti-Semitic violence, with France, Belgium and Britain topping the list.

Charles Goes to Shul

MANCHESTER — Britain's Prince Charles last week inaugurated a synagogue in Manchester. In addition to unveiling a plaque and planting a tree at the Bowden Shul, he attended a service and two receptions. A spokesperson for the prince emphasized the importance he places on such invitations.

Deportation Ordered

PHILADELPHIA — A U.S. immigration court has ordered the deportation of a former Nazi concentration camp guard to Ukraine, Poland or Germany. The court found that Theodor Szchinskyj, 79, a resident of West Chester, Pa., served in the SS Death's Head guard unit at Gross-Rosen, Sachsenhausen and Warsaw concentration camps from 1943 to 1945. Szehinskyj is a native of Malnow, a town in pre-war Poland that is now part of Ukraine.

Cemetery Firebombed

STOCKHOLM — The purification room of a Jewish cemetery in Malmo, Sweden was firebombed, but not destroyed, last month after a Magen David was painted on the city's central mosque.

CIC Expresses Optimism About 'Road Map'

OTTAWA — The head of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) expressed cautious optimism last week after the release of the U.S.-backed "road map" for Israeli-Palestinian peace.

"The CIC welcomes any opportunity to advance the cause of peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians and to provide genuine security for Israelis, who have been targeted by a relentless campaign of Palestinian terrorism over the past 33 months," CIC national chair Joseph Wilder said of the plan, which calls for the creation of a Palestinian state as part of ending the conflict by 2005.

The CIC is greeting the confirmation of incoming Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and his new cabinet "hopefully," Wilder said, adding the CIC remains "apprehensive" about PA president Yasser Arafat's influence over the cabinet and PA decision-making.

Wilder said the CIC is also concerned about Abbas' commitment to his pledge to disarm all terror groups and rein in terror attacks and anti-Israel incitement, which Wilder said have "consistently derailed the peace process."

Last week's suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, which killed three and injured 50, "underscores the urgency for [Abbas] to act decisively to stop such attacks. Otherwise no progress can be made in implementing the road-map," Wilder said.

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Families sue government on behalf of autistic kids

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Twenty-nine families went to Superior Court in Toronto last week to sue the provincial government on behalf of their autistic children, whose constitutional rights the parents say the province has violated.

Claim Ontario has violated constitutional rights

The families allege that the provincial government discriminates against children with autism by refusing to fund a therapy program for their youngsters when they reach the age of six. And, while the program is available for children between the ages of two and five, the parents claim that long waiting lists effectively shut many out of the program completely. The families are seeking $100 million in compensatory damages.

The therapy, known as applied behavioural analysis (ABA) or intensive behavioural intervention (IBI), is based on the 1987 work of University of California Los Angeles psychology professor O. Ivar Lovaas. He found that through the intensive use of rewards, children with autism can be taught to modify certain behaviours. Therapists, consultants, parents and educators work one-on-one with the children so that each child learns to master small skills a little bit at a time.

The therapy can cost up to $50,000 per year.

The parents want the province to provide IBI therapy for children with autism as they progress through their school system.

"Anything that other children do intuitively, autistic kids have to be taught," says Tammy Starr, whose eight-year-old daughter, Carly, has been participating in an ABA program at home for four years.

Starr says Carly, who is non-verbal, used to sit trancelike and withdrawn in her own world. Now she has learned to focus for longer periods of time and point on a communication board to items she wants.

For 2½ years, Carly attended Zareinu Educational Centre where specialized education is provided in a Jewish learning environment. However, because ABA is not currently provided by the school, the additional cost of a combined program made Jewish education financially prohibitive, Starr said, adding that a number of the parents involved in the lawsuit are Jewish.

Zareinu principal Carol Goldman said parents are referred to specialized consultants outside the centre. However, Zareinu is hoping to be able to provide ABA once the school has additional space.

Continued on page 26

ABA therapist Howard Dalal working with Carly.

SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON PROSTATE CANCER

Dr. John Trachtenberg
The Fleck/Tanenbaum Chair in Prostatic Diseases
Director of the Prostate Centre, Princess Margaret Hospital

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A poignantly illuminating case in point is that of a Brooklyn barber who came to America by himself from Bessarabia at the age of 17. He built a life and a home there and for the three children he and his wife would eventually raise.

To celebrate the birthday of his youngest child, Susan, he took her to the Radio City Music Hall. That starry afternoon and magical moment with her father affected the future course of the young girl's life. That moment led to a lifetime of such moments. Eventually, music halls, stage and theatre became her life's work.

"I never wanted to do anything else," Susan Schulman told *The CJN* last week. "I was enthralled with theatre from then on. I wanted to construct an entire world on the stage and have it be perfectly enchanting."

Today, after some 20 years of making her living in theatre, Schulman is an accomplished, award-winning director. Her latest work will be seen at the Stratford Festival of Canada where she is directing Rodgers and Hammerstein's beloved play, *The King and I*. It is Schulman's third season at Stratford. She has also directed *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Man of La Mancha* at the festival.

But the list of her directorial achievements is extensive. To name but a few of the accomplishments on that list, Schulman recently directed the gala reunion of *Violet*; the Broadway, U.S. and Australian tours of *The Sound of Music*; and the national tour of *Sunset Boulevard*, *Allegro*, *The Boys from Syracuse*, and *A Connecticut Yankee*.

Schulman grew up in Brooklyn. But the theatres, museums, art galleries, symphonies and botanical gardens of Greater New York City were as much her classroom as were the rooms at her elementary and junior high school.

Art, music, drama and esthetics had taken deep root within her soul. A life in theatre would be its flower.

After junior high school, Schulman went to the High School for Performing Arts, the school immortalized in the movie *Fame*. After her famous high school, Schulman studied at Hofstra University and then at Yale where she acquired a master's degree in fine art.

Susan Schulman

A play on the scale of *The King and I* takes at least a year of preparation to put together, Schulman told *The CJN*. Planning for it began during last season.

"There was so much to research – Thai culture, dance, religion and even architecture. I did not want to be general about the setting of the play. I wanted it to be about Thailand specifically (Siam in the original play)."

The fact that the play – story and music – has virtually entered our folklore as a result of its popularity on broadway and in the cinema will have no bearing on Schulman's interpretation of the work.

"I always try to approach a play as if it had never been performed before," she said. "I try to impart to the audience my vision of the playwright's work."

The playwright of *Anna and the King of Siam*, on which *The King and I* was based, produced a work that has won wide appeal around the world. The story is well known to audiences and its messages are timeless.

"It is not about a hero and a villain, or good versus bad," Schulman notes. "It is about a clash of cultures in which two strong-willed individuals eventually learn a great deal from each other. At first, the king is unable to deal with Anna as a woman and as a person of equal intelligence, while she is unable to deal with the king in terms of his own culture." But their assumptions, and attitudes about each other, the members of the audience know even before they take their seat, eventually change.

Schulman does not view her role as that of a teacher. "I try to entertain an audience," she said. "I try to give the audience an opportunity to develop their own ideas. I am not here to preach."

Perhaps that modesty of purpose but purposefulness of method was one of the lessons Schulman absorbed from her father when she put her hand in his and the two of them went to Radio City for her birthday. For it was there, after all, that she developed the first stirrings about who she was, what she wanted to be and how she would contribute to the betterment of the world. More than a score of years later, we are all the beneficiaries.

The King and I opens at Stratford on May 27.

* * *

Next week's column will be written in Israel.

–MBD

SURVIVORS HONOURED: The province of Ontario, together with the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem, last week honoured 10 Holocaust survivors who have demonstrated community leadership in the province of Ontario. The honorees are: Elias Abramowitz, Morris Gruda, Shaya Hudes, Miriam Justein, Morris Justein, Wolf Justein, Fela Lichtblau, Henry Melnick, Jack Muskat and Roman Ziegler. The event was held on Yom Hashoah, April 29, at Queen's Park. MPP Monte Kwinter, who attended the ceremony, and former MPP Charles Harnick were instrumental in having the province recognize Ontario citizens who survived the Holocaust. Last week's event was the 10th anniversary of such recognition ceremonies. Seen, from left, are Hank Rosenbaum, national chair of the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem; Premier Ernie Eves, who presented the certificates; Morris Gruda, one of the honorees; and Minister of Citizenship Carl De Faria.

Associated parents angry over 12% tuition hike

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Last week, about 30 parents signed and delivered a letter outlining their frustration over a 12 per cent increase in tuition at Associated Hebrew Day Schools.

The letter, which was addressed to Associated president Sheldon Carr, said that this increase was "especially disappointing because, after years of steady increases in tuition," parents were anticipating some relief in their financial burden as a result of the current Government of Ontario's Equity in Education Tax Credit.

They went on to state that they will not increase their payments for next year and will base their cheques on last year's tuition of $7,950, instead of on the new tuition of $9,000.

Wayne Levin, a parent of three Associated children and a signatory on the letter, said the increase was particularly disturbing because it creates uncertainty about the future direction of tuitions.

"If Jewish education is to mean anything, parents have to rely on stable and affordable tuitions," he said.

Otherwise, parents will learn to expect that putting their children in the Jewish education system means facing difficult and stressful decisions every year about whether they can remain in the school, Levin said, adding that this isn't something parents take into account when they begin the process.

Levin noted that this increase has created a stratification – the wealthy and the subsidized families don't seem to be affected by the increase. Those in the middle class are forced to remove their kids.

At these higher tuition levels, alternatives become more attractive. Families are discussing other ways to give their children Jewish education such as starting new smaller schools, using the public and supplementary school combination or providing Jewish education through summers spent in Israel, Levin said.

At this point, Levin said that parents want to open discussions with Associated and be included in deliberations about the role of Jewish education before fees are set.

Rabbi Moshe Stern, past president of the Va'ad HaRabanim and the current Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue rabbi, said that the increase in tuitions is inconsistent with the message rabbis are giving their communities.

> *'Without an increase in fees Associated will face a $1.3 million deficit in 2003/04'*
>
> — Arthur Landa

On one hand, rabbis are telling the Jewish community to have more children because the 2001 census indicates that the Jewish population is declining. In addition, rabbis are emphasizing the importance of providing a Jewish education for every Jewish child, Rabbi Stern said.

However, families are saying that having more children will mean they won't be able to send any of their kids to Jewish schools, he said.

Other elementary Jewish day school tuitions can vary in price from $9,450 to $11,550.

Over the past few years, the situation in Israel has meant that UJA Federation's financial resources have been directed at providing relief in Israel and funds for Jewish schools in the diaspora have been frozen, Rabbi Stern said.

The community needs to recognize that this situation will have long-term adverse effects because many families are deciding not to begin Jewish education programs for their children.

It's possible that "the people on committees making these decisions don't understand what an increase in tuitions means to the middle class parent," Rabbi Stern suggested.

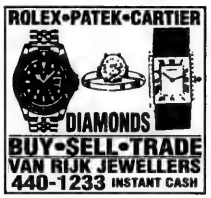
Associated president Sheldon Carr said that the school "raised fees to cover the tremendous operating expenses in the upgrading of the educational programs."

Arthur Landa, executive director of Associated, said that "without an increase in fees Associated will face a $1.3 million deficit in 2003/04."

"In retrospect, it is possible that the board of directors may not have increased tuitions enough in the past two years to cover costs.

"The board was hopeful it could maintain the lowest fees possible. However, raising tuitions for next year was deemed the only way possible to maintain financial integrity," he said.

Landa went on to say that "parents at Associated expect the highest quality education at a lower tuition than anyone else." In the near future Landa said that town hall meetings will be arranged so that parents and the school can get together to discuss their concerns.



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Liberal rabbis back same-sex marriages

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

While the family is the primary vehicle for transmitting Jewish identity, families headed by same-sex partners are capable of fulfilling Jewish values, a coalition of liberal rabbis who support legalizing homosexual marriages has told the Ontario Court of Appeal.

The continued prohibition of same-sex marriages infringes on religious freedoms and equality rights of both clergy and member congregants, stated the Canadian Coalition of Liberal Rabbis for Same-Sex Marriage in its factum presented to the court late last month by their lawyer, Ed Morgan.

Jewish law 'not immutable'

In one of three legal cases in Canada challenging the traditional definition of marriage, the coalition told the court that marriage in the Jewish tradition is not centred solely on procreation.

Jewish law and interpretations are rooted in tradition, "but are not immutable. In liberal Judaism, religious traditions and understandings of social institutions such as marriage are open to interpretation in accordance with community values and individual morality," said the coalition of 25 Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis from across Canada, headed by Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz of Temple Anshe Shalom in Hamilton.

Liberal Judaism "recognizes the right of individuals to listen to their own consciences in making life choices.

"In fact, liberal Judaism represents a significant and growing constituency within the Jewish community that supports same-sex rights and freedom of choice for same-sex marriage."

The court was hearing an appeal of an Ontario Divisional Court ruling last July, which found the traditional definition of marriage as "the lawful and voluntary union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others" to be unconstitutional.

The federal, provincial and municipal governments appealed the lower court ruling. Included in the case are eight Ontario same-sex couples who have been denied marriage licenses by the City of Toronto.

In their support, the liberal rabbis said there is a broad range of views and interpretations within Judaism on the subject and "certainly no single spokesperson for Jewish law and its interpretation."

The rabbis took issue with an earlier submission by the Interfaith Coalition on Marriage and Family, a group of evangelical Protestants, Catholics, Muslims and Sikhs, who oppose any changes to the traditional definition of marriage.

The rabbis rejected the interfaith group's assessment that religious Jews in Canada view the prospect of the recognition of same-sex marriages as "destabilizing" to their religious freedoms.

"This concern is not shared by all religious Jews," stated the rabbinic coalition. "Judaism is far from monolithic, embracing substantial diversity in practices and interpretation," including the Reform movement, which endorses same-sex unions based on the discretion of individual rabbis.

(Earlier this year, the Conservative movement announced it is preparing to consider whether homosexuality is permissible according to Jewish law).

"The general trend outside the Orthodox community is toward a modernized reading of Jewish values that affirms the inherent dignity of all persons," the rabbinic group stated, saying it represents those "who view it as a religious duty to correct the misunderstandings and resulting injustices toward gays and lesbians, and to fulfil the Jewish obligation to seek justice.

"Support of gay and lesbian families helps to strengthen the Jewish family... and allows all community members to participate in the committed and loving relationships fostered by the Jewish faith."

The rabbis explained that Judaism has always been able to accommodate itself to the secular laws of modern nations, even when those laws contradict Halachah.

For example, the sale and consumption of non-kosher food in Canada is not seen as an attack on Jewish values. Neither is the fact that Canadian marriage laws permit the union of Jews and non-Jews.

Similarly, supporting same-sex marriage, whether in religious or civil ceremonies, "would not in any way infringe the rights of fellow Jews to withhold affirmation" of those marriages.

Changing the rules would not attack or undermine Orthodox Judaism, since its members would not be required to solemnize or recognize same-sex marriages if they chose not to, the rabbinic group argued.

However, "the current state-enforced prohibition of same-sex marriages prevents liberal Jews from acting in accordance with their conscience.

"Marriage holds a central place in the Jewish tradition, and it is natural that Jewish gays and lesbians would wish to be included in a sacrament that is at the heart of their religious belief and practice."

In the two other related cases, Quebec Superior Court last year also ruled that the legal definition of marriage is discriminatory and unconstitutional, while British Columbia's Court of Appeal last week endorsed the right of same-sex couples to marry and gave Ottawa until July 2004 to change existing marriage laws.

Officials say the cases will likely be combined and ultimately decided by the Supreme Court of Canada.

As well, the House of Commons' justice and human rights committee wrapped up hearings this month on whether and how same-sex marriages could be legally recognized.

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Longo's (various locations)
Lorac Wine & Food
Mac's Convenience Store (1 location)
Manor Kosher Meat Market
Matana Judaica
Maxi Drug Store
Mazel Wines
Miriam's Fine Judaica
My Zaidy's Bakery
Natural Life Health Market
Negev Book & Gift Store (1 location)
Noah's Natural Foods (various locations)
Nostalgic Nook
Perl's Meat & Delicatessen
Perl's Meat Products Ltd.
Pharma Plus Drugmart (1 location)
Prairie Dog (various locations)
Price Chopper (2 locations)
Richman's Kosher Bakery
Sababa Restaurant
Seforim Warehouse
Shaynee's Gift Selections (2 locations)
Shoppers Drug Mart (3 locations)
Silver Dollar (1 location)
Sobeys (1 location)
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A very great day

On the afternoon of the fifth day of Iyar, Friday, May 14, 1948, the leaders of the Yishuv in British Mandatory Palestine came together in the Tel Aviv museum to officially proclaim, before the whole world, the founding of the State of Israel.

Shabbat was approaching, but the men and women assembled in the stately chamber in the home of the first mayor of Tel Aviv, were actually greeting a new, shining dawn. And like each new morning after a long night of darkness, it was warm, radiant and beautiful.

One thousand eight hundred and 13 years after the defeat of Bar Kochba by the armies of the Roman Empire, a sovereign Jewish state had arisen once again in the constellation of nations.

The reading of the declaration of independence was carefully planned to take place as close to Shabbat as possible, for after sunset, at the stroke of midnight, the British mandatory administration would come to an end. British forces would leave the country. The nascent Jewish state would then be attacked from all directions by a hostile, hate-filled Arab world. Even as the Union Jack was lowered for the last time in Mandatory Palestine, the Egyptian air force began its bombing of the people of Tel Aviv. It was not the first time the Arabs of Palestine rejected any compromise with the Jews of Palestine; nor was it the first time the Arab world expressed its utter refusal to accept a sovereign Jewish presence in the Middle East.

The ceremony in the Tel Aviv museum was modest and swift. It was not publicized ahead of time out of fear that British authorities might try to make some last-minute mischief for the Jewish leaders of the country-about-to-born. But news of the event spread rapidly. Thousands of people poured into the streets of Tel Aviv. They carried the news of the founding of the state like a living current of electricity across neighbourhoods, cities, oceans and continents. In a mere instant of syncopating time, Jews all around the world rose in celebration and thanksgiving. Countless millions of friends who understood and supported the justice of the Jewish cause also sang songs of praise.

We who were born after 1948, trying to imagine 55 years later how the moment must have felt, are stopped by the inadequacy of our imaginations and the inability of our minds to travel to that single metaphysical moment where history met with longing, courage met with determination and the Jewish people returned to their Land.

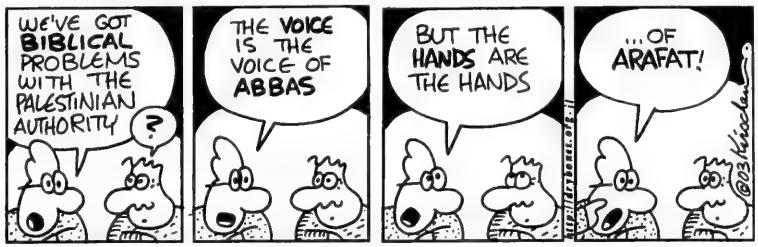
Parents who can recall that moment should tell their children. Children should ask their grandparents so that all generations will understand what was achieved by a long-suffering people of very small numbers but very high purpose, on the fifth day of Iyar, in 1948. Let us too all celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, for it surely is a very great day.

Thank you God for granting us life, sustaining us and for bringing us to this day.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones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?
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BUT THE HANDS ARE THE HANDS
...OF ARAFAT!
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Why I envy the Iraqi people

I envy the Iraqi people, because they have the United States on their side, the modern, colossal Robin Hood that takes from the rich and gives to the victimized poor.

When U.S. forces leave Iraq, her citizens will be wealthier, healthier and more politically empowered than ever before.

It is the dawning of a new era for Iraqis. Talk about good fortune.

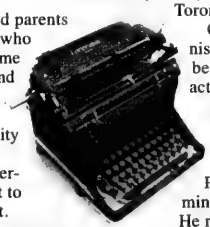
And we Canadians, who rightly fear terrorism and separatism, now look like fools who backed the wrong horse and must now crawl on our hands and knees for forgiveness in order to repair the damage and avoid the consequences of no longer having the United States on our side.

Daniel Richter
Hamilton

Should welcome interfaith families

As founder of InterfaithFamily.com, Inc., a non-profit company whose mission is to empower interfaith families to make Jewish choices and to encourage the Jewish community to welcome them, I offer a very different perspective from Rabbi Steven Saltzman ("Judaism must deny non-Jews shul membership to remain strong," *CJN*, Jan. 30, 2003).

Rabbi Saltzman's premise is that intermarried parents who say they are raising their children as Jews in fact have "dual-religion homes where Christianity and its practices are observed." He relies on the biased "Jewish and Something Else" study, which concluded that an intermarried family that honours its non-Jewish relatives by having a Christmas or Easter dinner with them is "incorporating substantial Christian elements."



However, the thousands of intermarried parents who write for and visit our Web site and who are raising Jewish children, while at the same time respecting their non-Jewish partners and their children's grandparents, experience these celebrations not as religious holidays, but as warm family times. The Jewish identity of the children is not compromised.

Contrary to Rabbi Saltzman's fears, interfaith families joining synagogues seek not to undermine Judaism, but to participate in it.

Nor need accepting intermarrieds as synagogue members undermine encouraging our children to in-marry. Children can be told that their chances of having a Jewish life and family are greatly increased if they marry other Jews — a statistical fact. But they can also have a Jewish life and family if they do intermarry, as InterfaithFamily.com's writers and readers attest.

I support "inreach," that is, building a dynamic core of Jewish families and a vision that will attract people to Jewish life. But many of the children of those core families will intermarry — and many of those who intermarry can be attracted to Jewish life.

Excluding them from synagogue life is a prescription for weakening, not strengthening, synagogues and the Jewish community.

Edmund Case
President & Publisher, InterfaithFamily.com
Newton, Mass.

Obsession must stop

Perhaps Jillian Clare Cohen asked Sheldon Kirshner to put these details in his story, but I think it's disgusting that a piece on medicine shortages in the world would contain the following sentence: "Cohen, 36 and single, believes she brings a different perspective on the role of governments and politics in pharmaceutical policy." ("Lack of basic medicines around the world concerns Cohen," *CJN*, April 25)

What does her being 36 and single have to do with her different perspective on the role of governments and politics in pharmaceutical policy?

The Jewish population is far too obsessed with knowing people's age and marital status, especially that of women. It has to stop somewhere.

David Kruger
Toronto, Ontario

Dreams can come true

Your editorial "Good Luck Mr. Charest" (*CJN*, April 25) and Jean Charest's election as the new premier of Quebec reminds me of an event 10 years ago at the Royal York Hotel sponsored by the Canadian Foundation of Physically Disabled Persons and the Rotary Club of Toronto Don Valley in aid of abused children.

Charest was the keynote speaker and reminisced about his student days and his dreams to become a lawyer – a lawyer like the TV character Perry Mason.

After the speech, I had the privilege, as the volunteer public relations and fundraising advisor, to meet Charest, and I asked him whether he thought his dreams of being a Perry Mason really meant being a prime minister in Canadian politics.

He roared with laughter and said, "Hey, I can do with you on my campaign team."

And now I wonder whether federal Liberal leadership frontrunner Paul Martin has similar dreams that go back to his student days – to be the future prime minister of Canada. Why not? He does have the right initials.

And as biblical Joseph proved, "Dreams do come true."

Monty Mazin
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

THE DECLARATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

To commemorate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, we publish its Declaration of Independence. We have published this document on previous occasions, but it is worthwhile and important that we do again.

On May 14, 1948, the day on which the British Mandate over Palestine expired, the Jewish People's Council gathered at the Tel Aviv Museum and approved the following proclamation. The new state was recognized that night by the United States and three days later by the USSR.

Eretz Yisrael was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz Yisrael and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its national home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people – the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe – was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing the Jewish State in Eretz Yisrael, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz Yisrael, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland.

In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom– and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz Yisrael; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz Yisrael to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their state is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign state.

Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish community of Eretz Yisrael and of the Zionist movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British Mandate over Eretz Yisrael and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz Yisrael, to be known as the State of Israel.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly no later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Israel."

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the holy places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to co-operate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations in implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz Yisrael.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL – in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months – to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the building of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighbouring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighbourliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of co-operation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz Yisrael in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream – the redemption of Israel.

Placing our trust in the Almighty, we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the Provisional Council of State, on the soil of the homeland, in the city of Tel Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).

David Ben-Gurion proclaims Israel's creation and Independence

David Ben-Gurion

Daniel Auster
Mordekhai Bentov
Yitzchak Ben Zvi
Eliyahu Berligne
Fritz Bernstein
Rabbi Wolf Gold
Meir Grabovsky
Yitzchak Gruenbaum
Dr. Abraham Granovsky
Eliyahu Dobkin
Meir Wilner-Kovner
Zerach Wahrhaftig
Herzl Vardi
Rachel Cohen
Rabbi Kalman Kahana
Saadia Kobashi
Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Levin
Meir David Loewenstein
Zvi Luria
Golda Myerson
Nachum Nir
Zvi Segal
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Felix Rosenblueth
David Remez
Berl Repetur
Mordekhai Shattner
Ben Zion Sternberg
Bekhor Shitreet
Moshe Shapira
Moshe Shertok

Published in the Official Gazette, No. 1 of the 5th Iyar, 5708 (14th May, 1948).

There may be holes in the 'road map'

A workable formula for peaceful co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians continues to be elusive. The Oslo accords, having promised much, delivered little, while their touted alternative, the Saudi peace plan, was essentially a non-starter. Meanwhile, instead of looking toward a framework for reducing tensions, there exists on both sides of the conflict a pervasive climate of deep mistrust that crosses generations and affects most aspects of daily life.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

Given this reality, it would seem the time is right for an end to hostilities and the resumption of a diplomatic process of some kind. Indeed, there seems to be renewed enthusiasm for the the "road map" that U.S. President George W. Bush first outlined last June, and which is also sponsored by the other members of the so-called "quartet," Russia, the European Union and the United Nations.

Whether it has any chance of success remains to be seen, but for sceptics there is more than ample cause for concern that the road map will yield little more than the peace plans that preceded it. For in the cauldron of Mideast politics, even the most generous proposals have been scuttled because the sides were far apart on fundamental issues.

What has also tended to occur is that the brokers of peace have become motivated more by their own interests than by the broader goals they're meant to be pursuing. And within the current context, the assumption that the members of the quartet are even reading from the same page needs to be seriously questioned.

Having so stridently parted ways in their attitudes towards military action in Iraq, how conceivable is it that the United States will suddenly find common cause with Russia, the EU, and the UN on the often delicate nuances of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship? In fact, it would not be too surprising if the dynamic among these unlikely allies itself becomes a problematic sidebar to the overall process.

However, an obviously more important issue relates to whether a workable interaction will begin to develop between Israelis and Palestinians themselves. A preliminary version of the road map describes it as "performance-based and goal-driven," with clearly defined phases, timelines, target dates and benchmarks.

Unqualified compliance will be required if such a description is to translate into positive action – and a climate of goodwill and co-operation will certainly need to emerge for this to happen.

But first and foremost, an immediate end to terrorism and anti-Israel incitement will have to be enforced and be seen to be sustainable. Otherwise, this initiative, like others before it, will be doomed to failure, even before the substantive issues of territory, normalization and recognition can be meaningfully addressed.

Dear Mayor...

Early next month, residents of Jerusalem will elect the city's next mayor. According to the latest polls, millionaire businessman Nir Barkat, a 43-year-old political unknown and electoral virgin, is the frontrunner. His chances of winning, however, now depend on the city's large haredi population, who may still put forward their own candidate. In February Ehud Olmert, who had been mayor since 1993, stepped down to become a cabinet minister in the new government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

A Jerusalem mayor faces challenges unlike anywhere else, if for no other reason that for billions of Jews, Christians and Muslims around the world, Jerusalem is sacred. It exists powerfully in their religious beliefs, spiritual imagination and conflicting claims on the Holy City. For these people, Jerusalem's ancient history is vital stuff. For the city's residents, the past is all well and good, but it's the here and now they want the mayor to improve.

Given the complexity of Jerusalem, the new mayor will need all the help he can get. To that end, I've prepared the following "To Do" list to keep the mayor on track. True, it's also a bit of a personal wish-list, but one with the better interests of the capital in mind. These 20 suggestions are just for starters. There are lots more where they came from.

Downtown down for the count? – Bring the city centre back to life. It desperately needs animation, commerce and a sense of style. Only major innovation will do the trick.

Heavy breathing – Time to tackle Jerusalem's sadly overlooked scourge of air pollution.

Urban refuge – Parks don't add to the city coffers, but they sure make life better. Jerusalem is sorely lacking in green places for solace from traffic, concrete and stone.

The other side of town – Providing decent services (including building permits) and improving the long-neglected infrastructure of Arab neighbourhoods won't turn its residents into Zionists, but it will help ease tensions in the city.

Open for business – Without attracting investment, stimulating the local economy and creating jobs, the city is doomed.

Gushing forth – A land-locked metropolis needs the soothing effect that only water can bring. Fountains are the perfect solution, the bigger the better to also make them attractive landmarks.

No Parking – Underground multi-level parking garages needed urgently throughout the city.

Ouch! – Outrageously high local taxes (*arnona*) are making living in Jerusalem increasingly prohibitive, contributing to many young residents leaving the city.

Learning the hard way – The education facilities and class-sizes in local schools (especially the secular ones) are a scandal.

Get out there and mix – As mayor, make contact with the people, get to know the city intimately and its residents. Be a mensch, a character that inspires.

Sleaze alert – Cleaning up the widespread corruption and waste at City Hall is long overdue. No need to say more.

Colour our city – Beautify the urban backdrop with public art, murals, posters, sculptures, etc., and in the process support local artists.

On the rails – Pressure the government and Knesset to finally make a high-speed train connection with Tel Aviv and Ben-Gurion Airport a national priority.

Friendly wheels – Encourage city cyclists with a network of bike paths and special lanes reserved for bicycles.

The call of the Zamboni – If Metulla can host one, why can't Jerusalem have its own ice skating/hockey rink? OK, I admit my personal considerations are showing here.

Fare play – To reduce the number of cars in Jerusalem, cancel bus fares. The dividends from less traffic will far outweigh the costs.

The Jerusalem Forest – Save what's left of it.

Feet first – Return the sidewalks to what they were intended for: pedestrians, not parked cars.

Make a splash – The city's precious few swimming pools all are guilty of shameless price gouging. If we can't have a beach, at least build affordable alternatives.

Lighten up – Let your imagination run wild. Introduce a sense of fun, humour and playfulness to life in the city that takes itself far too seriously.

A tall order? Yes, but nothing that good creative thinking, effective fund-raising, political coercion and hard work can't solve. No one said governing Jerusalem was going to be a cakewalk. Getting elected was the easy part. Proving you deserved the job is much tougher.

Wishing you lots of success.

For further input, feel free to reach me at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Well-intentioned support for Israel-bashers

The primary threats to Israel's survival do not come from Iran's weapons of mass destruction or from Palestinian terrorists. Rather, the deeper danger comes from the continuing propaganda campaign that rejects Israel's legitimacy and seeks to roll back the UN partition plan of November 1947.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

This is the same campaign that produced the infamous UN resolution of 1975, which equated Zionism with racism and which was revived at the 2002 United Nations anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa. The Israel-bashers have shifted the focus away from the Palestinian responsibility for terrorism and the failure of the Oslo process, while promoting the great lies of massive human rights violations by Israel.

While Arab and Islamic organizations lead the way, such Israel-bashing is promoted by that other axis of evil – journalists, diplomats (including the United Nations), academics and self-proclaimed universal human rights groups. These non-governmental organizations (NGOs) enjoy a halo effect, and an image of promoting noble causes without political bias exempts them from scrutiny. They are also extremely influential, and their reports are quoted extensively. In reality, however, these NGOs are at the very core of the anti-Israel axis of evil. By promoting the campaign of hatred and delegitimization, such groups are morally guilty of justifying terrorism.

Charges of Israeli war crimes, violations of international law and systematic human rights abuses are commonplace in the reports and press releases of NGOs such as Amnesty International, OXFAM, Christian Aid and Human Rights Watch. These reports generally rely on information supplied by Palestinians and their political or ideological supporters (often employed by the NGOs or UN agencies with whom they are in close contact), and the claims are rarely subject to independent confirmation.

In addition, dozens of Israeli-based and Palestinian groups receive massive funding from abroad to produce a steady stream of anti-Israel political propaganda that has nothing to do with human rights. As documented in the analyses of the B'nai Brith's NGO Monitor, lies and distortions are reported by journalists, repeated by diplomats and in UN publications, cited in academic journals and then appear on NGO Web sites.

In this propaganda war, it is surprising that some of the NGOs and their ignoble activities are funded by Jewish and Israel-oriented organizations such as the New Israel Fund. The most notorious example – Physicians for Human Rights Israel (PHR-I), emphasizes illegal Israeli occupation, and uses the medical dimension as a thin cover to promote its ideological agenda. PHR-I's crude propaganda is seen by many as anti-Semitic, and has prompted the Israeli Medical Association to end all co-operation with this group. The cartoons published by PHR-I, including an eight-page pamphlet circulated in English and Hebrew last fall in *Ha'aretz*, use stereotypes of Palestinian victims and Israeli oppressors, with no mention of brutal suicide attacks.

The NIF also funds the Nazareth-based Arab Association of Human Rights (known as HRA) and Adalah. Rather than working primarily to encourage values such as equality and tolerance among Israeli citizens, both Jewish and Arab, and delegitimize terrorism, these groups are at the forefront of the externally directed campaign to distort the Israeli reality.

Under the cover of human and civil rights, both groups promote blatant ideological and political agendas anchored in the delegitimization of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. In its press review, HRA consistently condemns Israeli actions to prevent terrorist attacks. Vital security measures are misleadingly labelled as evidence of discrimination, while facts that do not support this false charge are ignored. Similarly, Adalah has played a leading role in the promoting the myth that Israel is not a democracy.

Such objectives are not part of the NIF's stated goals, but the results undermine its claim to provide an alternative approach in support of Israeli democracy and Zionism. Many Israelis associate this organization primarily with the propaganda campaigns and funding for extremist fringe groups, while NIF's more positive activities are lost in the noise. A number of NIF supporters and officials have resigned following these revelations, and others are demanding a thorough accounting and change in policy. Given the important contributions that NIF makes in other areas, an immediate end to involvement in Israel-bashing disguised as support for human and civil rights could not come too quickly.

The road map: path to peace or a dead end?

A fresh start or another dead end? This was the conundrum last week as the first Palestinian Authority prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), took office and a new internationally sponsored blueprint for peace – the road map – was unveiled.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Appointed by PA President Yasser Arafat under the harsh glare of international pressure, Abbas called for "lasting peace," denounced terrorism and pledged to rein in radical groups tolerated by Arafat.

In setting out his agenda, Abbas raised expectations that his ascendancy may bring about a fundamental shift in Palestinian policy from terrorism to diplomacy, restore mutual trust, and lead Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table after 31 months of futile fighting.

But within hours of Abbas' confirmation, a suicide bomber – a British national affiliated with Hamas– killed three Israelis in Tel Aviv, and an Israeli armoured force struck the Gaza Strip, killing 12 Palestinians.

The suicide bombing, the 91st since the eruption of the Palestinian uprising in September 2000 and the first of its kind carried out by a foreigner, raised Israel's death toll to 737 civilians and soldiers.

The Israeli raid into Gaza brought to 2,029 the number of Palestinians killed during this period.

The latest suicide bombing, the fifth this year, was a familiar tactic by Palestinians who cannot abide Israel's existence and pounce whenever peace beckons. Throughout the Oslo process, which crumbled with the outbreak of the second intifadah, Palestinian radicals constantly stoked the fires of rejection. The spiralling violence, and the perception that Arafat had little or no interest in curbing it, dampened support in Israel for a rapprochement with the Palestinians and led to the rise of Ariel Sharon as Israel's prime minister.

As part of a growing internal debate within the Palestinian community about the usefulness of violence to further its political objectives, Abbas cast grave doubt on the military option. Similarly, in his inaugural speech on April 29, he said he was convinced that terrorism does not "lend support to a just cause like ours, but rather destroys it."

In the power-sharing arrangement to which Arafat grudgingly agreed but which Hamas and Islamic Jihad quickly rejected, Abbas will have overall control of policing and internal security matters. His deputy, Mohammed Dahlan, will be in charge of crushing Islamic and secular forces that oppose an agreement with Israel. Yet it remains to be seen whether the Abbas/Dahlan team, backed by Israel and the United States, will try to squelch terrorism. In any case, Shin Bet, Israel's internal intelligence agency, doubts whether Abbas has the guts to confront terrorists. Like Arafat, he may fear that a concerted crackdown will precipitate a Palestinian civil war.

But the United States, acting on the assumption that Abbas' formal installation as prime minister may signal a new era in Palestinian politics, appears to have no such qualms.

In line with its view that the much-battered peace process can be revived now that Arafat has been partially sidelined and Saddam Hussein of Iraq has been deposed, the Bush administration has officially unveiled the road map – the three-pronged peace plan under the sponsorship of the Quartet: the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia. The road map, a virtual facsimile of the Oslo accords, supplants the Mitchell proposals, which petered out in 2002. The seven-page document calls for reciprocal concessions and a two-state solution. Israel and the PA have in principle accepted the road map.

During phase one, the PA is obligated to fight terrorism, end violence, comply with a ceasefire and continue with its program of political and economic reforms. Israel must progressively withdraw from Palestinian autonomous areas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip it reoccupied after the intifadah, dismantle outposts in the territories established since March 2001, and freeze all settlement activity. In tandem, Israel and the PA must resume security co-operation on the basis of a work plan submitted by George Tenet, director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, in 2001.

The second stage envisages new Palestinian elections, the formation of a provisional Palestinian state, the passage of a Palestinian constitution, "further action" on Israeli settlements and a restoration of Arab ties with Israel. Permanent status issues – from final borders and Palestinian refugees to normal Israeli relations with the Arab world – are to be discussed in the third stage, which culminates in 2005.

Washington describes the road map as "a set document" not open to negotiation. But U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who is scheduled to visit Israel on May 8 for further discussions, claims it will not be imposed.

The Palestinians are satisfied with its contents. "We accept it in total without reservations," said Nabil Shaath, the PA's foreign minister, last week. They believe that the Quartet basically supports their quest for a viable state, with its capital in eastern Jerusalem (annexed by Israel in 1967).

Israel, however, has raised at least 15 objections. It is uneasy about curbs on settlement construction, the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005 and international supervision of the road map's implementation. Last autumn, shortly before a draft version was released, Sharon declared that a fullfledged settlement freeze would be unacceptable. Since then, Dov Weisglass, Sharon's chief of staff, and Silvan Shalom, who replaced Benjamin Netanyahu as foreign minister in a surprising cabinet shuffle, have insisted on further revisions.

Mahmoud Abbas

First and foremost, Israel insists that the Palestinians must abandon their demand for the "right of return" of refugees to their former homes in what is now Israel. Beyond this issue, Sharon wants to drop all references to Saudi Arabia's 2002 peace plan, which is contingent on a complete Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 lines; to place limits on Palestinian sovereignty, and to tighten up language on the dismantlement of Palestinian militias.

Another vexing problem that bothers Sharon is timing, whether Israel and the PA should make their respective concessions simultaneously or in sequence. Israel's position is that each stage should be completed in full before the next one is undertaken. In addition, Israel does not want the process linked to a rigid timetable, and refuses to enter into talks until terrorism ends. The Palestinians prefer the current parallellism of the road map.

As Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz has indicated, Israel is prepared to make goodwill gestures, provided the PA combats terrorism, dismantles terrorist organizations, collects illegal weapons and halts incitement in Palestinian institutions, mainly the media and schools. If these steps are taken, Israel is reportedly ready to improve the abysmal humanitarian situation, cede reoccupied land, release Palestinian prisoners and evacuate illegal outposts in the West Bank.

Sharon, who has spoken of his willingness to make "painful concessions" as the price for peace, has sounded conciliatory of late. In a statement that could have been attributed to the Israeli left, he observed: "I do not think we should rule over another people and run their lives." The occupation, he added, raises ethical and economic problems. And in a reference to the West Bank settlements of Shilo and Bet El, Sharon noted, "I know we will have to part with some of these places."

These remarks, though, are inconsistent with his apparent belief that Israel should keep more than half the West Bank, many of the settlements and the whole of Jerusalem.

Sharon's room for flexibility is also hampered by his far-right coalition partners, the National Union and the National Religious Party, both of which reject the land-for-peace formula and regard the road map as untenable. They will doubtless leave the government should Sharon embrace the road map in more or less its present form. If this scenario materializes, Sharon will invite the Labor party into his government.

It is already clear, regardless of whether the road map ultimately becomes the departure point for a renewed peace process, that it could have not been launched without the ouster of the Baathist regime in Iraq. On April 13, Sharon himself agreed that the Iraqi war had set into motion "the prospect of great changes" in the Middle East.

Two months before the American invasion of Iraq, Paul Wolfowitz, the U.S. deputy secretary of defence, commented that Washington's stake in an Arab-Israeli accord would intensify in the wake of such a war – an appraisal seconded by President George W. Bush. After U.S. Marines captured Baghdad, Wolfowitz elaborated on this theme, saying that Saddam's fall would improve "the atmosphere for negotiations" between Israel and the Palestinians.

It may be true. Just as the 1991 Gulf War paved the way for the Madrid conference, which in turn spawned the Oslo agreements, so the American military campaign in Iraq may yet have an historic impact on Israel's relationship with the Palestinians and the rest of its Arab neighbours.

Tears of Hope

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She is a child survivor of the Holocaust. Each day she teaches her Grade 1 class to read and write Hebrew, and how to pray. Once a year, on the Remembrance Day for Yom HaShoah, she visits other classrooms, telling her story to as many children as she can. She doesn't mind if the children see her cry. "The only answer to the Holocaust is giving children a wonderful Jewish education," she says. Teachers speak to the younger children in their classrooms, and the other children attend a Yom HaShoah assembly. Each child receives a memorial candle to light at home. We must all remember.

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Resistance and hope recurring themes

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

Yiddish songs of resistance mingled with the fiercely optimistic voices of teenagers in Toronto's annual Holocaust commemoration, held last week at Earl Bales Park.

Yom Hashoah 5763

Titled "Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah," usually translated as "Holocaust and Heroes Day," the event's emphasis was on heroism past, present and future.

Israeli consul general Meir Romem called the Shoah "the most atrocious crime committed by human beings in world history," and he spoke of modern-day anti-Semitism "not only in Europe or the Arab world, but in this great country."

Following his brief talk, Romem presented a Yad Vashem medal to the son of righteous gentile Laszlo Antal Benyei. Benyei's son, Andrew, and widow, Eva, also participated in lighting the last of six memorial candles in memory of the six million Jewish victims of the Shoah. Other candles were dedicated in memory of the 1.5 million murdered children and in honour of the partisans, resistance fighters and Allied forces.

Resistance was a recurring theme, as the gathered crowd of more than 2,000 people sang *Ani Ma'amin* and *Zog Nit Keynmol*, and a group of NCSY and Hillel students read out the final letter of 23-year-old Mordecai Anielewicz, commander of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, which took place 60 years ago this month.

Israeli ambassador Meir Romem presents posthumous Righteous Gentile medal to Andrew Benyei, son of Laszlo Benyei.

Following the reading by Ethel Cooper of an emotional poem about Pesach in the Ghetto, survivor Nachemia Wurman rose to share his story.

Just a teenager when he was taken by the Nazis to a slave labour camp, Wurman managed to escape, going without food for five days. After joining a partisan group in the forest, he managed to infiltrate the German 72nd infantry battalion – by masquerading as a Polish-German army volunteer.

Wurman spoke of catching a glimpse of himself in a mirror and wondering if he was dreaming.

"A Jewish boy in the uniform of Hitler's beasts?" he wondered, saying that, sometimes, "the best hiding place is in the mouth of the wolf." His job was to turn battalion passwords over to his partisan group, which led to numerous acts of sabotage.

Eventually, faced with the approaching Russian army, the battalion retreated and Wurman fled to the front lines, where he was captured by Russian soldiers, one of whom interrogated him. "Luckily," he said, "it was a Jewish Russian officer." Discovering that Wurman was a partisan, he released him and Wurman returned to his home town to search for any remaining Jews.

High school students from CHAT sing in Yiddish.
[Jennifer Paquette photos]

Wandering through the town centre, once vibrant with Jewish life, Wurman saw only a single woman, mumbling to herself in Yiddish. Drawing closer, he overheard her words: "If only I knew where Nachemia's grave is."

"That was my first encounter with a survivor," he said, "and it was my sister."

He learned that his sister had escaped from the slave labour camp the same day he had, and that she had been serving with a partisan unit in the forest. A brother also fought as a partisan.

Continued on page 13

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Reading about the Holocaust, one story at a time

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

In *A Blessing in Disguise*, a short dramatic excerpt in the book *Tapestry of Hope*, Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King's Quebec lieutenant, Ernest Lapointe, warns the prime minister that the people of Quebec are against Jewish immigration.

The excerpt is taken from the play *None is Too Many* by Jason Sherman and based on the book of the same name by Irving Abella and Harold Troper. It is November 1938.

Lapointe says Quebec "Premier [Maurice] Duplessis will use the refugees [from Nazi Europe] as props in his little morality play," and suggests that "for every refugee that sets foot on Quebec soil, there will be 100,000 lost votes for the Liberal party" in Quebec and the rest of Canada.

One wonders how often the federal government today still weighs the outcome of its decisions against the possible consequences of a provincial election.

Tapestry of Hope (Tundra Books) is a collection of published works of poetry, prose and drama for young readers filled with moments of discovery about the realities of the Holocaust. The collection, put together by Lillian Boraks-Nemetz and Irene N. Watts, gathers firsthand accounts by survivors, and literary observations by Jewish writers about the many different aspects of the war.

Included in the collection are stories about those who hid from the Nazis, accounts of fighting in the resistance and descriptions of life and death in the concentration camps. Each chapter is short and stands on its own.

The book faces a difficult task, balancing the goal of portraying stories about the Holocaust for young readers – recommended age is 11 and up – without overwhelming the audience. The editors attempt to reconcile this challenge by presenting short accounts that approach this complex historical period from different perspectives. While young readers may find it too demanding to read the book in its entirety at one sitting, they will probably feel compelled to eventually finish all the stories because each one is so different. Many are also relevant to current political trends and events.

Leonard Cohen's poem, *All there is to know about Adolph Eichmann*, helps to define the importance of the book for students and underscores how difficult it is to see when shades of grey turn black. After describing the outside appearance of Adolph Eichmann, Cohen asks, "What did you expect? Talons? Oversize incisors? Green saliva?"

Mordecai Richler's story *The Holocaust and After* touches on the current trend to soften the Holocaust by redefining history. In a 1963 trip to Germany, Richler describes how a young Canadian boy tells him that Adolf Hitler had to exterminate the Jews in Dachau because the Jews were against him.

Some people argue that focusing on the Holocaust reinforces the image of Jew as victim, a notion that is painful and difficult for many survivors. Others suggest that writing about that era trivializes the horrors experienced by the victims.

However, ignoring that period of history facilitates a world where the newly elected Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas can be considered a moderate by many world leaders, even though the topic of his doctoral dissertation is Holocaust denial.

'Israel is our response to all our enemies'

Continued from page 12

He died three hours before the liberation. Another brother and their parents also died in the Shoah.

Wurman's message for the next generation was one of defiance and pride: "Not all the Jews went to the slaughter like sheep," he said. "Many resisted and died in battle against the Nazis."

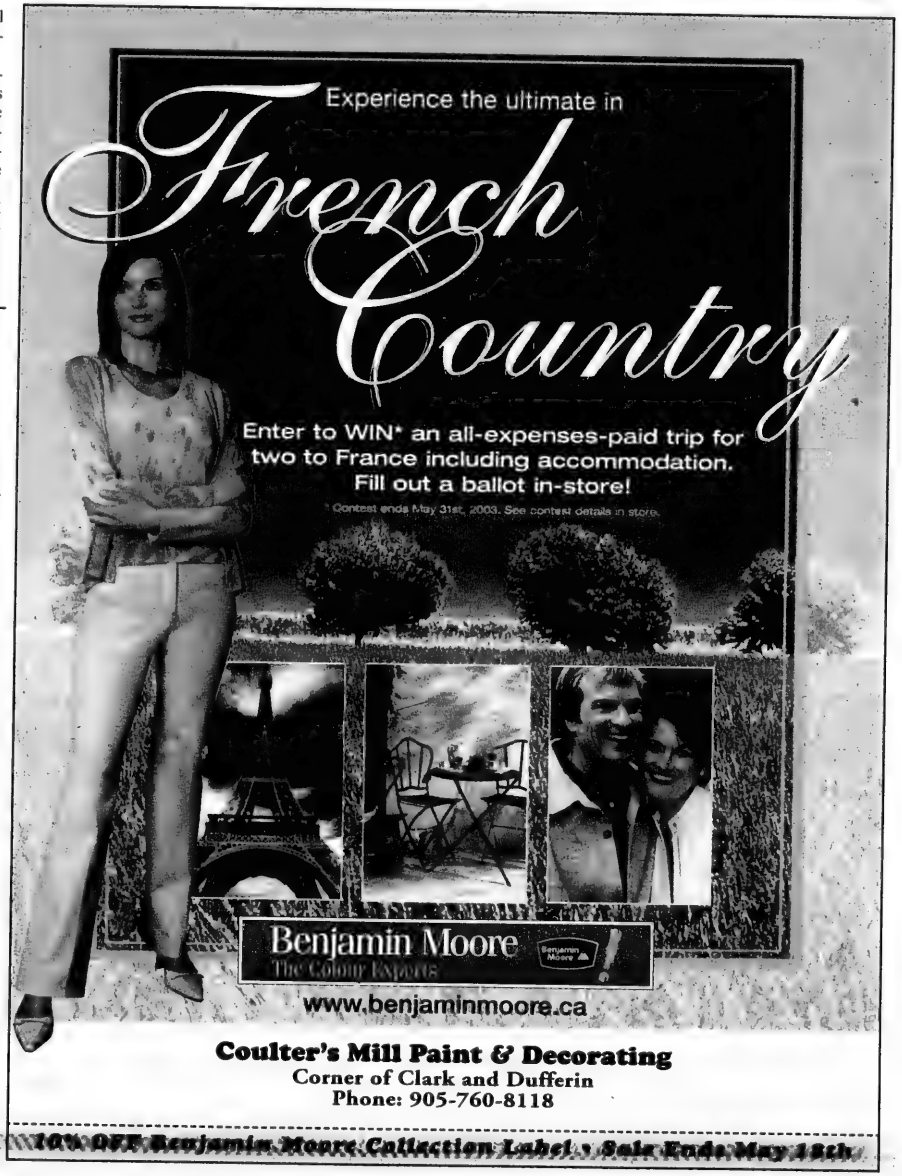
Resistance wasn't always physical; sometimes, it took the form of artistic expression, as with Peter Ginz, a 14-year-old artist who died in Auschwitz. A replica of one of his sketches, a close-up view of the moon's surface, was among the treasured artifacts carried into space by the late astronaut Ilan Ramon aboard the space shuttle Columbia.

Survivors and their famillies light the six memorial candles.
[Jennifer Paquette photo]

The painting was particularly poignant for Ramon, as his mother is an Auschwitz survivor who later settled in Israel.

In his talk, Romem drew parallels between Jewish resistance during the Shoah and modern forms of resistance against anti-Semitism, including visiting Israel and making aliyah. "The whole country is inspiring," he said.

Calling Israel a "pioneer in the war against terrorism," Romem said "Israel is our response to all our enemies. They all try to exterminate the Jewish people, but the Jewish people will exist forever… Israel will exist forever."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Megillat Hashoah writer takes part in scroll reading

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The author of *Megillat Hashoah: The Shoah Scroll* takes no credit for the elegantly written, moving Hebrew text that was read here on Yom Hashoah last week to commemorate victims of the Holocaust.

"It was written through me, at least the first draft, in less than six hours," said Avigdor Shinan, a professor of Hebrew literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Yom Hashoah 5763

Speaking as part of a Yom Hashoah commemoration ceremony at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, Shinan, who was born in Prague in 1947, said he dedicated the scroll to his parents' families who perished in the Holocaust.

As a teenager during the war crimes trial of Adolf Eichmann in the early 1960s, Shinan "felt for the first time part of this suffering nation," but he said it took 40 years for those feelings to crystallize into the recently written text.

The scroll, a joint project of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem, was translated into English by New York liturgist Rabbi Jules Harlow.

Beth David member Alex Eisen, a Holocaust survivor, was the driving force behind the project. Rabbi Philip Scheim, the congregation's spiritual leader, joined Eisen in taking the idea to the Rabbinical Assembly in 2000.

The key to Jewish survival, said Rabbi Scheim, "has no doubt been the determination of Jews of every generation to ensure there would always be new generations who would study and transmit our sacred texts." The new scroll brings to Jewish ritual events of the Holocaust "that we can never allow the world to forget," he added.

"Unfortunately, some people have forgotten," said Israel's consul general, Meir Romem. "We all have to fight to make this planet a better place for all people."

Although the scroll was dedicated at Beth David last November as part of Holocaust Education Week, it was published only recently and was read this year in synagogues and public gatherings around the world, according to a press release from the Schechter Institute.

The evening before his arrival in Toronto, Shinan read from the scroll in Jerusalem.

In Toronto, he read from the first chapter of six, each commemorating one million of the Jews who perished. The question "Why?" is asked in each chapter, said Shinan, but no answer is offered. All answers would "do an injustice or border on blasphemy," he said.

Other participants in the program included Cantors Aaron Bensoussan, Marshall Loomer, Louis Danto and Benjamin Maissner, Rabbis Lawrence Pinsker and Howard Morrison, as well as Paul Kochberg, president of United Synagogue Canadian Region, and the Renanim Vocal Youth Ensemble directed by Susan Michaels.

Holocaust survivors and their families were among those who lit memorial candles.

Excerpts from Megillat Hashoah

At first I still asked "Why?" Why me? Why us? Why now? But I stopped asking. The question is more painful when there is no answer.

Tonight they will take all of us to another location. This is what the Kapo told us, and she did not add another word, but her face was gloomy. I am writing all of this on scraps of paper. And if a human being should ever find them, perhaps he will have the strength to ask for a reason why there was no

• • •

For these do I weep, for infants who never learned to say "Mommy," for boys and girls whose youth was stolen from them, who withered before coming to blossom; for young men and women who never were blessed beneath the wedding canopy, for the elderly denied the privilege of a gracious old age; for the orchestras and for the music, and for all the world's beauty whose rainbow of colors was lost, replaced by only brown and gray and black. For all these do I weep.

• • •

Time will tell what we have learned; only time will reveal whether we truly have listened to the voice of the blood of the slaughtered crying out from the earth.

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Warsaw fighters recalled at shul ceremony

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Mourning and remembrance were central to a Yom Hashoah ceremony at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue last week, but it was also an occasion to reflect on the courage of those who took part in the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and a forum to pay tribute to the heroism of the Jewish people.

"The Warsaw Ghetto uprising gave courage and inspiration to underground fighters everywhere," Prof. Adam Fuerstenberg of the Holocaust Centre of Toronto told a large crowd at the shul.

Yom Hashoah 5763

"Fighters tried to protect and save as many non-combatants as they could. Yet for themselves, they only asked for a weapon and a chance to avenge [the murder] of their families."

Fuerstenberg recalled that the Nazis entered the Warsaw Ghetto on the first day of Passover 60 years ago to round up what was supposed to be the last transport of Jews to death camps.

"Imagine the German surprise when they were met with Molotov cocktails... and bullets," Fuerstenberg said.

The ghetto was eventually set ablaze by the Nazis. Fuerstenberg quoted an uprising leader who described the fighters as dying "an honourable death, as befits an ancient and heroic people."

The ceremony, sponsored by the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association (CHRA), included the Associated Hebrew Day Schools choir, which sang several songs including *Es Brent*, *Ani Maamin* and *Milchama Ha'Achrona*.

Several memorial candles were also lit.

Shaarei Tefillah's Rabbi Moshe Stern also trumpeted the theme of Jewish courage and heroism, but not the kind demonstrated in battle. Rather, he spoke of the courage Jews have shown by rebuilding Jewish life after destruction.

He recalled how after 24,000 Jewish scholars under the tutelage of Rabbi Akiva died 2,000 years ago, the rabbi chose to re-establish a yeshiva.

"This was unbelievable fortitude and courage... to rebuild the hope of the Jewish people," Rabbi Stern said. "He was able to see good even in the negative."

Rabbi Stern noted that the presence of the children's choir at last week's event symbolized that Jewish life has indeed been rebuilt and will continue.

While speakers noted that the disturbing resurgence in anti-Semitism hung over this year's Yom Hashoah observances, all mentioned that the existence of a strong State of Israel is vital for the well-being of the Jewish people.

"Today we are fortunate to have our own country," said Israeli consul Zehavit Ben Hillel. "Israel is a democracy in a sea of oppressive totalitarian regimes."

Arnold Friedman, a survivor and president of the CHRA, concluded the ceremony by echoing Ben Hillel's point.

"As long as there is a strong Israel, there will be no Auschwitz," Friedman said.

"Nobody will defend Jews like the Jews themselves."

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www.baycrest.org

Family and Community Hotline at **(416) 785-2500, ext. 4444**

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Because of the extremely serious nature of SARS, we must remain vigilant in taking appropriate precautions to protect our environment.

We continue to screen everyone who enters Baycrest and ensure they follow infection control rules once inside. The screening and infection control precautions are two of the most important defences we have to keep SARS out of Baycrest.

It has truly been a team effort that has helped protect Baycrest from SARS – and that team includes our community.

Thank you!

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Greater Toronto Area

Volunteers collect clothes, toys for needy Israelis

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

People from all parts of the community came together before Passover to volunteer their time and energy to collect 1,000 bags of clothing, linens and toys for needy families in Israel.

The ongoing mitzvah project has certainly grown from its modest roots. It was conceived and spearheaded by Ellie Korenblum 18 years ago after the death of her father Henry Korenblum, when she and here family decided to send his clothes to Israel to be distributed to needy people and new immigrants.

The letters of gratitude they received afterward indicated there was a need for such an effort.

Over the years, starting with just a handful of volunteers, she and others have collected clothing and toys sent them to Israel with people travelling to the Jewish state.

In Israel, the clothing is sold by other volunteers at very low prices or given away to the poor at Beged Yad Leyad stores affiliated with Yad Eliezer.

Korenblum says the philosophy of the *gemachs* (thrift shops) is to not make the client feel that he or she is receiving charity.

Two years ago, the project really took off when Naomi Pinczower assumed the task of promoting the project to day schools and Philip Davidovits offered his garage for storage between shipments. With their efforts, thousands of bags have since been collected and shipped in 40-foot containers.

Monica Fuchs and her two children drop off clothing to be sent to Israel.

Korenblum said the recent Passover collection of clothing and toys was "overwhelming."

Helen Cooper – who chairs B'nai Brith's Heart to Heart project and who is active with Kids For Kids, which helps children suffering trauma as a result of the intifadah – says the toys are distributed to children with cancer and others recovering in Israeli hospitals and other facilities.

At the end of the Hadassah-WIZO Bazaar last October, Cooper and 30 volunteers – many of whom were students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) – packed up unsold clothing and sent them to Israel.

"The community's co-operation for the Passover shipment was exhilarating," Korenblum said. "There were solid lines of cars moving slowly along Glen Park Avenue to where the 40-foot container was parked."

Among the volunteers helping to load the container were students from Yeshiva Darchei Torah, Ulpanat Orot, Bais Yaakov, Yeshiva Gdola and Yeshivat Or Chaim.

Korenblum said many more volunteers are needed to load the next shipment on Sunday, June 1. She said high school students who volunteer can count their hours toward their community service credit.

She said the project's only expenses are for shipping and Israeli VAT tax. "Many individuals and community organizations have generously contributed money to offset these costs and we are very grateful."

Korenblum has received many letters thanking the Toronto community for their generosity.

One said: "In these difficult economic and social times in Israel, you have all truly made the quality difference for many families."

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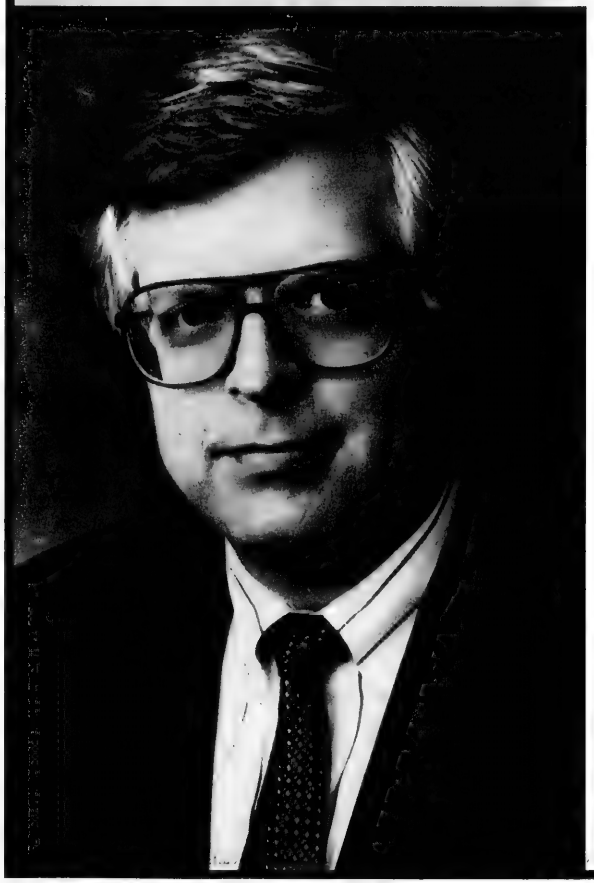

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The call of holy days

By RABBI LEIGH LERNER

Parshat Emor tells us, "These are the seasons of the Eternal One that you shall call sacred." Sometimes the simplest part of a sentence has the most meaning. What does it mean to call something sacred?

It's a good start to call something holy, but names aren't enough. When something is holy in name only, it doesn't touch us deeply.

So it is with Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, which fell this week and which some streams of Judaism have put on the sacred calendar. We can say that Yom Ha'atzmaut is a Jewish festival, but unless we mark it as such, unless we invest it with ceremony and actions that speak of our resolve to maintain and support the State of Israel, Yom Ha'atzmaut will remain for Diaspora Jews a day that is called a festival, but on which nothing happens.

Associating a mitzvah with a festival truly makes it a holy day.

Therefore, it is essential that we begin to develop mitzvot for Yom Ha'atzmaut: to attend a community rally or program, to give tzedakah, to pray in services for Israel's welfare, to call a relative in Israel on that day, to resolve to make a trip to Eretz Yisrael.

"To call" may also refer to the concept of shouting or crying aloud, to raise a voice. A Jew who is willing to raise a voice about Shabbat and the holidays may be demonstrating pride in them publicly. We should not feel that we have to hide our Jewishness. We have a right to our Jewish heritage and a right to be public about it, if we wish. And sometimes in life, we have to be public about it to defend ourselves.

Last year's Yom Ha'atzmaut rally in Montreal filled downtown streets in a remarkable show of solidarity, a public demonstration at a time when Israel especially needed to know that we care. Across Canada, the public solidarity that our communities show for the State of Israel through peaceful, enthusiastic and heartfelt gatherings and demonstrations makes an impression on those around us.

These vital rallies of thousands of Jewish souls on a key day in our contemporary Jewish calendar speak volumes, not only about what matters to us, but about the citizens who compose our community – we are activists, yet we are creators of shalom. We should also show our Jewish commitment by attending public services of worship throughout the calendar year.

The verb "to call" may also refer to the idea of convening or gathering a group. Moses declares the sacred occasions to be Shabbat, Pesach, the upcoming festival of Shavuot – which marks the giving of the Torah – as well as Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot.

How wonderful that we read of these days at the edge of summer, a time when we're inclined to disperse to golf courses, tennis courts, restaurant terraces and parks. Emor reminds us that even in summer, there will be Shabbat every week, a day to call the family together for prayer and rest of a different, meaningful nature. And there will yet be Shavuot, whose great commandments overarch our lives, and we must make sure to reserve it on our calendar for family.

We cannot forget our day-to-day actions and how they affect those around us, or else we'll have even more to worry about when Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur arrive. And we must not let the lazy summer heat keep us from attending to our affairs, so that the harvest in autumn will sustain us when we are called to gather for Sukkot.

Rabbi Lerner is spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal.

A tempting slippery slope

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

Probably the most controversial philosopher in the world today is a mild-mannered, bespectacled son of Holocaust survivors who is a professor of bioethics at Princeton University's Center for Human Values. His advocacy of infanticide, euthanasia and – more recently – bestiality, has made headlines, and within academic circles anyway, his views have led to impassioned debates about ethics in the modern world.

His popularization of the term "speciesism" and the contention that humans and animals are of identical moral standing has led to greater visibility for the animal rights movement. He has been described as "Herod's propaganda chief" as well as an apologist for "the culture of death." His name is Peter Singer.

The paradox of Singer's biography cannot fail to elicit surprise. While his parents, Cora and Ernst Singer, fled Vienna at the time of the Nazi Anschluss, almost his entire extended family were killed. Yet the strict utilitarian bent of Singer's thinking leads to the following statement with respect to a significantly handicapped newborn: "We should put aside feelings based on the small, helpless and – sometimes – cute appearance of human infants… If we can put aside these emotionally moving but strictly irrelevant aspects of the killing of a baby, we can see that the grounds for not killing persons do not apply to newborn infants."

The irony of this posture against the tragic shadow of Singer's own family history is so severe as to provoke the question as to whether Singer's philosophy is a deliberately planned attempt to distinguish "acceptable death" from unthinkable extermination.

Utilitarianism was founded by Jeremy Bentham in the late 18th century and modified by John Stuart Mill shortly thereafter. It is a theory that holds "the good" is based on the most pleasurable consequences for the largest group of people, though, of course, what constitutes "pleasure" becomes prone to subjective wrangling. Unbreakable moral rules figure nowhere in this result-oriented universe. "Are we happy yet?" would be the dumbed down credo of a utilitarian.

But Singer is no fool, nor is he a racist. He is entirely cognizant of the repercussions of his positions. As an atheist, he sees the development of human morality strictly in terms of evolutionary biology and cultural relativism. Moral claims thus have no objective status, as Singer argues repeatedly: "So ethics loses its air of mystery. Its principles are not laws written up in heaven. Nor are they absolute truths about the universe known by intuition. The principles of ethics come from our own nature as social, reasoning beings."

One wonders at Singer's faith in systematic reason and also at how he understands the proliferation of nonrational behaviour that seems omnipresent in our world today.

But as a teacher of Jewish ethics, my interest in Singer is clearly neither neutral nor unbiased. I am increasingly aware of a shift in my students toward an acceptance of relativistic ethics. Though many would still hold out against some of Singer's more radical formulations, such as the acceptability of certain forms of infanticide or "intimacy" with animals, the slippery slope of non-divine-based morality is a slide that many Jewish students and their parents are increasingly tempted to take.

What lies at the bottom of this post-Enlightenment ride remains to be seen, though readers of Peter Singer are offered one chilling version of such a "moral" future.

Jewish Life

An outstanding philosopher

***Communings of the Spirit: The Journals of Mordecai M. Kaplan Volume 1 1913-1934*, edited by Mel Scult Wayne State University Press.**

At his death in 1938 at the age of 102, Mordecai Kaplan, founder of the Reconstructionist Movement and one of the outstanding Jewish philosophers of our era, could look back on an extraordinarily active and fruitful life.

Books
Bernard Baskin

As rabbi, teacher, writer and lecturer he was an original and creative bridge-builder between Judaism and the advanced thought of the day, between the Jew of yesterday and the Jew of tomorrow. He refuted the "intellectual" who glibly asserted that we have outgrown the tenets of Judaism as well as the "traditionalist" who believed that Judaism can remain static and immobile while life is in constant flux.

Starting in 1913 and continuing until the late 1970s, Kaplan kept a diary or journal that reached astonishing length: 27 volumes, each with 350 to 400 handwritten pages. The present volume of over 500 pages represents only about 20 per cent of the whole and covers a 20-year period from 1913 to 1934.

All of the author's major religious ideas, problems with his congregants, social events, encounters with eminent Jewish personalities, daily life at the Jewish Theological Seminary, the core of his weekly sermons and numerous other topics are frankly set down in these diary entries. For anyone interested in the workings of a highly original mind, an indomitable personality and an often troubled man, this volume makes for addictive reading.

Holding and teaching unorthodox ideas in a largely Conservative seminary, often confronted by disapproving colleagues, he was understandably depressed. He had few intimates with whom he could share his inner life.

"I have been very much in the dumps of late," he wrote. "The longer I live the more alone I feel. I have not a single friend or companion in the world with whom I can share my interests and problems… In all the years that I have worked in the field of Judaism I have not succeeded in finding anybody who would be willing to collaborate with me on any project for the advancement or reconstruction of Judaism."

It is no surprise that when Rabbi Stephen Wise invited him to the newly organized Jewish Institute of Religion, Kaplan was very tempted to leave the seminary. Rabbi Wise extended the invitation a number of times. In 1927, Kaplan finally accepted and tendered his resignation. There was, however, such a great uproar from the rabbinical students and from the seminary alumni that Kaplan decided to stay.

All his life, Kaplan struggled with the idea of God that was consistent with reality—as he understood it—and more in keeping with the actual thinking of most Jews.

It was a ceaseless quest. "I know very well what I mean by God. God to me is the process that makes for creativity, integration, love and justice. The function of prayer is to render us conscious of that process. I am not troubled by the fact that God is not perfect. He would have to be static to be perfect… Nothing dynamic can be perfect since to be dynamic implies to be in the state of becoming. But how shall I relate all these ideas to the problem of Jewish religion?"

Often dismissed as a humanist and outmoded thinker, Kaplan still challenges Jews who are alert to tough theological problems and concerned about the creative renewal of the Jewish community.

Mel Scult's introduction is informative and his annotations are helpful. He has edited an invaluable work. We look forward to forthcoming volumes.

Yiddishe Mamas – Part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

"My Yiddishe mama – I miss her more than ever now/ My Yiddishe mama – I long to kiss her wrinkled brow/ I long to hold her hand once more as in days gone by/ And ask her to forgive me for things I did that made her cry."

– *My Yiddishe Mama* (1925), Ben Pollack and Jack Yellen **[http: //henk brouwer.tripod.com/ fuld02.htm]**

A lot of people will think of and thank their Yiddishe mamas this Sunday. Although Mother's Day and its greeting card and flowers juggernaut are not a Jewish creation, now is as good a time as ever to celebrate our Jewish mothers – and visit some lovely sites on the World Wide Web.

CLAL-The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership mentions that "we've been honouring our mothers [and fathers] since Mt. Sinai. So why should we care about Mother's Day?" They point out that Jewish tradition is filled with reverence for mothers all the way from the story of the matriarchs to King Solomon's Proverbs: "My child… do not walk away from the wisdom of your mother, for it will be a sign of grace upon your head." (Proverbs 1:8-9) **[http://www.belie net.com/story/23/story_2370_1.html]**

That being the case, the rabbis at CLAL have created a "Jewish Mother's Day Card" that explores how to mark this secular holiday "Jewishly":

- Meditate or reflect for a moment on each of the following words and how they connect you to your mother: protection, independence, guidance, nurturing.
- In what ways could you forgive your mother?
- In addition to the flowers, dinner, or phone call, write a letter or send a card, which conveys what the relationship has meant to you. [**http:// www.clalrabbis.net/mo thers_day_card. htm**]

Liba Pearson has a bit of disconnect in her life. She writes at Aish.com, "Mother's Day is *not* a Jewish holiday; it's a brilliantly contrived marketing tool. But try telling that to my mother." Pearson says a day for mothers really isn't such a bad idea, "but *every* day should really be Mother's Day… It's a strange truth that parents always love their kids more than the kids love their parents. They put so much into us, give us so much, that the bond they form with us is far deeper than anything we could feel back. It seems we can never appreciate them enough. I still think that Mother's Day was created by Hallmark. But you know what? Mothers – mine first among them – deserve it, and how." [**http://www.aish. com/family/mensch/Real_Jewish_Moth ers.asp**]

When people claim that Mother's Day is not a Jewish holiday, they aren't completely correct. According to Eliezer Segal, a sort of Mother's Day is observed in Israel on the 11th of the month of Cheshvan in the fall. That day is the traditional date of the death of the matriarch Rachel. Segal investigates what it is about Rachel's life that embodies the Jewish ideal of motherhood, – she who "for much of her married life had to resign herself to watching her sister Leah bear Jacob many children, until she finally gave birth to Joseph." [**http:// www.ucalgary.ca/~el segal/Shokel/910501_Mothers_Day.html**]

Inda Schaenen wants to be a Yiddishe mama. The problem is that she had no role model, since she grew up with a Jewish mother not a Yiddishe mama. ("Her body was Jean Naté and hair dye, razors and eyebrow tweezers. Our kitchen did not reek of the yeasty, buttery, beefy fumes of daily cookery. It smelled clean.") To fill in the gap, Schaenen has found someone else to look up to: Molly Goldberg and the wisdom she imparts in Schaenen's dog-eared copy of the *The Molly Goldberg Jewish Cookbook*. As Schaenen explains, the cookbook "became a kind of lodestone for me: If I cooked with enough butter, salt, sour cream and chicken fat, I could land myself and my family in the warm, loving, safe world of Molly Goldberg." Unfortunately, Schaenen has had a bit of falling out with her newfound "mama." But you'll have to read her article at Salon.com to find out what happened. **[http://www.salon.com/mwt/feature/ 1999/03/30feature.html]**

Finally, there is Ellen O'Brien who has a different kind of dilemma. Ellen's mother isn't a Yiddishe mama. Actually, Ellen's mother isn't even Jewish. She just acts as if she is. Ellen was OK with her mother's phone calls to tell her that it was raining and her warnings not to wear an underwire bra to the airport. Things started to get odd when her mother signed Ellen up at a mostly-Jewish dating agency. [**http://makeashort erlink.com/?D24722C54**]

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@ rogers.com.

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Jewish Toronto

Ontario private school tax credit back on track

Photo courtesy of CJC Ontario Region

(L-R) Ed Morgan, Chair of CJC Ontario Region; David Young, Ontario Minister of Municipal Affairs; Tina Molinari, Associate Minister of Municipal Affairs; and Muhammad D. Khalid of the Islamic Society of North America, joined then-Finance Minister Jim Flaherty (centre) at a reception in 2002 to celebrate the new Ontario tax credit.

For the first time ever, parents of Jewish day school students in Ontario took advantage of the new provincial tax credit originally announced by former Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty in the May 2002 provincial budget.

This year, parents were entitled to a maximum deduction of $700 per child registered at a day school. By 2006, this five-year phase-in program will provide parents with a maximum tax credit of $3,500 per child.

"This is further illustration of the absolute justice in this tax credit which rectifies years of injustice towards our faith-based schools," says Marshall Kesten, Chair, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education. "Citizens of Ontario who opt for private faith-based education, now enjoy some of the benefits of the taxes they pay toward provincial education. This is very exciting."

Ontario Premier Ernie Eves froze the credits at 10 per cent in the June, 2002 budget, saying that the province could not afford to increase them as was originally planned.

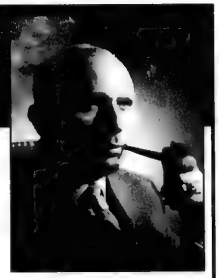
However, on March 21 of this year, Eves announced that the five-year program was back on.

"When the government imposed a moratorium a year ago, it promised us that it would be a short-lived, one-year freeze, and it lived up to its promise," says Ed Morgan, Chair, Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region.

"We're very pleased that the government is back on track. Within five years, this tax credit will be fully phased in and will provide $3,500 worth of tax relief to every Jewish Day School parent in Ontario," he said.

legacy of life

Joe Godfrey 1920 – 1998



Joe Godfrey spent 50 years at the top of his profession, earning six Canadian Housing Design Council awards. His prominence led him into the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association's Hall of Fame in 1986.

But Joe didn't just build houses. Rather, he built communities — subdivisions for the general population and synagogues and schools for his beloved Jewish community.

He was the force behind Beth El Congregation, starting it in the basement of one of his apartment buildings before quickly opening a Sunday school to give the *shul's* youth a Jewish head start. When Beth El merged with Temple Emanu-El in 1969, Joe stayed involved, welcoming visiting Rabbis and scholars into his home while regularly attending services and bible classes. He was a major supporter of Associated Hebrew Schools and Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), proudly carpooling his three children and their cousins to Associated almost every day. He generously backed many Jewish charities including UJA Federation and Jerusalem's Bible Lands Museum.

"Being Jewish was fundamental to Dad's life," recalls his son Norman, who followed his father's example by involving himself in many UJA Federation initiatives. "It was an integral part of who he was, and through his example our entire family has developed strong attachments to synagogue life, to Jewish education, and to the Jewish community."

Joe was born in Zbarasz, Poland, in 1920. His father, a furniture maker, was an observant Jew who instilled a strong sense of Jewish identity into his three children. After years of *cheder*, Joe began studying to be an agricultural engineer but had to give up his studies when war broke out. In 1939, along with his brother Nathan, he joined the Russian army as a Polish officer and secured himself a job building bridges for the army's engineering corps.

But with the Russians marching into Poland at the end of the war and his parents killed, Joe knew it was time to get out. One day while on a military base, Joe flashed his Polish engineering insignia at a soldier guarding an airplane and was in the sky well before the soldier realized the badge wasn't the Russian military intelligence symbol he had thought it was. Back on the ground, Joe met a Jewish doctor who helped him escape to Germany. In 1948, Joe set sail for Canada, settling in Toronto and working as a carpenter before opening his own construction business. It still flourishes today, run by Joe's two sons, under the banner Yorkwood Homes Ltd.

Joe married his wife Rose, whom he met on the boat. Together they raised three children — Sima, Norman and Myer — and *kvelled* over their seven grandchildren. They loved to travel and did it often, always seeking out Jewish life in every city they visited. It made for interesting experiences, like the time they went to *shul* in Spain and ended up joining the *Bar Mitzvah* celebrations of the son of the United States Air Force commander. Or the time they noticed that the Japanese woman behind the desk at their hotel in Japan had a Hebrew name. Turns out she had married an Israeli but had moved back to Japan after the Gulf War. Joe and Rose spent the entire holiday talking to her in Hebrew, with the rest of the tourists in their group thinking the Godfreys were fluent in Japanese.

"Joe embraced Judaism because it had been taken away from him during the war," says Rose. "It's the reason he looked for it everywhere he went."

That strikes a chord with Gerald Halbert, Joe's longtime friend and dentist.

"Joe saw first hand what happened to our people and he didn't want to lose any more Jews through assimilation," says Gerald, who recalls Joe's joy at seeing Israeli children at the Canada Centre in Metulla, so full of life. "That's why Jewish education was so important to him. He felt that by teaching them about their heritage, their faith would stay solid."

When he wasn't building or traveling, Joe could probably be found at his cottage, on his rowboat, reading a book or spending time with friends. Or he would be at *shul*, debating with the rabbi or his fellow worshippers about the state of the world or the state of the *kiddush*. Or thinking about new ways to assist Toronto's Jewish community. Today, the Joseph Godfrey Memorial Fund at UJA Federation's Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto directs funds to meet important community needs.

"No matter what went wrong, Joe would always shake it off and say, 'Let's enjoy what we've got,'" recalls Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld of Temple Emanu-El. "He often quoted an old proverb: The liveliest fish swims against the current. Joe lived by that. And if there's one thing he taught us, it's this: May it never be said merely that life was good to us, but that we were good to life."

Legacy of Life is a presentation of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto to honour the memory of those who have made an exceptional contribution to our community.

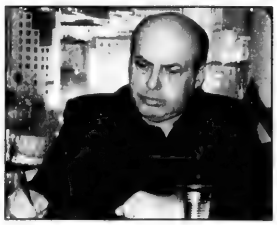
Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto UJA Federation

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Israel and World Jewry share same fate: Sharansky

The worldwide forces that are questioning Israel's legitimacy are also attacking Jews everywhere, warned Israeli cabinet minister Natan Sharansky, in a recent satellite address from Jerusalem to a group of UJA Federation donors.

"There is virtually no difference between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, between those who apply a double standard to Israel and those who apply a double standard to Jews," said the Israeli government's primary liaison with the Diaspora.



Natan Sharansky

Sharansky cited dozens of protests around the world against the Iraq War as proof of the alliance between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. "We saw," he said, "how demonstrations against the war turned into demonstrations against America, then against Israel and then into small pogroms."

The minister also praised the U.S.-led war on Saddam Hussein's regime and directed a large dose of criticism against Saudi Arabia, which he called "the ideological base of terror," through its financing of the Muslim philosophy of *Wahabism*, which has spawned radical Islamic movements.

"America did a very important service for the struggle against terror," said Sharansky in strongly endorsing the U.S. war against Iraq. "I hope that the world will see very shortly that the Arabs deserve democracy as much as the Jews."

Sharansky's sentiments were echoed by UJA Federation Campaign 2004 Chairs Allan Silber and Richard Venn.

"The poisonous combination of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism is spreading around the world," cautioned Venn.

"The Jewish world is under attack," Silber added.

UJA Federation Campaign 2004 is promising a Global Jewish Action Plan to assist Israel's weakened social service network; combat anti-Israel hatred, which is tinged with anti-Semitism; and help a new Jewish generation deal with the dangerous forces they face in a changing world.

The luncheon for UJA Federation's International Leadership Reunion donors, at which Sharansky spoke, was chaired by Irving Granovsky, Saul Koschitzky and Barry Sherman.

Toronto remembers on Yom Hashoah

More than 2,000 members of Toronto's Jewish community attended an emotional *Yom Hashoah* (Holocaust Remembrance Day) commemoration service at Earl Bales Park last week, the largest single-day gathering outside of Israel.

The ceremony included six candle-lightings, one for each million Jews killed by the Nazis, with the final lighting going to Andrew Benyei, who also received a "Righteous Among the Nations" award in memory of his late father, Laszlo. Andrew was presented with his father's posthumous award by Israeli Consul General, Meir Romem, who spoke about the importance of this year's commemoration service in light of the worldwide resurgence of anti-Semitism.

"Every Jew and every person in the world must remember the Holocaust forever," Romem told the capacity crowd. "Unfortunately today, especially in the last two or three years, anti-Semitism is on the rise, not only in Europe and Israel, but even here, in this great country. We must fight today against anti-Semitism and keep strong ties with the State of Israel, which is always the best way of ensuring Jewish survival. Israel is our response to those who tried to exterminate us. The Jewish people and the land of Israel will live forever."

Andrew Benyei is flanked by his mother Eva and his wife Judie at last week's Yom Hashoah service at Earl Bales Park.

During the Holocaust, Laszlo Benyei, a non-Jewish Budapest native, saved a young Jewish girl, Eva Kerty, from the Nazis and then married her to provide her with a foolproof identity. Laszlo died of cancer four years after Andrew's birth, at age 34.

"This is very emotional for me, and all of us," said Andrew who attended the event with mother Eva, now 81, and his wife Judie. "This is in recognition of my father, without whom I obviously wouldn't be here tonight. Many other family members also wouldn't be with us today if not for my father."

Also addressing the crowd was Nechemia Wurman a 76-year-old man who, after escaping from a Nazi slave labour camp, joined the Partisan Resistance Fighters.

"The question I am asked more than any other is 'how could the Jews allow themselves to have been destroyed without resistance,'" said Wurman. "I tell them that, despite so many obstacles and limited resources, Jews did resist. We operated out of ghettos, even in the worst hell of Auschwitz and Treblinka, but we did fight as much as humanly possible."

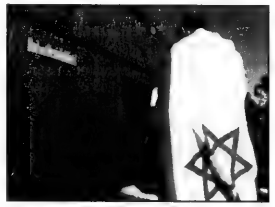
The commemoration service also included emotional musical presentations performed by grade 9-12 students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Sponsors of the evening's service included: The UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and Holocaust Centre of Toronto; B'nai Brith Canada; Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association; Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region; Canadian Society for Yad Vashem; Consulate General of Israel; General Wingate Branch 256 Royal Canadian Legion; Hillel of Greater Toronto; Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada; Jewish War Veterans of Canada Toronto Post; Toronto Board of Rabbis; Toronto Council of Hazzanim; Toronto Vaad Ha-Rabbanim.

March of the Living: 'an incredibly inspiring experience'

Thousands of Jewish teens — from Canada and countries around the world — are currently bringing to a close an experience that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives, as the annual March of the Living program wraps up.

The March of the Living, sponsored in Toronto by UJA Federation, brings Jewish youth from around the world to Poland to tour Holocaust sites and march the three-kilometre trek from Auschwitz to Birkenau, the largest concentration camp complex built by the Nazis during World War II.



All participants take part in educational seminars specifically created for the March of the Living, designed to teach the teens about the Holocaust, Israel, anti-Semitism, the rise of Nazi Germany and much more.

Following their trip to Poland, the Canadian teens joined thousands of other M.O.L. participants and Israeli teens in Israel to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut — Israel's 55th Independence Day — as part of a colourful and exciting finale.

In Poland, the Canadian contingent, consisting of approximately 100 teens, 25 from Toronto, was given the honour of leading this year's march.

Each participant marched the three-kilometre route hand-in-hand and in silence with other Jewish teenagers, representing 30 nations, as a tribute to all the victims of the Holocaust.

"It [the March] was just the most incredibly inspiring experience of my life," said Toronto's Yonit Nisan, 19, in an interview from Poland. "Over the years, the Holocaust was always naturally a part of me like my hair or eye colour, and I assumed I knew all there was to know about it. But, once I got here that changed dramatically. To see and touch history, seeing what they saw all those years ago, really brings home the reality of the horrors they endured. Now we must go to Israel and celebrate her birthday, especially in light of what we saw in Poland."

"Everything we've seen and done in Poland makes me want to get to Israel that much sooner, because it all makes you appreciate the importance of Israel even more," said Brian Fishbein, an 18-year-old Torontonian. "One thing that was truly amazing was when we *davened* the other day in this small community called Kazimercj Dolnys. We were in the cemetery, surrounded by tombstones, some dating back to the 1700s. Seeing all these amazing sights, visiting the concentration camps and the cemeteries, you really get a sense and an appreciation of what it must have been like here."

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Greater Toronto Area

Brampton shul celebrates its 25th anniversary

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

What started 25 years ago as a get-together for Jewish women living in the Brampton area has evolved into the community's first and only Jewish congregation.

It was at that meeting, at the home of Brampton resident Gail Grossman, that the seeds for Temple Har Tikvah's precursor, the North Peel Jewish Association, were planted.

Prior to the temple's recent anniversary celebration, founding members Lawrie and Charron Bloom and Maureen Rich said that the dozen or so people who got together that evening in 1977 were anxious to create a sense of Jewish identity in the north Peel area.

Rabbi Nancy Morris leads a Havdalah service at Temple Har Tikvah in Brampton.

"We started a Hebrew school and a play group, and we celebrated Jewish holidays together. Within a couple of years, the group grew to 50 families," said Lawrie Bloom, longtime president of the synagogue, who has also acted as lay leader and cantor.

In the early 1980s, the association affiliated itself with the Reform movement, and Temple Har Tikvah was created. "The name means mountain of hope. We were climbing a mountain, and we were hoping to succeed," said Bloom.

The congregation, which moved into its present location, a 130-year-old building on Torbram Road, in 1983, last year hired its second full-time spiritual leader, Rabbi Nancy Morris. The temple's first rabbi, Larry Lander, moved to London, Ont. several years ago, and in between, the congregation was served by a number of student rabbis.

Rabbi Morris, who had been one of the students, said that although Har Tikvah's numbers have never been huge – there are now 35 families – "I have often heard members say they could not imagine joining anywhere else.

"They like the atmosphere of a smaller congregation, even if it means they have to work harder. Everyone here has to pitch in and contribute to the work that keeps the congregation financially viable. That seems to enhance rather than hinder their feelings of attachment."

There is a family feeling among the congregants, said Bloom. "If there is a simchah or a tragedy, everyone is there. We have to be committed to the congregation in order to keep it going.

"When the temple building was under construction, some members laid down flooring and built cupboards and one built the memorial board."

Temple membership has in the past reached 60 families, said Bloom. "Some new families have joined, but some have left the area. The core group of us work hard to keep it going. Parents who are able act as bar mitzvah tutors and teach Hebrew school."

In a small congregation, he said, members have a different appreciation of what a rabbi is all about. "When I went to Hebrew school, we only saw the rabbi when we were in trouble.

"Here, the rabbi is part of the everyday life of the temple. She feels a strong connection with the congregants. Our children feel close enough to pick up the phone and call her," said Bloom.

Despite being the only Jewish congregation in the area, they have always felt part of the Brampton community at large, he said.

"We had a couple of incidents in the late '80s, in which vandals painted anti-Semitic slogans on the building. Some of our neighbours sent us money to help us clean up the building. They rallied around us."

In the past, he said, temple members have run an Israeli pavilion in the multicultural event Carabram, and they have been involved in the mayor's race relations committee.

"We're also taking part in the upcoming Open Doors Brampton, in which 30 historical, cultural and religious buildings will be open to the community to see what they're all about."

Future plans, said Bloom, include developing a 1.67 acre lot that the temple owns. "We are looking at a real success story."

Feature

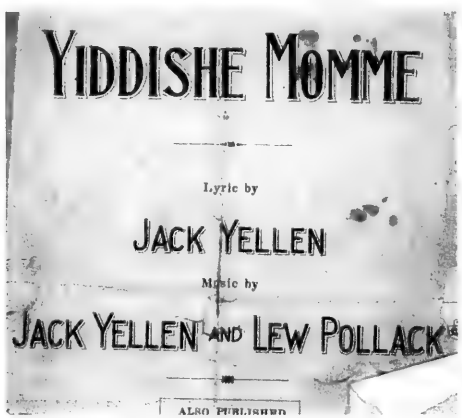
Remember *Yiddish Momme* this Mother's Day

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

"My Yiddishe Momme I need her more than ever now
My Yiddishe Momme, I'd love to kiss that wrinkled brow
I long to hold her hands once more as in days gone by
And ask her to forgive me for things I did that made her cry
How few were her pleasures she never cared for fashion's styles
Her jewels and treasures she had them in her babies' smiles
Oh I know that I owe what I am today, to that dear little lady, so old and gray."

The song *Yiddish Momme*, written in 1925 by Jack Yellen with Lew Pollack, in memory of Yellen's own mother, embodies a warmth and yearning that resonate in the soul to this day.

Born July 6, 1892, in Razcki, Poland, Yellen lived until 1991, a span of 99 years. Arriving in the United States with his family at the age of five, he began writing words and music while still at school in



Buffalo and later worked as a reporter for a local newspaper. Bent on becoming a professional songwriter with a focus on lyrics, he moved to New York City. He served in the U.S. army during World War I.

Early in the Roaring Twenties he wrote *Down By The O-H-I-O* with Abe Olman. Collaborating with composer Milton Ager, he penned such works as *Hard-Hearted Hannah, The Vamp From Savanah* and the popular *Ain't She Sweet?*

Their productive association continued when the advent of the talkies lured them to Hollywood. There they contributed words and music for numerous films, including Shirley Temple's *Captain January* and *Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm.*

Their bouncy *Happy Days Are Here Again* became the theme song for President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Democratic party as the nation emerged from the Depression under Roosevelt's New Deal. *Happy Days* was revived in a slow, non-political interpretation by Barbra Streisand in the 1963 release of her first album.

Yellen was also involved in the Broadway shows, George White's *Scandals* of 1935 and the 1943 *Ziegfeld Follies.*

But it was Sophie Tucker's riveting rendition of *Yiddishe Momme* that plucked the heartstrings of listeners from almost all backgrounds. Belle Baker, a contemporary of Tucker, invested *Yiddishe Momme* with no less fervour.

Once, when I heard Baker at the Towne Casino in Buffalo, she closed her show with *Yiddishe Momme*, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

After World War II, Yellen wrote *My Mother's Sabbath Candles* and Toronto's incredibly talented Barbara Gryfe, then 9, made the melody her own when she sang with intuitive *tam* (feeling, flavour):

"Among the smiles, among the tears, of my childhood's sweet and bitter years
There's picture that my mem'ry fondly frames and in it softly shine two tiny flames
My Mother's Sabbath Candles, that made our home so bright, that faithfully she lighted with a prayer each Friday night
And then around the table we gathered and we heard my father chant the Kiddush, his heart in every word.
Our humble home became a mansion in that mystic glow; our hearts were filled again with hopes and dreams of long ago.
Through all the tragic story of Israel's darkest nights, they've never dimmed the glory of my mother's Sabbath Lights."

Yellen, who had written both lyrics and music, declared that no one could sing *Sabbath Lights* like Gryfe and sent her a letter affirming, "You were wonderful. You are just naturally a professional. You've got something no one can give you. You have to be born with it — and you certainly were."

Over the decades, Yellen gauged the mood of the people, made them laugh and cry and just enjoy. He was one of the first members of ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers) and served on the board from 1951-69. Although much of his work was centred in New York City he often commuted to Buffalo and was active in that city's Jewish community throughout his career.

When he retired in the late 1940s to devote more time to his egg farm interests, it was a departure from his previous lifestyle, but he left a legacy noted for two exceptional tributes to mothers.

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Hillel of Greater Toronto is calling on all Jewish Alumni of the University of Toronto to identify with this initiative by becoming part of the upcoming alumni campaign.

A series of events directed at U of T Jewish Alumni will be held in the coming months to create a link between past and the future of Jewish student life at U of T.

To share any memorabilia of your campus years, or to assist in the campaign and help build the Jewish future at U of T, please contact Michelle at 416-785-1465 or

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UJA FEDERATION

Seniors Scene

Former butcher keeps knife sharp carving wood

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Master wood carver and violin maker Lewis Cohen is seen examining a violin. [Cynthia Gasner photo]

Master wood carver and violin maker, Lewis Cohen, 87, earned his living for many years as a butcher.

It doesn't matter if you are carving meat or wood, he says. "Your knife has to be sharp."

Cohen attended Central Technical School and wanted to become an electrical engineer, but his father, Jacob, insisted that he come to work for him in his butcher shop.

Since childhood, however, Cohen has spent his spare time working with wood. "I was always a perfectionist in wood." he says. "My lowest mark in woodworking at school was 100."

Now retired, Cohen teaches wood carving at Earl Bales Seniors Centre four mornings a week, and at the Bayview Community Centre on Thursday nights.

When he was eight years old, he started to take violin lessons and played at Massey Hall and other venues from the age of 10 until arthritis began to affect him in recent years.

"I bought my first violin in 1929. It was 200 years old and I paid $100 to repair it. That was one year's salary."

When he was 16, he met his wife-to-be, Zelda. They had six children, four boys and two girls. He proudly says he has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He gave his first violin to his daughter, Sandra Cohen, who plays the violin and the viola.

When his wife died in 1982, he was 67. He says he was filled with despair and stopped working.

The following year, he signed up for a violin-making course. To date, he has made seven violins and two violas; two other violins are in progress.

Cohen derives great joy from sharing his wood carving talent. When he speaks of his wood-carving students and their accomplishments, his face lights up and he becomes animated.

He also loves to share. He gives away hundreds of his small wood carvings, which he personally signs at the many shows he participates in throughout Ontario.

"I enjoy teaching and I don't want any money. I just get enjoyment from watching my students' progress and their accomplishments."

He adds that among wood carvers, men and women, young and old, there is an atmosphere of co-operation.

"I believe that I can make a wood carver out of anyone. All they have to do is what they are told."

He adds that what is important is not what he makes, "but how well I make it."

He likes to work on abstract carvings. "I use any kind of wood and carve whatever comes to my mind. And no two carvings are alike."

Cohen's pieces are in numerous public collections and six of the pieces are in the Windsor Museum of Wood.

INTERFACE PROGRAM: Bialik Hebrew Day School senior division has been participating in an ongoing community interface program, involving learning about the people of, and a sharing of experiences with, the Bernard Betel Centre, Reena Foundation, Ve'ahavta, Zareinu Educational Centre and Baycrest. Here a group of seniors from the Bernard Betel Centre is seen with their Grade 8 student hosts during a recent visit to Bialik.

On Campus

Student film follows the 'travels of a T-shirt'

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

If Naomi Parness has her way, not only will her 30-minute documentary garner top marks at Ryerson University, but it will also change the way the world understands the used-clothing industry.

Sounds like just another ambitious student, right? Hardly.

With *Ropa Americana* having been been screened last month at the prestigious New York International Independent Film and Video Festival and with its sale to the Documentary Channel, a Canadian digital cable station, as well as to the Costa Rican television channel Telekita, Parness' dream could come to fruition sooner than you might think.

"It's the story about the travels of a T-shirt," she says of the film she and her team of four created for her fourth-year practicum class in Ryerson's radio and television arts program, and that is being screened in Toronto this week.

Her group follows the shirt from the time it's donated to a charity in Toronto until it reaches the hands of a needy person in Costa Rica.

Contrary to popular belief, Parness says, the route is anything but straightforward.

In fact, her documentary exposes a multi-million dollar operation in which charities sell donated clothing to middlemen, who turn around and sell the pieces to local stores in the Third World. Ultimately, the clothing is sold to the people who were donors' intended recipients.

"Initially, it was shocking," says Parness, the movie's interviewer and producer. "We started to find reasons and explanations. There are costs, and clothes are still going to clothe someone."

The 22-year old says that if people have negative feelings about people profiting from charity, they can always donate their clothing directly to homeless people in Toronto.

Regardless, she says, her documentary is very objective and exposes important aspects of the industry that, after travelling to Costa Rica, she now understands more fully.

"We took this way beyond school [and] wanted it to be successful," says Parness, a Thornhill native and graduate of Thornlea Secondary School. "This was a major goal, we didn't think we could do it. It was a wonderful experience."

She says the idea to go to Costa Rica to see first-hand where the T-shirts go came about because the group wanted to "find out more.

"Once the project was started, it needed an end-stage," Parness says, adding that her executive producer, Monica Veiga, speaks Spanish.

Determined, the group raised $10,000, hooked up with an honest middleman, who bought T-shirts from the Toronto charity for 10 cents a pound and resold them to a store in Costa Rica for 50 cents a pound. Then they travelled to Central America.

"It's very different to shoot in another country. People don't embrace the camera [as in North America]," Parness says, adding that the most fascinating aspect of the project was interviewing the woman in Costa Rica who actually bought the donated shirt for the equivalent of $2 (Cdn).

Being in the purchaser's home was "weird," and "sort of surreal," she says.

"It didn't hit us until we got home. It was a big feeling of satisfaction."

Parness has a lot of experience in television. She spent two summers in New York City interning at CBS and NY1, a 24-hour local news network, and she is now one of the hosts of *Future Zone*, a weekly technology show on Rogers Television. But she says it was this project that finally helped her appreciate Ryerson's intensive program, and believes it provides opportunities that other schools don't.

The foursome hope to sell their movie internationally and teach people about an industry Parness describes as a "bittersweet reality."

Ropa Americana *is being screened May 8 at Revival, 783 College St. Doors open at 9 p.m. and admission is free. Check out Parness and her team at www.blackboxproductions.tv.*

HILLEL IS RYERSON'S GROUP OF THE YEAR: From left, Shlomit Kriger, Eyal Lewin, Hillel staff member Ilana Grosman, and Victor Volfson are seen at one of this year's monthly Hillel programs at Ryerson University. In conjunction with the Jewish humanitarian organization Ve'ahavta, the students made sandwiches for the homeless. Hillel was recently selected Student Group of the Year by the RyeSac (Ryerson Student Administrative Council) student committee.

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Coast to Coast

CIC prepares for second year of Parliamentary intern program

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — If the Canada-Israel Committee has its way, there will soon be more Jewish representation on Parliament Hill.

As the first year of its parliamentary internship program winds down, the CIC is is actively recruiting participants for year two.

"There is a shortage of Jews involved in the political sector – becoming Members of Parliament, on Parliament Hill, in riding associations – and we decided that we needed to encourage the involvement of Jews at various levels," said David Cooper, the CIC's assistant director of government relations.

"We decided that we would initiate a parliamentary internship program to give young Jews who are just graduating from university and who are interested in politics a great opportunity to learn the ropes of how the system works and hopefully to encourage them to continue to be involved politically when their term ends."

Toronto MP Dennis Mills was one of the first to benefit from the services of one of two interns chosen for the program's first year.

Having been to Israel on a CIC trip with other MPs, Mills said he was pleased to be asked to participate and welcomed Michael Mandel into his office last fall for what was to be a nine-month placement. The match has been so successful that Mills requested an extension so Mandel can stay with his office until September.

CIC paid Mandel a stipend for the original placement. The extension will be funded by Mills' office.

"I think what makes the program so successful is that those young people that work in members' offices on the Hill, when they return to their communities, wherever that may be, they will have a knowledge and understanding of government from every policy position that is discussed," Mills said.

"In other words, they are not just there to deal with issues on the agenda of the CIC, but with every other issue that is dealt with by a member of Parliament, so you really are training future leaders."

Mandel is a native of Burlington who graduated from Wilfred Laurier University with an honours degree in history. He participated in Birthright Israel in December 2001 and heard about the new CIC program from a Birthright organizer.

He was thrilled to be chosen and pleased with his placement.

"I give credit to David Cooper for placing me with Dennis Mills. It was a perfect fit," he said. "I was prepared to do correspondence, photocopying and make coffee. Rather, I have been working on some very interesting projects and have been able to use some of my ideas… I didn't think I would be involved in policy so quickly, but it has been very exciting."

Mills expects great things from Mandel in the future.

"This guy one day is going to be a great member of Parliament. He has a value system of caring and sharing for people that is very special and he has a work ethic that is second to none," Mills said.

After graduating from Concordia University with a BA in political science, Montreal native David Granovsky, who was also a Birthright Israel participant, applied for the program and has been working on the Hill since October.

During that time, he has worked with Canadian Alliance foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day and former defence minister Art Eggleton. Since his main interest is in international affairs, he too says he was pleased with his placements.

Until February, Granovsky worked in Day's office. "I was very impressed with what I was working on and how much they [the Alliance] care about Israel," said Granovsky.

Since February, he has worked with Eggleton and has also been involved with foreign affairs issues.

His assignments have involved research, report preparation, correspondence on behalf of the MPs, and attending foreign affairs committee sessions.

Granovsy said that when he completes his term, he intends to work for the Jewish community.

Cooper said the CIC plans to place five interns next fall and already has 15 qualified applicants.

For more information on the CIC's parliamentary internship program, contact Cooper at 613-234-8271.

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Families sue government

Continued from page 3

In the meantime, Carly goes to public school during the day and receives ABA after hours at home.

The current system isn't working for Carly, Starr said.

"Last year, Carly was seen sitting in her classroom eating shaving cream, even though her school was notified that she was never to be left unattended for health and safety risks.

"In the past, the application of Carly's individual education plan has been arbitrary," Starr said, "and schools haven't always been willing to provide a program that will maintain continuity between home and school. For example, the Toronto District School Board will not officially allow an ABA-based program into their schools, even if one is being used at home."

The lawyer for the province, Robert Charney, said that over the past three years, the government has recognized the importance of IBI and has had to set priorities while implementing the initial stages of hiring and training therapists.

Based on expert evidence that IBI is most effective when applied between the ages of two and five, the government decided to focus on that age group, Charney said.

However, he noted that the government has expanded the program every year since it began and is committed to increase funding for IBI.

The lawyer for the families, David Corbett, said the current system "is a lot like the Russian Constitution. It looks great on paper, but is lacking in the delivery."

Furthermore, because they see improvement in their children with autism, some families have mortgaged their homes, given up on programs for their other children and put all their savings into ABA therapy, he said.

There is no one size fits all when it comes to children with special needs, Corbett said.

"An ideal system would require co-operation between health and educational authorities and would depend on flexibility."

The trial continues and is expected to last several weeks.

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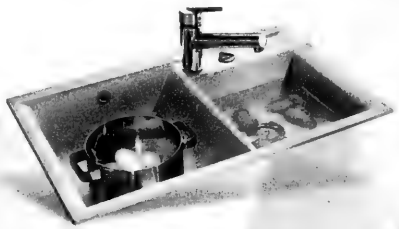

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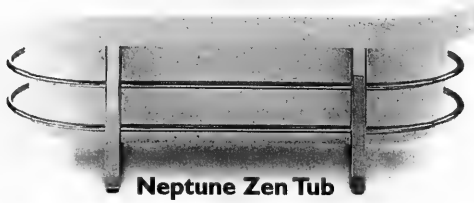

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Coast to Coast

Bergman named to Charest cabinet

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Lawrence Bergman, a tenacious backbencher for the past nine years, has followed in the footsteps of two of his predecessors in the D'Arcy McGee riding and been named a Liberal cabinet minister.

Bergman, 62, was appointed revenue minister last week by Premier Jean Charest, one of two anglophones in the 24-member cabinet.

Wearing a kippah throughout the ceremony, Bergman was sworn in on a Chumash he received at his bar mitzvah at Congregation Adath Israel-Poale Zedek in Outremont.

"I am extremely honoured… it brings me great joy. It's also an honour for the entire community," Bergman told *The CJN*. While he stressed he will represent all citizens of Quebec in cabinet, he allowed that his being Jewish is "something quite significant," especially given "the abundance of talent" from which Charest had to choose.

Bergman said his first task will be to improve his department's efficiency. "I want to make it easier for people to deal with the ministry."

He will likely work closely with Charest on his promised tax cuts of $1 billion a year over the next five years.

Charest followed a Liberal tradition of selecting a Jewish cabinet minister from the predominantly Jewish D'Arcy McGee: in the 1970s, Victor Goldbloom was responsible for the Montreal Olympics, and later Herbert Marx was named justice minister. Marx resigned in 1988 to protest the Bourassa government's bill overriding the Canadian Charter of Rights in order to preserve parts of Bill 101 that were judged by the Supreme Court to be unconstitutional.

Bergman's appointment apparently recognizes the Jewish community's strong support for Charest's campaign, expressed by the overwhelming majority Bergman received from voters, and its financial backing.

Bergman held a major fundraising event during the campaign at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim.

Bergman's name did not surface in media speculation about who would likely be in cabinet. It came as something of a surprise that more than one anglophone was included. Some observers had thought the other Jewish MNA, Russell Copeman of Notre-Dame-de-Grâce, had a better chance because of his performance as family critic.

Bergman is actually the fourth Jewish cabinet minister in Quebec. The unelected David Levine served as Premier Bernard Landry's junior health minister from January of last year until his defeat in a byelection four months later.

Bergman's proudest achievement since first being elected in 1994 was his private member's bill that proclaimed Quebec's official recognition of Yom Hashoah. It was passed unanimously by the National Assembly in 1999.

However, Bergman can arguably be credited with setting in motion the chain of events which led to the abrupt resignation of former premier Lucien Bouchard and the exit from politics of the man who had the best chance of leading Quebec to sovereignty.

In December 2000, Bergman initiated a motion condemning Yves Michaud for remarks offensive to Jews. Michaud, a PQ militant and prospective electoral candidate, had chastised Jews for behaving as if they are the only people who have suffered and for not supporting sovereignty.

The assembly's unanimous vote, a very rare censure of an individual, created an uproar and split the PQ. In January 2001, Bouchard announced his resignation, citing personal reasons and his inability to advance the cause of sovereignty. But he also spoke at length about his disillusionment over the Michaud affair.

A notary, Bergman is proud of his deep roots in Quebec. His mother was born in St. Perpetue and his father in St. Romuald, small towns near Quebec City.

He graduated in law from the Université de Montréal in 1965, and practiced as a notary until 1994.

Bergman has had a strong association with the Jewish community. He was president of Congregation Adath Israel-Poale Zedek, an honorary president of the YM-YWHA, and an executive member of the Jewish Community Council.

In 1994, he beat popular independent MNA Robert Libman in a closely fought campaign. After his first term, Bergman quietly stood up against some in the party who would have liked to see a safe seat like D'Arcy McGee go to someone else.

In 1998, he cruised to victory with one of the largest majorities in the province, a feat he repeated last month. His showing was so strong that on election night, the TV networks declared D'Arcy McGee as the first seat to be won in the province.

Despite his certain victory, Bergman was a dogged campaigner, knocking on doors, speaking to groups, and gladhanding in shopping malls.

To do anything less, Bergman said, would be disrespectful to citizens and the democratic process.

In opposition, Bergman served as the critic for consumer protection and the codes governing the professions.

Bergman has had a talent for staying "on message" – never varying from his party's platform and hammering away at the PQ. His earnestness gained him wide respect.

Every year, he has delivered a speech in the National Assembly at Yom Hashoah, and he introduced a motion congratulating Israel on its 50th anniversary.

Bergman overcame personal tragedy when his wife Monica died in 2000 from cancer after a long illness. More than 1,400 people attended her funeral.

In 2001, Bergman led an aggressive campaign to save D'Arcy McGee from being eliminated in an electoral-map revision, collecting thousands of signatures on a petition and getting the endorsement of every major Jewish organization.

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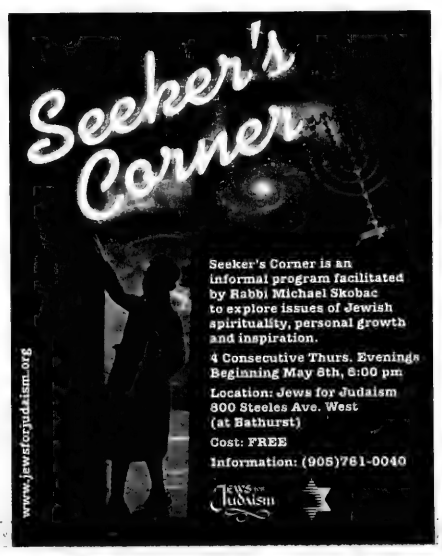
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Mazel Tov MOMENTS

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Marla, daughter of Betsy & Lou Fruitman, and Ronald, son of Leny & the late Jay Struminger, were recently married. Grandparents are Mary & David Dale.

Marla, Howard and big brother Jake are thrilled to announce the birth of their son and brother Zachary Adam Kamin, born July 27, 2002.

Mazel tov to Dinah Naken & Dovid Laredo on their marriage. Parents, Arlene Bomal & Nisso Laredo, Terry & the late Carol Naken; Bubbie, Tilly Bomal.

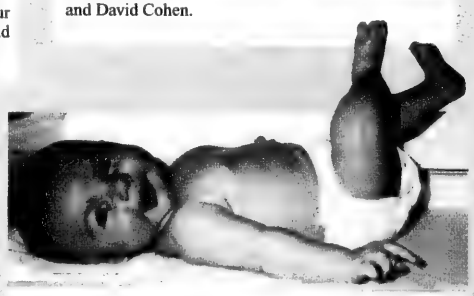
Remi & Tessa Miltchin recently celebrated their becoming b'not mitzvah. Mazel tov from your parents Hartley & Cheryl, brother Harlan and Bubbie Blanche Miltchin.

Mazel tov Dina & Joel on your engagement. Proud parents, Galila & Arie Chaimovitch, Edith & Arthur Majer, and grandparents Pauline Muroff and David Cohen.

Mazel tov on the birth of Joshua Meisels, son of Meirav & Irwin. Sisters Lauren and Eden; grandparents Meir & Devora Rottem and Ruth & Isak Meisels.

Happy first birthday to Jared Kagan, with love from Mommy & Daddy, Robin & Steve.

Mazel tov to our beloved mother and bubbie, Zelda Jonsson, on her 80th birthday. Joe & Cypora, Philip & Barb, Adam, Rachel, Michael, Stephanie and Jason.



Russel & Sari Gottschalk are the proud parents of a cute Jacob Solomon born on May 22, 2002 weighing 7 lb. 3 oz.

Judy Spring & Seymour Laufer are thrilled to announce their marriage.

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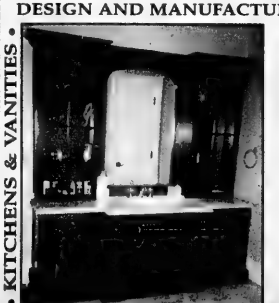

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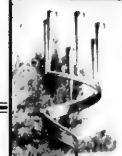
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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 12, is deadline for May 22 issue and Monday, May 19, is deadline for May 29. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 8

SPRING GATHERING

The Connecting Team of Holy Blossom Temple will host their annual spring gathering at 1:45 p.m. with pianist **Paul Mathews** and violinist **Julius Nemeth**. To reserve call 416-789-3291 ext. 233.

NCJW-BOOK REVIEW

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto Section presents **Elaine Newton** reviewing the Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Amazing Adventures of Cavalier and Clay* by **Michael Chabon**. 8 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Admission $12, members $10. For information call 416-633-5100 or go to www.ncjwc-ts.org.

Sunday, May 11

BAYCREST CHALLENGE

Celebrate Mother's Day at the 23rd Annual Baycrest Challenge, a run and walk from the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, 3560 Bathurst St., through Earl Bales Park. Choose from a 5K and 10K run, 5K family walk and a mother-and-child 1K run, followed by a family carnival at the finish. Corporate teams welcome. For details, call 416-256-2-RUN.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Brotherhood presents a Mother's Day Breakfast. Services at 8:30 a.m. followed by breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a performance of klezmer music by **Hu Tsa Tsa**. $10.00 per person. Reservations in advance at 416-633-3838.

ISRAELI SECURITY & PEACE

Beth David Brotherhood and Adult Education Committee present **Eitan Glaser** of the Jewish National Fund speaking on Israeli Security and the Quest for Peace: Fulfilling The Legacy of Ilan Ramon. 9:15 a.m. Nominal charge for breakfast.

ISRAEL CELEBRATION

Enjoy live entertainment, Israeli food and dancing at Temple Har Zion's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration. 7 p.m. For details call 905-889-2252.

CANTORIAL CONCERT

Holy Blossom Temple presents the Future of the Modern Cantorate Concert with **Cantors Israel Goldstein**, director of Hebrew Union College's School of Sacred Music, and **Benjamin Maissner**, Holy Blossom music and choir director, and their students, showcasing their finest aspirations for the tomorrow's cantorate. Adults $25, students/seniors $20. For tickets, call 416-789-3291 ext. 224.

Monday, May 12

LIBRARY BOOK CLUB

Holy Blossom Temple Library Book Club will view and discuss Woody Allen's *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, with **Prof. Andrea Most** of the University of Toronto. 10 a.m. For details, call 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

RIETTI ON LIVING JEWISH

Eitz Chaim Schools presents the annual Sam & Sara Kerzner Lecture with **Rabbi Jonathan Rietti** speaking on the Art of Jewish Living. 8 p.m. at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation. Free. Details at 905-764-6633.

DIABETES MEETING

Dr. Earl Nussbaum will discuss Assessing Your Heart at the meeting of the Jewish Diabetes Chapter, to be held at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation at 8 p.m. For information call **Esther Schwartz** at 416-782-2189 or **Shirley Glatt** at 416-225-1989.

TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE

Sara Schafler Kelman will present Trace Your Family Heritage and **Susan Yalowsky** will present her

Continued on page 31

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What's New

Continued from page 30

family scrapbook at the meeting of the Beth Emeth Sisterhood. The sisterhood will also launch their new cookbook. 8 p.m. at 100 Elder St.

WOMEN IN JEWISH LIFE

Beth David Continuing Education is presenting **Sara Horowitz** of York University discussing Women in Jewish Literature, Film, Theatre and the Fine Arts at 8 p.m. 55 Yeomans Rd. No charge. Call 416-633-5500.

Tuesday, May 13

MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

Enjoy Mother's Day dinner with Adath Sholom Sisterhood at 6:30 p.m. Choose from chicken, fish or vegetarian. $34 per person. Call 416-635-0131 to reserve. 864 Sheppard Ave. W.

SPIRITUALITY AND IDENTITY

Join **Elliott Malamet** for a lecture on Spirituality and Jewish Identity. 7:30 p.m. at the Riverdale Shul. For information call 416-826-4539.

COSMETIC SURGERY

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood presents **Dr. Walter Peters** speaking on cosmetic surgery in 2003. 7:30 p.m.

CHUG TANACH

Dr Joshua Langer will lead the group in a discussion of Ezekiel, chapter 40. Beth David Congregation 55 Yeomans Rd at 8 p.m.

REVIEW: THE PICK UP

Adath Israel Sisterhood is reviewing **Nadine Gordimer**'s *The Pick Up* as part of their Book and Film Review Series at 8 p.m. $15, $10 members.

HORMONE REPLACEMENT

What's A Woman To Do! Beth David Sisterhood presents **Dr. Bernard Schimmer** of the University of Toronto and **Dr. Robert Josse** of St. Michael's Hospital exploring the issues of menopausal hormone replacement therapy. 55 Yeomans Rd at 8 p.m. Guests $3.

Wednesday, May 14

MARKETPLACE EVENING

Holy Blossom Temple Pre-School is having a Marketplace Evening with more than 30 vendors selling Judaica, clothing, jewelry, household, items, hats, kids' toys, stationery and more. 7-10 p.m. Admission is free. All are welcome. 1950 Bathurst St., Philip Smith Hall, lower level.

DEALING WITH LOSS

Temple Har Zion presents a workshop on how others have dealt with and are dealing with the loss of loved ones. The panel includes **Liz Kalmar, Sheldon Meingarten, Janice Pearl** and **Samuel Spencer** and will be moderated by **Sim Greene** and **Cheryl Ackerman**. 7360 Bayview Ave., 7:30 p.m. For details call 905-889-2252.

PIRKEI AVOT

Beth Tzedec Congregation begins a series of four lectures on the Ethics of the Fathers, with **Jim Diamond**, of the University of Waterloo. The first lecture is Argument and Dispute: The Elixir of Judaism at 7:30 p.m. Subsequent lectures will be on May 20, May 28 and June 11.

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Maggie Vanderweit is a professional textile artist who will be speaking about painted fabric, beadwork and felting at the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles meeting at 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. For information, check out www.pomegranateguild.ca.

More News

JEWS FOR JUDAISM

Jews For Judaism is offering three programs this week. **Seeker's Corner**, an informal four part series facilitated by **Rabbi Michael Skobac** exploring issues of Jewish spirituality, personal growth and inspiration, beginning Thurs. May 8 at 8 p.m. **Counter Missionary Survival Seminar**, a five-week course, is an opportunity to acquire the tools to effectively respond to any missionary who challenges your Jewish beliefs. Begins Wed. May 14 at 8 p.m. Both courses are free. Or attend the **All-Day Counter Missionary Survival Seminar** Wed. May 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost $10, includes a kosher lunch. All welcome. 800 Steeles Ave. W. To register call 905-761-0040.

JRCC PROGRAMS

Jewish Russian Community Centre's Institute of Torah Study offers two new programs: **The Spiritual, The Sensual and the Sublime-Intimacy and the Jewish Couple**, with Bronya Shaeffer, Sun. May 11 at 8:30 p.m. $10; and **Meditation and Kabbalah**, a five-part series with **Rabbi Tzi Freeman**, Wednesdays, May 14 to June 11 at 8 p.m. $18 or $5 per class.18 Rockford Ave. 416-222-7105 ext. 230.

GOLDA MEIR LUNCHEON

On Thurs. May 15 at noon, the Women's Division of State of Israel Bonds will be holding a Golda Meir Luncheon honouring **Yetta Freeman, Risa Freeman, Cindy Gordon** and **Debbie Kimel**. For details, call **Raquel Benzacar-Savatti** at 416-789-3351 ext.124.

WEEKEND WITH JOEL ROTH

Beth Tzedec Congregation is hosting **Rabbi Joel Roth** from May 15-17. Rabbi Roth will give public lectures and speak at Shabbat meals. To reserve for Shabbat dinner or lunch, call 416-781-3511 before May 13.

SOUTH AFRICAN DINNER

The Adas Israel Synagogue in Hamilton hosts its second annual South African Shabbat Shul Service and Dinner on May 23 and 24. Enjoy an evening of South African choral melodies and fine dining. The Friday night and Shabbat services will be led by a guest chazzan and a 30-voice male choir. Shabbat dinner includes kitke, Danish herring, kichel, sunshine chicken and zebra rice, and more. To reserve call Eileen at 905-528-0039. Space limited.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Information/registration. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Successful Step-parenting: Learning To Step Together: A 6-session series to help couples living in blended families. Starts Wednesday, May 14, 7:30-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

Surviving Separation and Looking Ahead: A 6-session group for newly separated or divorced people who want to let go of the past and move forward. Begins Wednesday, May 14, 7:30-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

Single Parent Challenge: A 6-session group for single parents wanting to discuss the feelings, concerns and skills needed to be a single parent. Begins Wednesday, May 14, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Lipa Green Bldg. 4600 Bathurst St.

Parenting 1,2,3 Magic: A 3-session group for parents of children ages 2 to 8 wanting to learn the discipline techniques based on Thomas Phelan's book. Begins Wednesday May 14, 7-9 p.m. at The Promenade Mall, suite 313.

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Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

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Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. May 8, *erev chofshi*: picnic, May 15, Israeli movie, May 22, lecture: Yossi Tanuri, May 25, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

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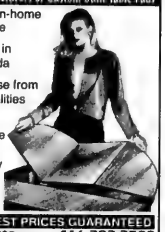
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Coast to Coast

Three teens receive peace award from CCCJ

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Three teenage girls, all students at Ottawa's Ashbury College, were awarded the Good Servant Medals by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews (CCCJ) last month for their efforts over the past year to promote peace and friendship among religions.

The diplomats' daughters, Lana Ayoub, a Jordanian Christian and daughter of Jordan's Ambassador to Canada; Michelle Divon, an Israeli Jew who is the daughter of Israel's Ambassador to Canada Haim Divon, and Tara Ogaick, a Canadian Muslim whose father is a Canadian diplomat who has served in Saudi Arabia, say they began their relationship on a rocky footing, with mistrust and animosity.

But once they got to know each other, they discovered they had much in common, and they became close friends. They decided that if they could spread their message of peace, there would be hope for peace in the Middle East.

Upon receiving the medal, engraved with a dove emerging from two hands, Ayoub spoke of Jordan's late King Hussein, whom her family had known. "He often spoke of the children of Abraham – Muslims, Christians and Jews – and how they deserve a future worthy of their past," she said.

Divon thanked Ayoub and Ogaick for their courage and said their effort to promote peace has been the most valuable experience in her life so far.

"I accept this award on behalf of all Israelis and Palestinians and all the people of the Middle East who dare to dream of peace and who are willing to take that dream and bring it to fruition," she said.

The girls began their "diplomatic mission" by giving a presentation at their school. Michelle then spoke at a local synagogue and to students at Jewish schools.

Following a recent article in the *Ottawa Citizen*, the trio became local media celebrities and embarked on numerous speaking engagements.

Ayoub and Divon organized an event at the University of Ottawa that brought together the Muslim Student Association and the Jewish Student Association, students who had never spoken to each other before.

Their efforts have continued and grown, with the girls creating a Web community called Youth United to connect teens around the world to promote dialogue and understanding between Israelis and Palestinians.

Although the girls will be living in different countries when they graduate from high school, they intend to continue their efforts and to keep in touch.

The awards ceremony, attended by various diplomats, politicians, teachers and friends of the CCCJ, was hosted by the National Arts Centre and sponsored in part by the Edward Bronfman Family Foundation.

The Good Servant Medal was created to recognize people who have shown extraordinary service to their community.

Ceremony remembers those who resisted the Nazis

By MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL – Falling during the 60th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of April 19 to May 16, 1943, this year's community-wide commemoration of Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Memorial Day – paid tribute to all who resisted and rose up against the Nazis and their genocidal attempt to exterminate European Jewry.

Sara Weinberg, co-chair of the remembrance committee of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC), said Jewish resistance to the Holocaust included all of the six million individuals who perished. "Each resisted in his or her own way."

As police and security personnel looked on, about 2,500 people, including many Holocaust survivors and three generations of their descendants, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of three levels of government and community leaders, filled Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem to capacity on erev Yom Hashoah.

The program – in English, French, Yiddish and Hebrew – included several addresses and a solemn candlelighting ceremony that incorporated survivor testimony, Holocaust prose and poetry read by children and grandchildren of survivors and songs sung by children's choir from the Jewish People's and Peretz Schools and an adult choir from the Shaar Hashomayim Choral Society.

Weinberg noted that while the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, "the first urban uprising against the Nazis," may be the best-known example of active, Jewish resistance to the Holocaust, there were countless other examples. "There was Jewish resistance in the ghettos," she said, "as well as in the concentration camps and in the forests."

Of the six million, Weinberg's co-chair, Sidney Zoltak, said, "We heard their cry to remember them, and remember them we will. We will continue to bear witness to the spirit of our brethren who were murdered while the world stood by in indifference."

Nina Ben-Ami, Israel's acting consul general in Montreal, told the assembly that all of Israel had come to a standstill for two minutes on Yom Hashoah. "It was as if time had stopped," she said. All activity ceased, every car on every road stopped as drivers and passengers joined the rest of the country in standing at attention.

As in past Yom Hashoah services, the testimonies of Holocaust survivors provided some of the most poignant moments. Ann Kazimirski, who lost 82 members of her family, told the hushed audience how, in 1943, she saw her mother dragged away by Nazi soldiers.

Coast to Coast

Man recalls how his family saved Dutch Jews in WWII

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — It's possible to know a person for years and yet not know him at all. For Paul Bregman, a lawyer who has had a lengthy professional relationship with Peter Renes, it came as a complete surprise when he recently discovered that Renes had played an important role rescuing Jews in his native Holland during World War II.

Yom Hashoah 5763

Once the story was revealed, Bregman encouraged Renes to share it and arranged for him to speak to students at Ottawa's Yitzhak Rabin High School.

Last week, Renes was also a keynote speaker at Ottawa's annual Yom Hashoah program, held at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, where he described his family's involvement in saving more than 1,000 Jews during the Holocaust.

Renes recounted how his normally mild-mannered mother became angry when she discovered the Germans had been rounding up Jews.

"My mother had prepared sleeping quarters in the attic and down in the cellar under the stairs, and at nighttime, the bell would ring and people would very silently come home. All talking was hush hush, and they would either go down or upstairs, and my mother would go into the kitchen and start preparing some food."

Renes' father, a railroad operator, worked out a scheme whereby he would throw bags of coal off the train into farmers' fields, and on his days off, he would ride his bicycle along the route, returning with food – bread, flour, cheese, butter, meat – from the farmers.

"And thus my mother was able to feed four or five families at the same time," he said.

The most daring role was played by Renes' uncle, Joop Westerweel, for whom the "Westerweel group" was named. According to Renes, his uncle "single-handedly organized an escape route from Holland through the southern part of Holland, Belgium, France and into the Spanish Pyrenees, through which hundreds and hundreds of young Jewish fellows and girls were able to escape the German Nazis during the years 1941 to 1944."

Although his parents did not want him to be involved, Renes, then 13, became a bicycle thief to help the rescue effort.

"As soon as I came home with a bicycle, my father would dismantle it, store it away in a secret compartment he had made in the coal box at the back of the house, and then from all the components he would repair or rebuild bicycles that would not be recognizable."

The bikes enabled Jews to escape and make it to the border meeting place, where they would be spirited to freedom.

After taking part in many missions, Westerweel was captured near the Dutch border while trying to help two Jewish girls cross from Holland into Belgium en route to the Pyrenees. He was sent to a concentration camp and tortured but never gave any information.

On August 11, 1944, Westerweel was killed by a German firing squad. A forest is planted in Israel in his memory and both Westerweel and his wife, Willy, have been declared Righteous Gentiles.

'I speak for the millions who cannot speak:' survivor

FREDERICTON — Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman says he does not enjoy talking about the war, but he feels compelled to share the horrors he witnesses during the nearly five years he was held in concentration camps in Auschwitz, Birkenau and Dachu.

Riteman was guest speaker last week at the annual Yom Hashoah Holocaust Memorial service at Fredericton's Sgoolai Israel Synagogue.

"I speak for the millions who cannot speak," the Bedford, N.S. resident told the large inter-faith audience.

Riteman was only 13 years old when the Nazis invaded his hometown, Szereszow, on the Polish-Russian border. Now in his 70s and a frequent speaker at schools and community events, the Holocaust is still a painful subject for him.

Guests of honour at the service included Fredericton-Fort Nashwaak MLA Eric MacKenzie, sponsor of the Act to Commemorate the Holocaust Yom Hashoah in New Brunswick that came into force in 2000, and members of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Ruth Chippin, president of the Sisterhood of Sgoolai Israel Synagogue, and the Lilian Freeman chapter of Hadassah-WIZO read a selection from the Book of Joel, which praises the virtue of bearing witness.

Seven memorial candles were kindled. Six candles honoured victims of the Holocaust and Canadian soldiers who lost their lives in World War II.

A seventh candle was kindled in hope of a bright future for all young people by Philip Soicher, a Jewish student in Grade 5 at Fredericton's École Sainte-Anne.

Following the service, a reception was held in the synagogue's social hall.

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Coast to Coast

The courage *not* to play ball

Last week's column noted that Ellen Pinchuk of CTV News was virtually alone in giving an accurate picture of the limitations on reporting from Iraq ("Public loses when media keep stories under wraps", *CJN*, May 1).

Pinchuk was among a handful of reporters granted visas to report from Iraq in November 2002 while United Nations weapons inspectors were in the country. In several reports, she noted the restrictions faced by the press, including the "minders" who accompanied all foreign journalists.

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

In a story posted on CTV's Web site, Pinchuk wrote the following: "For a television reporter, it's incredibly restrictive. You can't shoot any of the cool stuff. That means government buildings and [now-deposed leader] Saddam Hussein's palaces are off limits (even for an exterior shot). No oil pumps, no prisons, and no members of the opposition.

"You are, however, encouraged to shoot Iraqi suffering as a result of UN sanctions. Hospitals, poverty and funerals of those allegedly killed by U.S.- British air strikes are all okay. And you can shoot as many Saddam Hussein statutes and billboards as you like.

"People you speak to on the street say the same things over and over again. 'America and the Jews are out to make war; we have no weapons of mass destruction; Iraqis want peace.' They appear to have no inkling whatsoever of all the heinous acts committed by Iraq's leader, resulting in the death of a million or more of his own people."

Pinchuk speaks Arabic, which no doubt gave her an edge on other reporters, whose interviews were filtered through official translators. For example, during an interview in mid-November with news anchor Lloyd Robertson, Pinchuk reported on the "venomous rhetoric in the mosques" of Baghdad – rhetoric that most other reporters would not be able to understand.

In one case, the imam of a central mosque called for Allah "to destroy the enemies of Iraq – the U.S. and the Jews." These sentiments were then echoed by people in the streets, who told Pinchuk that UN weapons inspectors had been sent to do the bidding of the Americans and the Jews in order to promote war.

What is most revealing is that Pinchuk reported all this – her story on CTV.ca was available to officials in Iraq – not from the safety of Canada, but from Baghdad itself, knowing she might face intimidation or eviction. "The truth always has a way of getting out, even in Baghdad," she said. And she meant it – one of a very small number of reporters ever to have said so.

Both Pinchuk and CTV deserve credit for their forthright, honest and brave coverage of Iraq while it was still under Saddam's control. In virtually all Arab countries, news coverage is held hostage by the governing regime, with Iraq having been the most extreme example. And nearly all news organizations played ball in this charade in order to file their stories, typically ones the regime wanted us to see.

Paul Michaels is director of communications with the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

Hebrew U joins forces with Canadian peace centre

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Hebrew University of Jerusalem has forged a joint venture with the relatively new Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at the University of Manitoba, and to celebrate, U of M's St. Paul's College – which houses the Mauro Centre – and the local chapter of Canadian Friends of Hebrew University are hosting a dinner May 20 in Mauro's honour.

"The Arthur Mauro Centre is committed to promoting the Abrahamic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – as a basis for tolerance, peace and justice in the Middle East and around the world," said Jim Carr, executive director of the Business Council of Manitoba and vice-chair of the centre's board since its inception in September 2001.

"The centre was made possible through the generosity of Arthur Mauro."

Mauro is a graduate of the largely Catholic St. Paul's College. A lawyer by training, his area of specialty was transportation and communications. From 1972 to 1976, he was president and CEO of Transair.

In 1977, he was appointed executive vice-president of the Winnipeg-based Investors Group, one of the largest mutual fund and financial services companies in Canada. Mauro retired in 1985 as chairman and CEO of the company.

He now serves on a number of national and local corporate boards and is well known in Winnipeg's Jewish community. A widower, he recently married high-profile Winnipeg lawyer Naomi Levine.

The Mauro Centre conducts educational, research and outreach programs to promote peace and justice worldwide. Its intiatives include sponsoring international study and exchange programs.

In the fall, under the aegis of the Kanee Lecture Series, the centre brought Jordan's Prince Hassan, the brother of the late King Hussein and the uncle of King Abdullah, to Winnipeg to speak about peace and brotherhood. The presentation attracted about 1,700 people.

The linkage between the Mauro Centre and Hebrew U is a natural one, Carr said. Mauro was inspired to create the centre because of his longstanding friendship with former Hebrew U president Hanoch Gutfreund, who will be attending the dinner.

"It made sense to establish this connection with Israel's leading university given our goals at the centre," Carr said.

The centre's partnership with Hebrew U is expected to include visiting professor exchanges, joint publication of periodicals, joint conferences, student exchanges and the creation of special intensive courses.

Carr said the Mauro Centre is also seeking to link up with an Islamic university, but there is nothing definite yet on that front.

Israel-bound missions departing despite SARS

Continued from page 1

Ha'aretz reported that one woman in her 40s who had returned to Israel from Toronto a few weeks ago was admitted to hospital as a suspected SARS case.

Stanley Morais, Canadian manager of El Al Israel Airlines, said he has fielded several calls from concerned American passengers whose flights to Israel are scheduled to stop in Toronto.

"We explain that the electronic media has really blown [the SARS problem] out of proportion," Morais said, adding most U.S. passengers have chosen not to change their travel plans.

However, Morais said, a small number of Israelis who had planned to come to Toronto have cancelled their visits.

Howard English, director of marketing and communications for UJA Federation of Toronto said two federation-sponsored missions are slated to depart for a two-week visit to Israel on May 4. The Alpha-Omega dental fraternity and a combined Israel Bonds/UJA Federation mission are going ahead as planned, he said.

There was never any consideration of cancelling or postponing either mission, which will bring a total of 35 visitors to Israel, he said.

English acknowledged that some of the UJA's "sister organizations" in Israel, including Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency, had e-mailed Toronto inquiring about the extent of the SARS problem here. They seemed reassured when told Toronto had experienced a small number of cases and there was no epidemic, he said.

Participants from Toronto are not withdrawing from the missions, English said, although some have asked him about steps Israel will take when they arrive at Ben Gurion.

Toronto's federation has sent people to Israel "at the worst of times" and will continue to do so, making it the largest single organizer of missions to the Jewish state, he said.

Since the outbreak of the intifadah in late September 2000, the federation has sent 1,500 people to Israel on 33 missions and it will continue to maintain its goal of one mission a month, English said.

Kleinman said visits to Israel seem to be picking up after slowing down due to concerns over the war in Iraq.

Meanwhile, on the domestic front, Karen Garscadden of Up & Coming events, a party-planning company, said none of the weddings and bar mitzvahs she has helped to plan have been cancelled.

However, SARS has affected the events, with almost every one experiencing a small number of cancellations by out-of-town guests or local invitees who work in the medical field, she said.

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Coast to Coast

Anne Mirvish: 62 years with Ed began with blind date

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — It was a blind date that neither party really wanted.

Anne Maklin had another date booked for that night back in 1938, and she thought it would be rude to break it. After all, why should she ditch a man for someone she had never met. Who was this Ed Mirvish anyway?

Now, as she looks forward to their 62nd wedding anniversary in June, the decision to go on that blind date was likely the best decision of her life.

"Neither of us wanted to go," Anne Mirvish said in a telephone interview.

A man she had dated a few months previously had asked her to go out with him again when she was to be in Toronto attending a family member's bridal tea.

Two of Anne's friends, however, had another idea.

After an afternoon tea at Diana Sweets Restaurant, one said, "I've got a date for you."

Ed and Anne Mirvish

Anne replied that she already had a date, and anyway she didn't go out on blind dates.

The friend said, "These boys have been taking us out. It would be nice if you would join us."

Anne once again pointed out that she already had a date.

Her friend insisted.

"That's all right for you," the friend said. "You can go back to Hamilton, but we have to live here, and they'll be upset and they might not ask us out again."

Anne didn't want to spoil things for her friends, so she cancelled her date.

"I'll never forget it. I've always felt guilty about it."

Even though she was reluctant to go on that blind date with Ed Mirvish, "the minute we met, we connected."

They dated for 3½ years. During the last year, there was an "understanding" that they would get married.

After almost 62 years of marriage, the Mirvishes recently renewed their wedding vows with 11 other couples who were also married at Hamilton's Temple Anshe Sholom.

The ceremony was one of a number of events marking the 150th anniversary of the temple.

Anne recalls that she was in no hurry to get married.

"We were young, and he had family to support. It was the Depression. I didn't want to get married. I wanted to sing."

Anne, now a renowned sculptor, had a distinguished professional career as a singer at the time. Known as Anne Lazare (her mother's maiden name), she sang on the radio as a teenager on Eaton's Good Deed Radio Club. Well-known conductor/composer Percy Faith, once chose her from among 60 contestants as the most promising female voice in the Hamilton area.

Her prize was the opportunity to sing for two weeks with an orchestra at the Brant Inn in Burlington, at the time a prime locale for successful performers.

The opportunity to advance her singing career resulted in bitter disappointment. Two days later she happened to be walking past the Tivoli Theatre in Hamilton when the theatre manager, Len Bishop, called her over.

Bishop was the unfortunate bearer of bad news. The orchestra leader would not allow Anne to sing because she was Jewish.

"I ran home crying," she said.

Anne grew up in a musical family. Her uncle was a champion Charleston dancer, her grandmother was a singer and her mother played piano. The family loved the theatre, often going to performances at the Grand Opera House on James Street near their home in Hamilton.

Anne recalls seeing her first play at age four. She vividly remembers a frightening scene that kept her from falling asleep that night and many nights after.

Her love of theatre continued in spite of that first experience. In later years, Anne introduced Ed to the theatre.

"He had never gone to the theatre until he went with me," she said.

Ed and son David have since produced countless theatrical productions in Toronto, many at their own theatres, the Royal Alexandra Theatre and the Princess of Wales Theatre.

Ed is also known for establishing Honest Ed's Warehouse, a cherished Toronto retail landmark.

"He's a brilliant man. He could go into any kind of business and make it work," Anne said.

From the beginning of their relationship, she was impressed with his character. He was devoted to his family.

"Ed was a good son. A good son, is a good husband," she said.

The Mirvishes' wedding was officiated by the late Rabbi Arthur A. Feldman and took place at the original Temple Anshe Sholom building on Hughson Street.

It was a lovely wedding, Anne said, but there were some problems.

"We couldn't afford a sit-down dinner. It was supposed to be a candlelight wedding. So many things went wrong. It's funny looking back.

"My sister's girlfriend was responsible for lighting the tapers on the altar, but she forgot. I was standing there, looking at these unlit candles.

"I said, under my breath, to the rabbi, 'She forgot to light the candles.' It was so serious to me that they didn't get lit. I guess the theatre was in me at that time too. I wanted it to be dramatic.

"The rabbi said, 'It's too late now.'"

One of the reasons the couple renewed their vows was so they could enjoy some things they were denied at their wedding. They had planned for an orchestra, but they were told the day before that they couldn't have it because it might disturb the peace on a Sunday in the gentile neighbourhood.

"It was ridiculous. The music couldn't be heard with the doors closed."

Anne said she was pleased that there would be a flautist and a harpist at the renewal of the vows reception.

She was eager to carry calla lilies at her wedding, but she was told they were not in season. She was resigned to carrying Easter lilies instead.

At the renewal of the vows service, Anne, wearing a lovely white lace suit and white gloves, walked down the aisle carrying her beloved calla lilies.

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בית צדק

Beth Tzedec always welcomes new members

France's education system fights anti-Semitism in schools

By ELIAS LEVY
Staff Reporter

There was recently an upheaval in the educational system of France, as a result of changes implemented by the country's education minister, Luc Ferry.

Ferry, Minister of education, youth and research, severely criticized teachers who, as a result of their hostility to the State of Israel, have tolerated flagrant anti-Semitism in their schools.

"A group of leftist teachers who are anti-Israel have increasingly tolerated anti-Semitic remarks because these remarks do not come from those on the extreme right. Some teachers, through a kind of antiglobalization or pro-Palestinian solidarity, are leaving the door open to anti-Semitism," Ferry was quoted as saying in the magazine *Libération*, Feb. 27.

Ferry decided to directly attack the problem, which is usually somewhat taboo, in French schools. Convinced that the war with Iraq "is inevitably going to revive intercommunity tensions in some establishments," he took steps to strengthen the consequences of racist, anti-Semitic or xenophobic aggression.

He gave strict instructions to have units of "veille et action" (vigilance and action) developed by the ministry. These would provide some 20 mediators who would intervene in schools when necessary.

He recently called a meeting at the ministry of education offices, with 24 heads of educational institutions that are grappling with the problem of anti-Semitism.

When Ferry was in Quebec at the invitation of Quebec education minister Sylvain Simard recently, he spoke to *The CJN* about these measures he has had his ministry adopt to combat anti-Semitism in schools.

"I want to explain to the Jewish community of Canada what is currently happening in France because, when they see it from afar, people sometimes do not fully understand the French situation," Ferry said.

"The situation today is linked to the fact that we have in France about five million Muslims. The children of these Muslim citizens, who are now in the schools, are the heirs of French colonialists in Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco.

The Israeli-Arab conflict is often imported into France in such a way that the Beurs [young Muslims] begin to think of themselves as Palestinian, while the Jewish youth think of themselves as Israeli. This gives rise to incidents in the academic establishments. What is most important is to realize that this phenomenon has nothing to do with the classic anti-Semitism of the French extreme right."

According to Ferry, author of some 15 books on philosophy, those responsible for education must be very vigilant, because some teachers are too lax when facing anti-Semitic trends, which have continually increased in France in recent years.

"Some leftist and extreme leftist teachers are so sensitive to the Palestinian cause and so hostile to current Israeli policy that they see the young Muslims as victims and excuse their anti-Semitic remarks.

"That is the situation I would absolutely like to prevent. We must clearly tell all these teachers that no matter what the origin of anti-Semitic or racist acts or comments – because unfortunately, there is certainly racism in France – we must severely punish those who commit such intolerable acts. We must also remind these young people of the secular principles of the French Republic."

Does the outbreak of anti-Semitism in France in recent years, since the beginning of the second intifadah in the fall of 2000, worry Ferry?

"There has not been an increase in anti-Semitism in France," he said. "On the other hand, we are very aware that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict may lead to crisis situations in the schools. We must not tolerate anti-Semitism on the grounds that it is no longer the classic anti-Semitism of the extreme right and that this vile scourge might be more acceptable because it comes from people who are sensitive to the Palestinian cause."

Ferry strongly opposes the phenomenon of "communautarisme" (being concerned only with one's own world and living at the edge of society), which he said is the opposite of democratic republican secularism.

"Communautarisme has perverse social and national effects. For 15 years, we have been living with a disturbing communautarist trend. The struggle for minority rights or the principle of "positive discrimination" that appeared about 20 years ago in Canada and the United States runs counter to the republican principles on which French schools are based. We have taken steps to remind all students and teachers in France of those secular, republican principles," Ferry said.

This story appeared in French in the Montreal edition of CJN, *April 10. Translation by Carolan Halpern.*

שיאר נינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

אנשים פוחדים להגיע לטורונטו בשל מגיפת הסארס. לישראלים רבים זה מזכיר את האהרות שלא לנסוע לישראל אחרי כל פעילות חבלנית. זה מעלה במלוא החומרה את הפער בין מה שאמיתי ובין איך דברים מתוארים על ידי המדיה. הסיכון מסארס בשלב זה מאוד זניח, הרבה מתחת לסיכון לתאונה קטלנית על ה- 401 או 410, אבל אנשים ממשיכים לנסוע לעבודה. מאידך גיסא, לו היינו מתכננים לנסוע, נאמר לשטוקהולם, והיינו שומעים שיש שם משהו שדומה לסארס, עם יד על הלב-קרוב לודאי שהיינו אומרים: חיכינו עשרים שנה לנסוע לשם- נחכה עוד שנה וניסע אחרי שיירגעו הרוחות. המחשבה הזאת, שהיא מאוד הגיונית, תגרום לטורונטו להפסיד מיליארדי דולארים.

בצד הרפואי הדאגה מגיפת הסארס שלמרות ההתקדמות המדעית העצומה של האנושות- בורא עולם ממשיך לזרוק לעברנו אתגרים חדשים ומסוכנים. אבל תחשבו על זה: לקח למדענים קנדיים פחות מחודש לזהות את הוירוס החדש, שזה לעצמו שיא עולמי חדש. ועם זאת, יחלפו שלוש עד חמש שנים עד שהידע הזה יהפוך לחיסון. מה שכן- תוך מספר חודשים תהיה לנו בדיקת דם להבדיל את סארס ממחלות דומות, כמו שפעת או וירוסים אחרים.

אבל אולי הבעייה הכי מוחשית שהעלתה המגיפה הזאת היא שהעולם הפך לכפר קטן, ומה שמתחיל בסין הרחוקה לוקח זמן טיסה כדי להגיע לכל מקום. בסין הסתירו השלטונות את המגיפה מפני העולם. גרוע מזה- באיזורי עולם רבים, כולל סין, אין את הידע והמומחיות לזהות ולאבחן מחלות חדשות. וזה מביא אותי לרעיון חדש: בדיוק כמו שיש בית משפט בינלאומי עם סמכויות סוחפות בכל מקום בעולם, צריך להקים כוח קומנדו רפואי שתהיה לו גישה מיידית לאוורים כאלה, וסמכויות משטרתיות איך להגיב. כשפרצה המגיפה פה- תוך שעה הרימו הקנדים טלפון לאטלנטה, שם נמצא ה- סי.די.סי האמריקני שמעסיק אלפי מדענים ביחוזי ומניעת מחלות. תוך שעות היו המומחים שלהם בטורונטו, ועשה רושם שבוזבוז עצתיהם ועצות מומחים קנדיים- נמצאת המגיפה בשליטה. אבל שישאר ביניכם.

גרשוני ופרס ישראל

פרס ישראל הוא המכובד בכתרים שהחברה הישראלית קושרת לאזרחיה. ועל כן, כשהחליטה הוועדה הציבורית להעניק את הפרס השנה לאמן משה גרשוני, היתה בזה הכרזה על ההכרה בתרומתו לתרבות הישראלית. אלא שגרשוני חידע שלא יגיע לטקס, מאחר ואין הוא מוכן ללחוץ את ידי שרת החינוך לימור לבנת ואנשי שלטון אחרים. בכך רצה לחבוע את שאט נפשו מן השלטון הנוכחי. בתגובה הודיעה שרת החינוך שהיא מבטלת את זכיתו בפרס. גרשוני פנה לעזרת בית המשפט, תוך שהוא אומר על שרת החינוך ש"אפילו פראה מאלבניה לא היתה מתנהגת כך". שימו לב לשפה ולתרבות הדיבור. יש משהו בוטה במציאות הישראלית שמוציא מאנשים קולות ששייכים לעולם אחר.

מכל התגובות לעניין הזה, אהבתי את זו של אראל סג"ל בעיתון מעריב:

"מר גרשוני זכה בפרס ישראל הממומן מכספי המיסים. הוא רוצה את הכסף, אבל מסרב לבוא לקבל אותו מידי נציגי הממשלה הנבחרת. מר גרשוני לא רק מתגלה כאדם חסר תרבות ונימוס, אלא גם כמי שבז לחלוק הדמוקרטי ולחופש חבחירה של האזרח הישראלי שמימן לו את הפרס....אם נניח היה מסרב לקבל את הפרס באקט מתאה חירואי, מן הראוי היה להצדיע לו. מאידך, רצונו הפרדוקסלי גם לקחת את הכסף וגם להתנפש לצ'ה גווארה הוא לא רק מגושם, אלא חצוף....."

מסתבר שגרשוני אינו הדוגמא היחידה. אראל סג"ל הביא לתשומת ליבנו את ענת אלמוג מבצלאל שבקשה את תמיכת המדינה בחצגת תערוכה שלה באוניברסיטת אוקספורד, אבל סירבה שנציגים רשמיים של מדינת ישראל ישתתפו בפתיחת. "האוירה האקדמית באנגליה מאד אנטי ישראלית, ואני אשיקת מתבישת להיות "ישראלית" הצהירה אלמוג.

אני אשיקת מתבייש בענת אלמוג ובחחלט שם אותה ברשימה קטנה של אנשים שאשתדל למסות עליהם. אבל שישאר ביניכו.

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In the May 1st Issue on page 12

It was omitted that The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus life project, is a joint initiative of Jewish Toronto Tomorrow of UJA Federation and Hillel of Greater Toronto.

We regret the error.

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Food, Scrumptious Food

Kosher Gourmet Gala raises $102,000

More than 700 people savoured delicious samplings from some of Toronto's top kosher caterers, wine importers, hotels, and cake and confectionary creators, at Mazon Canada's fifth annual Kosher Gourmet Gala, held recently at Roy Thomson Hall.

Mazon Canada, founded in 1986, raises money and distributes it to Canadian hunger relief organizations such as food banks, children's breakfast clubs, community kitchens and Out of the Cold shelters.

Funds are raised through annual community events such as the gala in Toronto and the Kosher Food Fest in Montreal, as well as through the sale of all-occasion cards, and holiday appeals.

Jacqueline Kott-Wolle, executive director of Mazon Canada said that this year's gala grossed $102,000, up by $17,000 from last year.

Gala chair Susan Davis, said, "We're thrilled that the gala has been received so well. The food was scrumptious, the atmosphere was charged and the decor was elegant.

"At the same time, caterers and guests alike contributed to the hungry in communities across the country. It's a win-win situation."

Following are some of the gala recipes:

CHINESE SALAD

From Rivi Horwitz, of Rivi's No Fat Cookies

English cucumber
green onions
slivered almonds
rice noodles (fried)
chicken pieces
romaine lettuce

Dressing

1 cup oil
1 tsp. peanut butter
½ cup sugar
pinch of ground English mustard
¼ cup soy sauce
1 tsp. toasted sesame oil
½ cup white vinegar

Combine salad ingredients in a bowl. Blend all dressing ingredients together in a blender. Toss over salad just before serving.

MUSHROOM SOUP

From Judy Weinberg
Gala Committee Volunteer

¼ cup margarine
1 large onion, small dice
¾-1 lb. chopped mushrooms, mixture of button and Portobello)
¼ cup flour
dash of salt
dash of cayenne pepper
4 cups vegetable stock
3 cups milk
1 tbsp. dry sherry or fresh lemon juice

In a large soup pot, sauté onions until translucent and set aside. Add the mushrooms and cook until soft — keep pot covered. Blend flour, salt and cayenne pepper into the mushroom mixture. Add milk and vegetable stock to the mushroom mixture. Simmer on medium heat for 15-20 minutes. Add sherry or lemon juice. Blend either in the blender or in the pot using an immersion blender.

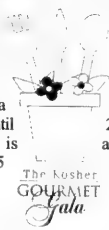
LEMON GINGER CHICKEN WITH ROASTED ROOT VEGETABLES

From Caterers York

Chicken

1 tbsp. olive oil
½ tbsp. minced peeled fresh ginger
1 tsp. grated lemon peel
1 tsp. paprika
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. ground black pepper
1 4½-lb. whole roasting chicken
1 tbsp. fresh parsley, chopped

Preheat oven to 425. Whisk the first 6 ingredients in a small bowl. Rinse the chicken inside and out. Pat dry. Rub oil mixture in cavities and over outside of chicken. Tie the legs together with string to hold shape (trussing). Tuck wing tips under. Place the chicken on a rack set in a large roasting pan. Roast chicken until juices run clear when the thigh is pierced, about 1 hour and 15 minutes.



Roasted Root Vegetables

1½ lb. butternut squash, peeled, seeded, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 lb. Yukon gold potatoes, cut in 1-in. pieces
1 bunch beets, trimmed but not peeled, scrubbed, cut into 1-inch pieces
1 small red onion, cut into 1-in. pieces
1 small turnip, peeled and cut into 1-in. pieces
½ head of garlic, cloves separated peeled
1 tbsp. olive oil

Preheat oven to 425. Oil 2 rimmed baking sheets. Combine all the ingredients in a bowl, toss to coat. Divide the vegetables between the prepared baking sheets, spread evenly. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast vegetables until tender and golden brown, stirring occasionally, about 1 hour and 15 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a platter. Pour the pan juices into medium bowl, spoon off fat. Drizzle the juices over the chicken. Surround the chicken with veggies and sprinkle with chopped parsley. 4 servings.

PEPPERED SALMON WITH SNOW PEAS AND GINGER

From GMB Culinary Productions

1 lb. snow peas or sugar snap peas with the ends trimmed
1 tbsp. finely ground Sichuan peppercorns
6 5-6-oz. salmon fillets, skinned
2 tsp. corn oil
1 tsp. toasted sesame oil
1 dash salt
6 scallions, thinly sliced
2 tsp. freshly grated ginger
⅓ cup dry sherry
3 tbsp. soy sauce
3 tbsp. unseasoned rice vinegar

Bring 6 cups salted water to a boil. Add the peas and simmer until bright green, about 1 minute. Drain and set aside. Sprinkle Sichuan pepper on both sides of the salmon fillet, distributing evenly. In a wide non-stick frying pan large enough to hold the salmon in a single layer, warm the corn oil and sesame oil over medium heat. Place the salmon fillets in the pan so they do not touch each other and cook until lightly golden on one side, about 4 minutes. Turn, season with salt and continue to cook until lightly golden on the second side and opaque throughout when pierced with a knife, about 4 minutes longer. Transfer the salmon to individual plates and cover loosely with foil to keep warm.

Place the same frying pan over medium heat. When it is hot, add the peas, scallions and ginger. Toss and stir constantly until the scallions soften, about 1 minute. Add the sherry, soy sauce and vinegar and bring to a boil. Boil until the liquid reduces by one-fourth, about 20-30 seconds. Remove from heat and pour vegetables and sauce over and around the fish and serve immediately. 6 servings.

CALIFORNIA CHICKEN

From Susan Silverman
Gala Committee Volunteer

3 whole chickens, cut into drumsticks, thighs, wings and breasts
1 bottle of Catalina-style dressing
1 pkg. of onion soup mix
½ cup or more water
3 tbsp. soy sauce
1-2 cups cherry tomatoes
1 lb. fresh mushrooms, quartered (or 1 tin with liquid)
1 large green or yellow pepper, large dice
1 package of frozen or fresh pea pods
1 cup red or white wine
sesame seeds, optional for garnish

Preheat your broiler. Roll chicken pieces in dressing. Place in baking pan and put under broiler until light brown. In a small bowl, mix together the onion soup mix, water and soy sauce. Pour over the chicken and bake at 325 for one hour. Baste from time to time. After one hour, add cherry tomatoes, peppers, mushrooms and wine. Continue to bake for another 15-20 minutes, until vegetables are just cooked. In the meantime, steam the pea pods. Cook enough rice for number of guests. Arrange platter with chicken pieces in centre and rice and vegetables around the chicken. Garnish the chicken with sesame seeds and add pea pods at the end. Spoon out gravy into gravy boat and serve with chicken and rice. Serve at the table and enjoy! 8-10 servings.

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Mitzna resigns as Labor Party chief

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israel's Labor Party, already in shambles since its stinging defeat in the general elections earlier this year, became even more unsettled this week with the announcement by Amram Mitzna that he is stepping down as party leader.

At a news conference Sunday, the dovish Mitzna, the former mayor of Haifa, blamed infighting and backstabbing by senior party officials for his decision.

Mitzna, 58, said these officials, whom he did not name, pursued their personal interests instead of party interests.

"There were people in the party who said everything they could to hurt me. They put their personal interests before those of the party, even during the general elections."

In those elections, held in late January, the Mitzna-led Labor Party made its worst showing in Israel's 55-year history, winning only 19 seats in the country's 120-seat Knesset.

Most commentators said Mitzna lost so badly because his policies were too dovish for an Israeli electorate hardened by more than two years of almost-daily clashes with the Palestinians.

During the campaign, Mitzna said he would be willing to negotiate with the Palestinians without a ceasefire and would talk with any Palestinian leader, including Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

If negotiations failed to produce an agreement, he said, Israel would withdraw unilaterally from most of the West Bank within a year. Mitzna also pledged to uproot Israeli communities in Gaza immediately upon taking office.

It was unclear who would take over for Mitzna.

Mitzna and party secretary Ophir Pines agreed to convene party organizations within 10 days to discuss whether new primaries would be held or a temporary leader appointed.

Mitzna's move was not altogether unexpected. Since Labor's electoral defeat in the recent polls, political analysts had predicted Mitzna might step down.

At the news conference, Mitzna accused party officials of constantly trying to undermine him.

He told reporters he was prepared to fight for his dovish views, but not to fight daily to prove his legitimacy as party leader.

The former Haifa mayor entered national politics six months ago, after ousting former Labor head Benjamin Ben-Eliezer in a November primary.

But their rivalry did not end there. Ben-Eliezer, more of a centrist than Mitzna, still used his influence in various party bodies to block or encumber decisions Mitzna tried to put through.

His tenure as Haifa mayor is generally considered to have been successful – the city is seen as a model for Arab-Jewish coexistence.

Mitzna's departure appeared to indicate a shift to the right for Labor.

Int'l solidarity members met British terrorists

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The two British terrorists involved in last week's suicide bombing of a Tel Aviv bar met at the end of April with activists from the pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement (ISM) in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah, a member of the movement said Monday.

Three people were killed and scores wounded in the bombing at the beachfront Mike's Place bar, when one of the Britons, Asif Hanif, blew himself up at the crowded nightspot. The bomb carried by Omar Sharif, the second Briton, did not detonate, and he fled the scene.

ISM member Raphael Cohen told a news conference Monday that he met the two men on Friday, April 25, five days before the bombing. He said that a group of 15 people met in an apartment in Rafah that belongs to the movement.

Along with four Britons from London, who planned to establish a summer camp in Gaza, the meeting included three Italians and the two bombers. Cohen said that he and another five ISM members attended the meeting, in which tea was served and general questions were asked about the participants' identities and plans in Rafah.

Cohen said that the two Britons answered that they did not belong to any particular groups, but rather were "alternative tourists" in the territories. He said that the ISM members were at the apartment for 15 minutes before leaving for a memorial ceremony for the ISM's Rachel Corrie of the United States, who was run over and killed in March by an Israel Defence Forces bulldozer in Gaza. (The ISM said the driver ran over her deliberately. The IDF denied the accusation and did not indict the driver.)

In recent months, the two Britons were students in Damascus, where it appears they were recruited by one of the terror groups in the Syrian capital.

A few weeks before the bombing, they crossed from Jordan via the Allenby Bridge border crossing. As far as is known, they were not detained or questioned. Among their possessions were explosives which, according to Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, were concealed in a copy of the Koran.

According to the *London Times*, the two lived in a Tel Aviv hostel before traveling to the Gaza Strip. On arriving in Gaza, they made contact with local terror cells, and felt safe enough to cross back into Israel at least one more time. On crossing the Erez checkpoint, they did not raise any suspicions of security personnel.

After the Tel Aviv bombing, Israel announced that from now on it will bar pro-Palestinian activists from entering the country and will try to expel at least some of the dozens of activists who are already here, according a new plan drafted by the Israel Defense Forces and the foreign and defence ministries.

Most of the activists, who come from Europe, Canada and the United States, belong to the ISM.

Their goal is to act as "human shields" for Palestinian individuals and houses during IDF incursions into Palestinian towns, and they have often been involved in confrontations with IDF soldiers. They also try to help Palestinians pass through IDF roadblocks.

Besides Corrie, there have been two other recent cases in which international activists have been seriously injured by IDF gunfire during confrontations in the territories.

In the first sign of the new crackdown, a member of the ISM was detained last Thursday by Israeli troops in the southern Gaza refugee camp Rafah.

Military sources said the female activist was sleeping in a house that was slated for demolition and suspected of concealing one of the tunnels used to smuggle arms from nearby Egypt, and her case was being handled by the Foreign Ministry.

The woman was later released and allowed to remain in the country, though she was barred from returning to Gaza.

The IDF charges that many of the self-proclaimed peace activists are "provocateurs" and "riot inciters" who deliberately interfere with the IDF's work, with the goal of blackening Israel's image.

Army sources said that in one case, they discovered a wanted terrorist being hidden by ISM activists in Jenin.

The sources said the activists received training overseas in how to deceive border control officials at Ben-Gurion International Airport in order to be allowed into the country.

Furthermore, both the army and the Foreign Ministry fear that additional foreign citizens might be killed or wounded by the IDF if the ISM's activities are allowed to continue.

Last Wednesday's bombing in Tel Aviv added a new reason to the authorities' desire to clamp down on the foreign activists – fear that other terrorists from overseas might enter Israel under the guise of peace activists.

IDF and Foreign Ministry last week decided to instruct border control officials at Ben-Gurion and land crossings with Egypt and Jordan to bar foreign activists. As well, IDF officers who encounter such activists in closed military areas will be ordered to arrest them, after which they will be deported.

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Survivors, students join together on 2003 March of the Living

By LISA PETERS AND ELI RUBENSTEIN

OSCWIESEM — What the March of the Living meant to more than 3,000 young people – teens and young adults from around the world – can be summed up in one word: "Remembering."

April 29 – the day of three-kilometre "March of the Living" from Auschwitz to Birkenau – was a day many will never forget. More than 100 students and adults from Montreal and Toronto took part in the 2003 march, which consisted of a week-long journey to Poland followed by a week in Israel.

Ralph Lipper, national chair of the march, said it "creates a unique understanding of prewar Jewish life, the horror of the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel."

The impact of the march on both its student participants and Holocaust survivors was evident in their passion, tears and thoughts.

Faigie Libman, a survivor from Lithuania who accompanied the Toronto contingent, said she was uplifted by the students who joined her on the trip.

"I felt more than I ever expected to because of these young people. They wrapped me in their love, and I now feel as though I have 30 new grandchildren."

She continued, "A fellow survivor on this trip told me the last words of her family were, '*men vet unzer nit fargessen*' – that they should never be forgotten. I feel we are in very good hands with these young people. They will definitely continue the legacy of remembrance."

Ernest Ehrmann and his wife Ella of Montreal (they're originally from Hungary) were joined on the march by their daughters Audrey and Debbie. The elder Ehrmanns were held in Birkenau as teenagers and lost many family members, including their parents, in the camp.

"As a survivor, I am very impressed with these young adults on the march," Ehrmann said. "My wish is that they will have their own families and will tell their children about what they have seen. I hope they will bring their own children on the march one day."

"Let's face it, survivors will only be around for the next 10-15 years," he continued. "When I was first asked to go on the march, they said, 'There are not that many survivors who are healthy enough to make this trip.' It really got to me," he said, as he touched his heart.

Besides their visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the students also visited Cracow, Warsaw and Lublin, as well as other cities and towns in Poland that were once centres of Jewish life and learning.

These visits create a balance between the pain of visiting the camps and the joy of celebrating the vibrant Jewish life that once existed in prewar Europe.

After visiting the synagogue in the small village of Tykochen in northeastern Poland, Lori Merling of Montreal was moved by the beauty of the handpainted prayers that adorned the walls.

"It is truly magnificent. Being inside the synagogue, I can feel the Jewish souls of the past come alive again," Merling said.

"The marchers are here to be part of a rich and beautiful tradition," said Rabbi Reuben Poupko of Montreal. "We don't come here for vengeance. We come here to simply thank God that we have survived and try to make our lives worthy of that triumph."

After the March of the Living, many of the young participants planted memorial plaques inscribed with personal messages in the fields of Birkenau.

Jen Gewurz of Montreal wrote: "Peace comes once society begins to learn from its history… Hopefully this genocide that took place can help society grow and suspend its hateful nature."

In addition to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the students also visited the death camps Treblinka and Majdanek.

Majdanek's relatively untouched barracks, gas chambers and crematoria proved a painful experience for many of the young people.

After Grade 11 student Sean Burnstein of Montreal witnessed the horrors of Majdanek death camp, he uttered, "We must not hold our heads down and cry. We have to raise our heads up because that's what those in the camps would have wanted."

Majdanek also weighed heavily on the minds of the Toronto participants, as Adir Koschitzky of Toronto observed:

"In Majdanek, there was one moment that struck me harder than any other. I was in the gas chamber, [and] I looked around and saw that again there were Jews from many countries together. But this time it was to commemorate the memory of those who died there 60 years ago."

Ariella Mandel of Montreal commented: "We have to see it. Generations of the Holocaust won't be here forever."

Ted Bolgar, a survivor of Birkenau who now lives in Montreal (he is originally from Hungary) and lost his mother and sister at the death camp, agreed.

"These kids have seen movies, read books and heard stories, but nothing can compare to the feeling they get when the see the dome of human ashes at the Majdanek death camp."

He added tearfully, "What I want the kids on the march to remember is something I once read on a plaque: 'We have to remember, because our memories are their only grave.'"

Lisa Peters and Eli Rubenstein participated in the 2003 March of the Living.

Zundel closer to deportation

Continued from page 1

The latest chapter in Zundel's legal tribulations began in mid-February when American immigration officials sent him back to Canada for overstaying a visitor's visa. Zundel had immigrated to Canada in 1958 but had never obtained Canadian citizenship. He moved to the United States in 2000, saying he was severing his ties to Canada.

On his return, he immediately made a claim for refugee status, a step that infuriated Jewish groups and politicians alike.

Canadian Jewish organizations applauded the government's latest steps to remove Zundel. "This man has been sullying our shores long enough," said Keith Landy, national president of Canadian Jewish Congress.

"While Ernst Zundel may not have been actually wielding the stick, he has provided oxygen to various white supremacist factions in their promotion of hate and anti-Semitism throughout the world," added Bernie Farber, Ontario region executive director for Congress.

Doug Christie, who is representing Zundel, told the *Globe and Mail*, "This is a frivolous, political hate campaign by the minister [of immigration] against someone whose opinions he doesn't like… There is no evidence whatsoever that Ernst Zundel ever caused a threat to the security of Canada, unless having a dissenting opinion is a threat to Canada."

Meanwhile, Zundel's Web site, which a human rights tribunal has ruled vilified Jews, continued its anti-Semitic themes, this time in a "Zgram" posted from the maximum detention cell in Niagara Falls where he is being held.

Zundel, who calls himself the "Gandhi of the right," claimed he was being persecuted by the Canadian state, "which, regardless of the party in power, always was willing to pimp for Jewish interests."

He claimed Canada's Anglo-Saxon Common Law has been "dumped by Canada's prewar and postwar invaders, the Marxist riffraff of the ghettos of Europe. What we have increasingly in its place is ghetto and Talmud thinking, Marxist situational ethics or even lack of ethics, repeated by a dumbed down, mentally lethargic sensational-headline-constipated populace."

He goes on to say the German population suffered postwar repercussions that "were murderous and almost genocidal," perpetrated "by those Talmudists like [wartime U.S. administration policy-makers] Morgenthau and Roosevelt."

'Road map' highlights

GOALS:

• A "final and comprehensive settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by 2005."

• The settlement will include "an independent, democratic and viable Palestinian state living side by side in peace and security with Israel."

• An "end to the occupation that began in 1967," when Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip and eastern Jerusalem from Jordan. The Palestinians demand the land for their state, but Israel wants at least minor adjustments to the borders, if not more. The plan does not mention specifically what final borders should be.

EVALUATION:

• "The Quartet" – the United States, United Nations, European Union and Russia – "will meet regularly at senior levels to evaluate the parties' performance."

PHASE I:

The Palestinian Authority must:

• Issue an "unequivocal statement reiterating Israel's right to exist in peace and security and calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire," ending attacks against "Israelis anywhere."

• "Undertake visible efforts on the ground to arrest, disrupt and restrain individuals and groups" conducting or planning terror attacks.

• Dismantle "terrorist capabilities and infrastructure" and confiscate illegal weapons.

• End all incitement against Israel.

• Consolidate existing security organizations into three, under the control of the PA interior minister.

• Hold free, open and fair elections.

Israel must:

• Issue an "unequivocal statement affirming its commitment to the two-state vision of an independent, viable, sovereign Palestinian state" and "calling for an immediate end to violence against Palestinians anywhere."

• Freeze all construction in Jewish communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

• Immediately dismantle illegal outposts built since March 2001.

• Stop demolishing terrorists' homes.

• Withdraw its army from PA areas reoccupied since the intifadah began in September 2000.

PHASE II (to start as early as end of 2003):

• Israel moves to "enhance maximum territorial contiguity" for the Palestinians.

• Palestinian constitution is ratified.

• An international conference launches the process leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state with provisional borders.

• Quartet members will promote international recognition of the Palestinian state and UN membership.

• Arab states restore pre-intifada links with Israel.

PHASE III (2004-2005):

• A second international conference will finalize a peace agreement that allows for a Palestinian state in 2005. The agreement will settle issues such as borders, Jerusalem, refugees, settlements and peace between Israel and other Arab states.

• Resolution of the refugee issue must be "agreed, just, fair and realistic."

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April 28

• Israeli intelligence reportedly gave U.S. forces in Iraq the first tip on the whereabouts of PoW Jessica Lynch. Contradicting earlier reports that an Iraqi civilian tipped off U.S. forces, U.S. congressman Tom Lantos said Israeli intelligence provided the first information that Lynch and five colleagues were being held in a Nasiriyah hospital.

April 29

• An army officer was killed in a training accident when a tank accidentally backed up into the jeep he was sitting in.

April 30

• The man who carried out a suicide bombing at a Tel Aviv beachfront pub was a British citizen, as was an additional terrorist who managed to flee when his explosive device did not detonate. Three people were killed and at least 35 wounded, one critically, when a suicide bomber blew himself up in the early morning at a beachfront pub in Tel Aviv. Israel is investigating whether Hezbollah or Al Qaeda are linked to the attack.

May 1

• At least 18 Palestinians were killed in clashes with Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza. Seven Israeli soldiers were wounded during a large-scale operation that began Wednesday night.

May 2

• Negotiating teams from the Histadrut labour federation and the Finance Ministry met to discuss the government's emergency economic plan and the union's strike action, which crippled the country for two days earlier in the week. The labour federation launched the strike to protest proposed cuts of $2.3 billion (US) that Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said are essential to reining in the budget deficit and preventing the economy from collapsing.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

We are all one big family

On the 55th Independence Day of the State of Israel, we are still fighting for the basic issues in the life of the nation and the country: the struggle for the status of the capital of Israel is continuing; our main border in the east has not yet been determined; we are still combating Palestinian terrorism and Arab countries and organizations are still calling for the destruction of Israel.

The security situation is influencing the economic and social conditions. Nevertheless, despite the difficult challenges we are facing, on Independence Day, we are proud of the great achievements made. We have a sovereign, democratic, Jewish, liberal, developed and progressive country with international achievements in science, agriculture, technology and culture. We have a country that succeeds in providing its citizens with health, education and housing services, a country, that continues to absorb Jewish immigrants from all over the world, a state that has become a model and example to be emulated by many other countries in the world.

I feel that recently the people of Israel have become more united than in the past. The tension between the various sectors in Israeli society has lessened. I also feel a great rise in the solidarity expressed by the Jewish people in the Diaspora towards Israel. Many leaders of world Jewry have been visiting Israel and a large number of Jewish communities have sent solidarity missions this past year. These visits strengthen our relations and contribute to mutual enrichment.

The free world's campaign to eliminate international terrorism is of great necessity. The fear in the hearts of humanity must be eradicated. Human beings have a basic right to live without fear of terror.

We are all one big family. We all have the same destiny and tradition. We can be proud to belong to the Jewish people.

May every one have a happy Independence Day and may we see the fulfillment of all our national and sovereign aims. I wish the Jewish people and the State of Israel quiet and tranquility, peace and security, economic stability and social justice.

Yours sincerely,
Moshe Katsav,
President, State of Israel

Future of Jewish people rests on our combined shoulders

On the occasion of Yom Ha'atzmaut, it is my great pleasure and privilege to send you greetings from Jerusalem, the eternal and undivided capital of the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

Fifty-five years ago, the State of Israel was forged in struggle. Since then, we have built an independent Jewish democracy, making great strides in fields such as medicine, technology, agriculture and the arts while simultaneously fighting for our existence. Our cities have flourished, and we have absorbed millions of immigrants – from 102 countries – who conduct their lives in Hebrew, the ancient language of the Bible. From these accomplishments we derive the strength and resilience to persevere, even in the face of challenge and adversity.

The future of the Jewish people rests on our combined shoulders. With our common history, heritage and mission as our guide, we are certain to achieve even greater heights in the future.

I call upon each of you to personally take part in the Zionist enterprise – by making aliyah and joining us here. Aliyah is vital to the continued existence, growth and prosperity of Israel.

Together, we will succeed in bringing peace and security to our nation and homeland.

Mazal Tov and Chag Samayach.

Ariel Sharon,
Prime Minister,
State of Israel

Palestinian Media Watch

The Abbas doctrine

Official Palestinian Authority (PA) TV has broadcast a music video calling for the murder of Jews in the disputed territories, even showing scenes of Jewish teenage girls and a Jewish couple being targeted for death.

The music video shows scenes of masked gunmen firing automatic rifles, aerial views of Jewish towns and, as mentioned, Jews who are targeted for murder: a man walking with his wife, a group of teenage girls and a soldier.

The words that repeat throughout the music video, in Arabic, are:

"From the mountain of fire [Nablus] came the rebels…

Everywhere there are settlements.

Oh brave Nablus, keep the cauldron ablaze.

Pour over the settlements great flames.

Foreigners have no place on this land.

Foreigners have no place where *shahids* [martyrs for Allah] were killed."

It is interesting that the PA has chosen to broadcast this call to murder Jews in the disputed territories around the very time it has confirmed Mahmoud Abbas as its prime minister.

In a recent interview, Abbas legitimized the murdering of Israelis who live in the disputed territories.

"The intifadah must continue. And it is the right of the Palestinian people to rise and to use all means at their disposal… all means, even guns," he said (*A-Sharq Al Awsat*, March 3, 2003).

It may be that this week's public call in the media to murder Jews is the PA 's way of reassuring its people that in spite of Western demands to solve disputes through negotiations, the PA continues to follow the Abbas doctrine, seeing murder as a legitimate tool.

Indeed, according to poll results reported last month in the official PA daily *Al Hayat Al Jadida*, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza seem to have accepted the Abbas doctrine, with 90 per cent supporting the murder of Jews in the disputed territories.

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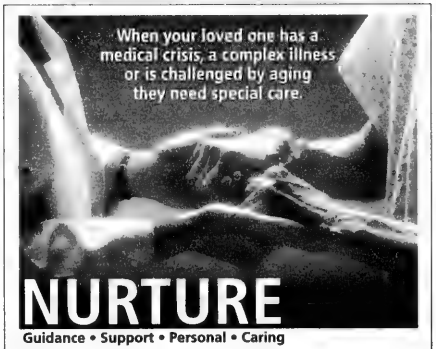
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Paris to host UNESCO conference on anti-Semitism

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The city of Paris, the epicentre of a two-year surge of European anti-Semitic violence and harassment, will be the scene of an international conference from May 12-14 that will examine "the case of resurgent anti-Semitism."

Sponsored by UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and staged by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the program will include a keynote address by French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy and a concluding reception hosted by Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoe.

Holding the conference in Paris, UNESCO's home base, as part of a UN program will emphasize the important role France and the UN agency can play in addressing the recent growth in anti-Jewish incidents, said Leo Adler, the centre's Canadian representative.

The fact that both the government of France and UNESCO "are making it a priority and a major conference is a sign of hope," he said. What's more, the conference affords the opportunity "to get them educated" about the extent of the problem, he added.

Since the onset of the latest Palestinian intifadah in late September 2000, the Jewish community in France has been the target of more than 1,300 hate crimes and incidents. As recently as late March, two young Jews were severely beaten by mobs at an anti-war demonstration in Paris and the next day, a chassidic rabbinic student was attacked in broad daylight on one of Berlin's main streets.

Last month, 95-year-old Simon Wiesenthal, in announcing his retirement, stated that "there is more anti-Semitism today than we experienced in the 1930s."

French government officials have been criticized by the Wiesenthal Center and other observers for downplaying the seriousness of the problem.

Adler said the government's attitude seems to have changed. While a shooting attack on a Jewish school bus was once considered a mere case of vandalism, today it would likely be seen as a serious incident of anti-Semitism, he said.

"Last year's election with [Jean-Marie] Le Pen coming in second I think was a wake-up call to the French and with the new government, now they're aware of the problem taking place. Their participation in this conference is a strong signal that they see the problem for what it is," Adler said.

The Wiesenthal Center is hoping the conference will also have an impact on European public opinion and influence the UN agency itself. The conference will address how "many countries blindly follow Arab and Muslim blocs in terms of voting on Israel and we will deal with how anti-Israel criticism morphs into anti-Semitism."

Ultimately, Adler continued, the conference will "speak to the UNESCO bureaucrats and show them they may not recognize anti-Semitism when they see it and that they may be promoting it without knowing it."

Convincing them "will be a tough nut to crack, but you've got to try."

Adler, who will lead a 12-person Canadian contingent to the conference, said his long-term hope is that a change in attitude at UNESCO might filter down to the various agencies it funds and supports.

Staging a conference in France will also serve as "a concrete gesture of solidarity with the beleaguered Jewish communities of Western Europe," said a Wiesenthal Center news release.

The conference is the first of its kind since one 11 years ago at which UNESCO acknowledged that anti-Semitism was "racism directed against Jews."

Opposition mounts to new Ashkenazi chief rabbi

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israel's new Ashkenazi chief rabbi is facing growing calls to step down amid allegations of misconduct.

The allegations centre on sexual harassment charges against Rabbi Yona Metzger, as well as charges that he engaged in fraud and is not qualified for the post.

Aides to Rabbi Metzger have rejected the allegations as a smear campaign fuelled by political rivals.

Rabbi Metzger and his Sephardi counterpart, Rabbi Shlomo Amar, were elected as Israel's chief rabbis April 14 by a 150-member public committee.

Since then, however, opposition to Rabbi Metzger has grown. In the latest development, a Tel Aviv accountant filed a petition last week in the High Court of Justice challenging Rabbi Metzger's appointment. It will be heard by a three-judge panel.

The petition claims that allegations of fraud and other improprieties involving Rabbi Metzger were not fully investigated because of his 1998 pledge not to stand for chief rabbi of Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Metzger's spokesperson, Roni Rimon, told *Ma'ariv* the petition was full of "lies, lies and more lies" produced by "professional slanderers."

Rabbi Metzger had been accused of forging witnesses' signatures on marriage contracts and unlawfully demanding payment for performing weddings, *Ha'aretz* reported.

As a result of the allegations, Rabbi Metzger's permit to serve as a chief rabbi of a major city was revoked. However, it was reinstated several months later after a hearing before three senior Israeli rabbis – including Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, a former Sephardi chief rabbi – who accepted his explanations and his commitment to leave the Tel Aviv race, the paper said.

The petition also argues that Rabbi Metzger, 50, who was previously rabbi of north Tel Aviv, was not qualified to fill the chief rabbi's duties as head of the country's rabbinic court system because he never had been a religious judge or rabbi of a major city.

The petition maintains the elections committee for the chief rabbi was not adequately informed of the misconduct allegations against Rabbi Metzger.

Rabbi Yona Metzger

In a related development, *Ma'ariv* recently published what it said were sexual harassment allegations involving Rabbi Metzger.

Aides to Rabbi Metzger categorically denied the allegations, pointing to polygraph tests the rabbi took dispelling them.

Rabbi Metzger's aides accused "well-known rabbinical sources" who they said were stooping low "after earlier accusations of chasing women failed."

The controversy comes against the backdrop of the contested election that preceded Rabbi Metzger's appointment to the post.

A few hours before the vote, Israel's attorney general unsuccessfully asked the elections board to disqualify Rabbi Metzger because of new information he had received.

Rabbi Metzger then scored an upset victory over National Religious Party candidate Rabbi Ya'acov Ariel, who had been favoured to win.

Rabbi Metzger was supported by the non-Chasidic segment of the haredi community, led by Rabbi Yosef Shalom Elyashiv.

In the wake of the renewed allegations against Rabbi Metzger, the head of the Knesset's legislative affairs committee, Likud MK Michael Eitan, called on the attorney general to order an immediate investigation.

Meretz legislator Roman Bronfman called on Rabbi Metzger to suspend himself from his duties until the matter is clarified.

But Shinui legislator Ilan Shalgi countered that as long as the allegations are not proven and no charges are filed, there is no reason for Rabbi Metzger to refrain from acting as chief rabbi.

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Support group launched for Jewish amputees

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Chazak v'ematz – Be strong and of good courage. This is the way Jews traditionally encourage each other.

Ruth, who for privacy reasons wishes to have only her first name used here, also considers this an appropriate name for a support group for Jewish amputees, who, she says, need to be helped to realize that they can still be productive members of the community.

Ruth, who lost her leg to osteosarcoma, bone cancer, three years ago, follows that philosophy herself. "I'm always going and doing," she said in a recent interview, listing an array of activities that include going to exercise classes at the Barbara Frum Library, learning to use a computer (even practising video games), visiting amputees in hospital and working with L'Chaim, a support group for Jewish women with cancer.

Ruth has an artificial leg, but zips around on an electric scooter.

She considers a positive attitude essential for living a full life.

Ruth didn't always feel that way. She recalled going to the cemetery when her leg, according to Jewish law, was buried. "I felt so alone, and I wanted to meet other people like me."

Now, she said, "I feel responsible to help others going through the same thing."

She approached Jewish Family & Child Service in the fall of 2001 about starting a support group. The agency agreed to do this on a trial basis, but after a few meetings, organizers felt there was not enough interest to continue.

That didn't stop Ruth. She is now organizing another group, tentatively called Chazak V'Ematz, which she hopes will be successful. "I feel that there is a real need for something like this."

She and three others met at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in December. "We exchanged ideas, and talked about what life is like for us. Everyone liked it a lot, and wants to meet again."

A viable group would be eight or 10 people, Ruth feels. She has put notices in shul bulletins, and talked to rabbis, asking them to contact congregants who might be interested.

In addition to supporting each other, the group will exchange knowledge and find out about anything new in the field, such as free programs, new technologies and special tax benefits for people with disabilities.

"There is a lot out there to help amputees, but you only find out about [these things] from other people," she said.

She would also like the opportunity to visit or have others in the group visit people who have recently had an amputation, and give them support, information and encouragement.

She said she knows of amputees in other cities who are interested in such a group – in Montreal, Ottawa, Vancouver and some U.S. cities. "The idea is to spread it through the whole [Jewish] community."

Another project she is involved in is trying to persuade the government to give amputees their own meeting place, something like Sunnybrook Hospital's Wellsprings, for general cancer patients.

While she considers herself a private person and shuns the limelight, she said she has come forward because she feels so strongly about this support group and because she is seeking people who will help organize and operate Chazak V'Ematz.

Keeping busy isn't only a way to pass the time and keep her spirits up, she said. "It makes me feel like a better person. I can still serve God and do good for people."

For more information, contact Ruth by e-mail at ruththeamputee@lycos.com.

Greater scrutiny of public curatorship urged

Public curatorship in Canada requires greater external scrutiny to avoid the problems that have occurred over the last 25 years, a recent conference on elder abuse was told.

Ura Greenbaum, executive director of the Montreal-based Association for the Defence of Persons and Property under Public Curatorship, said that there has been "persistent and widespread abuse" by public curators, or guardians, as they are known in some provinces, that has come to light in inquiries.

Greenbaum, and Harvey Freedman, a researcher with the association, were presenters at the recent Quebec Conference on Elder Abuse: A Collective Response, organized by CLSC René-Cassin's Foundation for Vital Aging. About 500 delegates registered for the two-day conference, which examined the various types of abuse of the elderly and how it may be prevented.

"Despite public guardians exercising imperial powers over so many seniors and their property, the relationship between public guardians and elder abuse has been given, scant attention in Canada," Greenbaum said. Moreover, public guardians conduct their work "outside public view, hidden behind confidentiality laws."

The public curator, a state agency, steps in to look after personal and financial affairs when a person of any age is judged by a court to be not mentally competent to make decisions for him or herself and has no relative or close acquaintance to do it for them.

Greenbaum noted that internal auditing of public curatorship agencies, with a few exceptions, rarely uncover wrongdoing. "The full scope and gravity of maltreatment by public guardians was exposed only by outside examiners."

Greenbaum said scrapping public guardianship is too drastic a solution, but its structure needs to be studied and debated publicly.

While guardianship is intended to protect the most vulnerable and their property, Greenbaum said its gravity should not be underestimated. The person is, effectively, having his or her basic rights removed and transferred to a government body.

In Quebec, 10,654 people were under public curatorship in 2000/2001. In Ontario, it was almost 9,000, and, in British Columbia, 3,500. The largest proportion were seniors.

In Quebec, the Public Curator was the subject of a 1997 investigation by the provincial ombudsman. The auditors-general in Ontario and B.C. have also issued reports revealing deficiencies in these province's public guardianship institutions, Greenbaum said.

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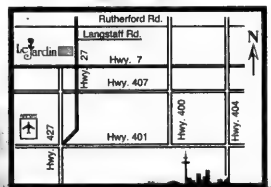

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Arts & Travel

Date flicks for the 20-something crowd

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

The CJN continues its coverage of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. All screenings are at the Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W. [416-324-9121]

Fans of *Sex In The City* will enjoy *Amy's Orgasm*, a funny relationship tale that's told from a neurotic woman's point of view.

Amy Mandell is the author of a best-selling self-help book called *Why Love Doesn't Work*, about women being complete without men.

Julie Davis stars in *Amy's Orgasm*

She's young, attractive, rich and single – a reluctant feminist icon with a fear of sex and relationships.

Seeking counselling herself, she confides in a Catholic priest at a confessional, even though she's Jewish, because it's "free and anonymous."

But things change when she appears on a Howard Stern-like radio show and falls in love with the "shock-jock" host, a crude, loud-mouth mysogynist – the sort of man she urges her readers to stay away from.

Amy's Orgasm stars the movie's writer and director, Julie Davis. The film's *Seinfeld*-like humour will appeal to 20-somethings.

Amy's Orgasm runs May 10 at 9:15 p.m. Davis will be in attendance.

* * *

Appealing to the same demographic as *Amy's Orgasm* is *A Match Made in Seven*, a documentary that centres around Vancouver's first-ever "speed dating" event.

The idea behind speed dating is to bring together a group of single Jewish people in a café and have them meet with seven randomly chosen singles of the opposite sex for seven minutes.

Ideally, it's hoped that in a Jewish-singles-starved city such as Vancouver, lifelong partners can be found.

At the end of the evening, participants decide which – if any – people they would like to meet again. If there are matches, phone numbers are exchanged and regular dates arranged.

It's not proven whether the concept behind speed dating works, although it has become very popular throughout North America. Alas, in this documentary, none of the singles find their bashert.

However, it is a fast-paced and interesting film that provides voyeurs a window into the thoughts and dating skills of some Jewish singles. (A word of advice to single Jewish men: few women are impressed when all you talk about is cars.)

A Match Made In Seven will be shown May 10 at 11:30 p.m. Director Ilan Saragosti will be in attendance. Following the screening, a SpeedDating Event will take place. For details on this see www.socialscene.ca or call 416-499-2399.

Jewish action hero battles evil Santa

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

The CJN continues its coverage of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. All screenings are at the Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W. [416-324-9121].

Who's the baddest Hebe this side of Tel Aviv? Why it's the Hebrew Hammer, of course. Oozing distinctive and stylish coolness, he's the big screen's first Jewish action hero, and he's come straight from the *'chood*. He doesn't need a cape or superpowers; he's got his tfillin grappling hook and a whole lotta attitude.

Adam Goldberg – straight from the *'chood*.

Adam Goldberg (*A Beautiful Mind* and *Saving Private Ryan*) plays the savvy, black-leather-coat wearing, fedora-sporting Hammer, who's velvety smooth on the outside, but compulsively neurotic on the inside.

This private investigator likes his *Manischewitz* straight up, yet doles out a nice Jewish whine with equal braggadocio.

Goldberg plays the role masterfully as the wry, understated hipster. Think David Duchovny meets Samuel Jackson.

The Hammer's mission brings him to the North Pole, where reindeers Rudolph and Vixen commit Santacide, a wild conspiracy that leaves Santa's psychotic son Damian (Andy Dick) as heir to the sleigh.

Continued on page 48

The Canadian Jewish news

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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 55.

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Arts & Travel

A writer's brush with fame and fortune

The TJFF, Trailers and I

By TAMMY STONE
Special to The CJN

Last year the Toronto Jewish Film Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary, and it was thought that a trailer – the festival's first – would be an innovative way to celebrate this landmark.

Toronto-based filmmaker David Stein – who has his own production company, Tzimmes Entertainment – was approached. Before long an idea was born: local celebrities would be called upon to say mazel tov to the festival.

Stein pulled some strings to get the trailer made on a shoestring budget, and the result was extraordinary.

"We loved David's trailer and were really impressed with whom he managed to get. It was a terrific cross section of the Jewish and non-Jewish film and television and celebrity industry," says Shlomo Schwartzberg, TJFF's director of programming.

The festival team was delighted to have Stein back at the helm this year, and the feeling was mutual, although he wanted to move away from last year's documentary style.

"I'm accustomed to getting people to talk on camera, I can do that standing on my head … the idea this year was to have a concept," says Stein.

Stein's sometime collaborator, writer Adam Halpern, came up with the idea of building a spot around Eliyahu the Prophet; the TJFF team approved wholeheartedly, and Stein and Halpern hashed out a final – and hilarious – version of Halpern's script.

Which brings us to the film shoot at Leah Posluns theatre. Stein has again managed to bring together a cast and crew with virtually no budget, thanks to his contacts in the industry.

Among them is Derek Rogers, CSC, an accomplished cinematographer who has worked on many popular – and esthetically distinguished – films, from *Cube* and *New Waterford Girl* to *Cypher*, starring Lucy Liu. Today, he works for free.

"David's a friend. And Toronto is so commercially-orientated as a film industry. I think film is supposed to be a community. The Jewish Film Festival is a community, so it's great to be a part of that," says Rogers, who also added, with a smile, that Stein is "a fun guy. Crazy, a great guy."

The scene can be described as controlled chaos. Stein says he's slightly understaffed, but he's not panicked. Around 25 extras and actors are waiting patiently to be called to set; some of them sit on the theatre's plush red seats as though watching a show.

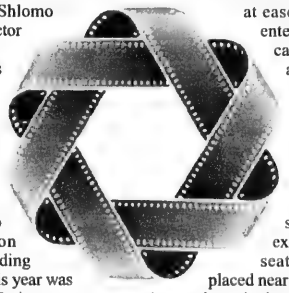
The stage, of course, is not populated by people, but a slew of equipment: lights, gels, tripods, and other things I would need to be more of a techie to name.

For the extras, there's a lot of waiting, either near set or in the lobby. Elizabeth Walker, who's been a member of ACTRA (the actor's union) since 1993, sums it up well. "Bring a book," she says, laughing.

From where Stein sits, there's no rest for the weary, but he handles the pressure with ease and grace. Although he has to shoot the entire spot in one day, he's meticulous, and shoots take after take to make sure he's getting it right.

He tells Rogers at one point, calmly, that he needs a minute, he's "just anguishing over the logic of the space."

With one eye on his monitor and the other on the scene before him, Stein takes time to give his actors quiet one-on-ones when it would be more tactful than yelling in front of a roomful of people. He makes good on his belief that it's vital the actors feel at ease on set. "It's all about entertaining," he says. "You can put people in front of a camera, but if they're not entertaining …"



At noon, I'm stressed just watching Stein work (how will he finish this in only one day?). Then, before I can say "action," I'm suddenly called to set. He needs another extra. I'm corralled into a seat, and people are being placed near me. I feel as though I'm in a real movie theatre, squishing my knees to let others pass by, given real popcorn to hold as a prop.

Reality and fiction are becoming blurred, and I'm loving every minute of it. So are the children extras on set. Some production crew tell them not to eat the popcorn, as most of the bags are filled with Styrofoam, but I catch them sneaking mouthfuls when no one's looking.

My dreams of stardom come crashing down a mere three hours after my first brush with fame. I'm called onto set again, this time with an acting assignment: I have to converse with the people on both sides of me, inaudibly. I think I'm doing a phenomenal job, until Stein tells me, quite kindly, that I'm a little stiff, that I need to be more expressive, but subtly.

Huh? I start to appreciate what a fantastic job the actors with speaking parts are doing. Not to mention Stein, who holds fast to his vision while paying attention to the littlest details.

Stein has been working as a filmmaker for the past eight years, and has worked prolifically as a writer, editor and director. He's made several short films for Bravo!, one of which – *Needle and 'Tread'* – played at TJFF. His feature-length documentary Wierzbnik: *Impressions of a Town That Was*, premiered at this festival in 2001, and he has a short video, Khasenjah, at this year's festival.

Continued on page 48

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

BETH TIKVAH PAYS MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO SRUL IRVING GLICK

Eight top Canadian musicians perform on one stage later this month when the Beth Tikvah Synagogue marks the first anniversary of the death of composer **Srul Irving Glick** with an evening of his music.

Glick, the son of a cantor and a member of the Order of Canada, died last year at the age of 67, leaving behind a significant musical legacy renowned for its expressive lyrical style influenced by Jewish melodic traditions.

The musicians are saxophonist **Paul Brodie**, violinist **Moshe Hammer**, harpist **Judy Loman**, flutist **Suzanne Shulman**, clarinetist **Joaquin Valdepenas**, cellist **Stefan Glick** (Srul Irving's son) and pianists **Glen Montgomery** and **Valerie Tryon**.

All enjoyed warm personal relationships with the composer and are donating their talents for the evening to perpetuate the performance of Glick's works.

Pieces to be performed include *The Prayer and Dance for Cello and Piano* in a free-flowing cantorial style, a saxophone-piano sonata that incorporates two old Ladino melodies, *The King David* harp sonata and *The Klezmer's Wedding*.

Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. $25. Sunday, May 25, 8 p.m.

* * *

Holy Blossom Does Rappaport: Holy Blossom Temple Stagecraft Company presents *I'm Not Rappaport*, **Herb Gardner's** Tony-award winning comedy about two octogenarians who rebel at the prospect of being put out to pasture. **Michael Ryval** directs a cast consisting of **Eric Kirsh**, **Ron Boyd**, **Susanne Egier**, **Anna Grosman**, **Tal Maissner** and **Judy Kent**.

Holy Blossom, Eisendrath Auditorium, 1950 Bathurst St. below Eglinton. Adults $15, seniors and students $10. Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 17, 8 p.m. and Sunday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 511.

* * *

Urgent Call for Actor: The Teatron theatre company is urgently seeking a good actor for the role of Hellman, the father, in its upcoming production of *This Night*, the new award-winning play by Canadian playwright Robert Majzels. "Due to unforeseen circumstances, one of our actors had to cancel," explains artistic director Ari Weisberg.

This Night focuses on brothers Benny and David Hellman and their struggle to understand themselves, their family's past and their Jewish heritage; when the spirit of their dead father is raised, they engage in an exhausting battle over the truth of his life as a Holocaust survivor.

Rehearsals are due to start immediately; the play opens June 7 and runs for 8 performances. Contact Weisberg at 416-781-5527 or email teatron@sympatico.ca.

* * *

What's Doing at Israel's: Judy Gordon is author of *Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters*, a book that tells the story of two Montreal orphanages from 1909 to 1942. Gordon reads and answers questions with her husband, **Meyer Gordon**, a former resident of one of the orphanages. Israel's Judaica, 441 Clark Ave W., Thornhill. Free; refreshments. Wednesday, May 14, 8 p.m.

The Shaarei Shomayim Book Club meets to discuss *The Complete Stories of Isaac Babel* at Israel's southern location, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Free; refreshments; everyone welcome. Sunday, May 18, 8 p.m.

* * *

Musical Notes

• Guest flutist **Nora Shulman** and the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra** perform light musical fare by **Rameau**, **Haydn**, **Bach** and **Handel**. At Roy Thomson Hall on May 8, 2 and 8 p.m. and May 10, 7 p.m. Also at George Weston Recital Hall on May 11, 3 p.m.

• The Future of the Modern Cantorate is a concert featuring cantors **Israel Goldstein** of New York, **Benjamin Maissner** of Toronto, and some of their most talented students. Holy Blossom Temple. Adults $25. May 11, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 224.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• A new multi-media adaptation of **George Orwell's** *1984*, by **Eli Lukawitz** and **Sam Rosenthal**, continues at Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St., to May 10. 416-870-8000.

•The Conference of the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations, originally scheduled for later this month, has been cancelled due to concern about SARS, the Morris Winchevsky School has announced. Also, Winchevsky's 75th anniversary concert has been postponed until the fall. Former students interested in attending the concert and a reunion are asked to call 416-789-5502 or e-mail mws@on.aibn.com.

* * *

Local Israeli Artists: Diverse works by members of the Israeli Artists Group of Toronto are included in an exhibition assembled in association with Israel's 55th Independence Day gala at the City Playhouse, Thornhill, Tuesday, May 6, 8 p.m. The group was established in 1992 as a non-profit organization, with members providing technical and artistic support, workshops and lectures, while having the Hebrew language as their common denominator.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Ten artists offer their wares at the Thornhill Visual Artists 7th annual Studio Tour & Sale, May 9 to 11 at a variety of locations. Free admission; free art draw at each studio. www.thornhillva. com or 905-889-9703.

• Come see the future through the eyes and minds of Canada's finest industrial designers at SymbioTech. Ontario College of Art & Design, 3rd floor ID Studio, 100 McCaul St. May 9 to 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also view OCAD's 88th annual student exhibition, same dates, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.ocad.ca.

The Canadian Jewish news

invites the public to a

Town Hall Meeting

to discuss:

In times of crisis: models of leadership

Keynote Speaker will be:

Gil Troy

Professor of History, McGill University,
author of Why I Am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today

Wednesday, May 28, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

'UNBEATABLE' SIGHTSEEING PACKAGE ENTICES TORONTONIANS TO ENJOY T.O.

With assistance from the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation, Toronto's Mirvish Productions has assembled an unbeatable package to lure Torontonians into being tourists in their own city and aid in the economic recovery in the aftermath of the SARS scare.

The promotion, called It's Time for a Little T.O., was announced last week at the downtown Princess of Wales Theatre with several Ontario cabinet ministers in attendance.

For $125 per person, Mirvish is offering a top-priced ticket to *Mamma Mia!* or Disney's *The Lion King*, a premium baseline ticket to a Blue Jays game, a three-course meal in a top restaurant and a night at a luxurious downtown hotel (based on double occupancy). The price for all of the above, minus the hotel stay, is $85.

The regular value of these items can be as much as $300. This limited-time offer is subject to availability and must be enjoyed by June 1. Participating hotels are Crowne Plaza Toronto Centre, Delta Chelsea, Fairmont Royal York, Holiday Inn On King, Sheraton Centre, Sutton Place, Westin Harbour Castle. For tickets, call TicketKing, 416-872-3333 or 1-800-775-4379.

* * *

Genealogy in Washington DC: The 23rd International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) International Conference takes place at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C., from July 20 to 25. The exclusive conference travel agent is SkyLink Holidays, whose Toronto-based representative is Avie Esakov. Contact Esakov at 416-923-2003 ext. 205; e-mail aesakov@skylinkholidays.com, Web site www.skylinkholidays.com. The conference Web site is www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/.

* * *

National Parks or U.K. for Singles: Jewish Singles Vacations, a group tour operator for Jewish singles (ages 35 to 55) from across North America, has announced two new itineraries. The first, July 6 to 13, features the Grand Canyon, Bryce and Zion National Parks, Lake Powell and Monument Valley. A trip to Scotland, England and Wales is planned for July 23 to Aug. 3.

P.O. Box 211, Brookline, Mass., 02446-0002. 617-782-3396. E-mail, jsv@tourgroups.com. Web site, www.tourgroups.com/jsv/

* * *

Heritage Tours to Spain, South America: Renshaw Travel, a major Vancouver travel agency, is helping many Canadian and American Jews discover that their historic and cultural roots go well beyond the obvious travel destinations of Israel and eastern Europe.

Santiago Nemirovsky, the agency's Jewish heritage travel specialist, is an active member of Vancouver's Jewish community. According to the Buenos Aires-born Nemirovsky, who is fluent in English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese, not enough attention is paid to the fact that many Jews have roots in Spain and South America.

"Argentina's Jewish heritage is rooted in the 19th century when the pogroms in Russia and eastern Europe forced Jews to leave," he said. "For eastern European Jews, Argentina's open door immigration policy made it a popular destination during this period of strife and uncertainty. The same is true of Brazil, where the origins of that country's Jewish community are rooted in the Portuguese inquisition and the expulsion of Jews."

Nemirovsky and Renshaw Travel are offering several two-week guided tours of Spain and South America between June and November. Possessing extensive personal knowledge of all the destinations, Nemirovsky is escorting all of the tours.

The South American tour includes a Shabbat in Rio and another in Buenos Aires with dinner with Nemirovsky's family; and visits to the Israel Embassy, the oldest synagogue in the Americas in Recife, the Iguazu Falls, Colonia and Olinda.

In Spain, the tour includes Shabbat with local families in Toledo and Barcelona, walking tours of Jewish historic sites and visits to hidden underground synagogues used during the Inquisition. It also includes visits to Cordoba, Segovia and Girona, and an option to see the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao and San Sebastian.

For a brochure or consultation, contact Nemirovsky at 1-604-730-3369, 1-800-745-7753, 1-778-772-3590; e-mail, santiago@renshawtravel.com. Web site, www.renshawtravel.com.

* * *

India Through Jewish Eyes: Rochelle Garrady was born in South Africa and immigrated to Canada in her teens. Her late husband was born in Iraq and moved to India as a boy. Through family stories and her travels, Garrady has developed a thorough knowledge of the Jews of India, past and present.

Hosted by the Cranbrooke Friendship Club and the Winchevsky Centre, Garrady presents a slideshow called Over 2,000 Years of India Through Jewish Eyes. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $7 includes lunch. Monday, May 12, 12:30 p.m. 416-789-5502.

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On the set of TJFF trailer

Continued from page 46

He often works as producer/editor/director on commercials to earn his living, but now has more freedom to pursue his feature projects. He's currently directing a documentary episode about Mordechai Vanunu as part of a four-part series for History Television called *Betrayal*, produced by Simcha Jacobovici's company, Associated Producers. The series will air next fall.

His office, in the Bloor West area, is funky, the environment is laidback but humming with life, and Stein has a small but devoted staff.

"At the end of the day, it becomes very collaborative, "says Stein, who shies away from calling himself the boss. "With an independent company that has few resources, we all end up assuming a lot of roles."

Except for Stein, they're all new to film shoot work, but it doesn't show. I ask Barry Lavender, who brilliantly plays Eliyahu, for a prophesy on how it'll all turn out.

He smiles. "If comedy is serious, then that's how they're going about it. It's [going to be] good."

This won't surprise festival organizers.

"We've shown several of David's short films and have been struck by how well made they are and how much heart they have," says Schwartzberg. "He really is one of the city's most talented filmmakers and I anticipate much more arresting work from him in the future."

Hebrew Hammer vs. Santa

Continued from page 45

Opposing Santa Sr.'s tolerant ways, Damian hatches a plan to obliterate Chanukah. In order to make Chanukah disappear, he needs to sabotage the Jewish Atomic Clock in Israel, which is set to determine the precise times of Yom Kippur, Chanukah and... Macy's Discount Day.

Now it's up to Mordecai Jefferson Carver, a.k.a. the Hebrew Hammer, a.k.a. "the certified circumcised dick," to save the Festival of Lights.

Wearing a Star of David-emblazoned eye-patch, Peter Coyote (*Erin Brockovich*) is Chief Bloomenberganteinthal, who heads the Jewish Justice League – the six-pointed security compound of the Jewish people. He enlists Hammer's help, but only after the league determines Henry Kissinger is "too old" for the job.

Coyote does a perfect parody of the one-eyed Moshe Dayan, hamming it up with dripping mouthfuls of bagels-and-lox noshings, while barking orders with zaide's eastern European accent.

Hammer also asks his black friend Mohammed (Mario Van Peebles), from the Kwanzaa Liberation Front, for his assistance. The Black Panther-like activist, with a penchant for fine ladies and ebonics, knows that a threat to one alternative to Christmas could mean the end for others too. Peebles (*Ali*) and Goldberg play extremely well off one another, especially when their bantering pokes fun at some offensive slang terminology.

And what would an action flick be without a gorgeous dame? Judy Greer (*Adaptation*) plays Esther, the chief's daughter and Hammer's sidekick.

The relationship between Hammer and Esther steams up (who would have guessed?), but not too much to keep this from being a family film. In a hilarious scene, Hammer's mother (Nora Dunn) arranges a shidduch between the two at the Shabbat table.

The Hebrew Hammer blends one-part *Shaft*, one-part *Batman*, and one-part *Naked Gun* in a playful mix that will have both Jews and gentiles chuckling. There's also plenty of '70s guitar wa-wa and staccato drum hi-hats to go around in this laugh-out-loud blaxsploitation homage.

Writer and director Jonathan Kesselman has produced a remarkable farce, with a spectrum of unpredictably clever gags. *The Hebrew Hammer* is a smart, and irreverent satire that gives Jewish humour a fresh face.

It's being screened May 8 at 9:30 p.m. with Kesselman in attendance.

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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
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55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
67 HOUSE SITTERS WANTED
68 HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE
70 UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION
75 APARTMENT FOR RENT
78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE
80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED
81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET
82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT
84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT
85 APARTMENT WANTED
87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
105 COTTAGE FOR SALE
110 COTTAGE FOR RENT
115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE
120 COTTAGE WANTED
122 TIME SHARE FOR SALE
123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT
125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE
130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT
135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED
143 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM AVAIL
145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM WANTED
147 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION
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170 ISRAEL PROPERTIES WANTED
175 ISRAEL ACCOMMODATION WANTED
178 ISRAEL TRANSPORTATION
180 OUT-OF-TOWN PROPERTIES
185 OUT-OF-COUNTRY PROPERTIES
190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE
195 VACATION PROPERTIES WANTED
196 VACATION PROPERTIES EXCH./SHARE
198 SPACE FOR LEASE
199 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AVAILABLE
200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
201 OFFICE SPACE WANTED
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203 STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE
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210 LAND/LOTS FOR LEASE
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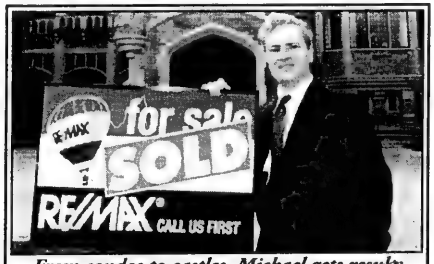

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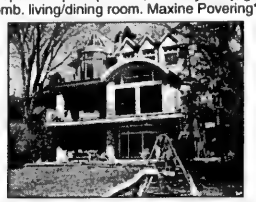

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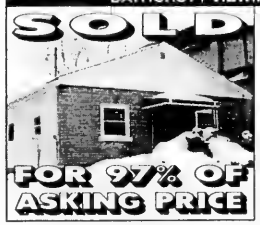

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3000 Bathurst, garden level lux. 1 bdrm + large solarium (den or 2nd bdrm), 28' liv. rm. + patio, 5 appl., 24 hr. sec., gym etc. $1350 incl. cable, util., a/c. Parking avail. August 1st. Leave message at 416-782-9989.

55 SKYMARK
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Thornhill Talmud Torah, an orthodox Jewish elementary school for boys req. teacher for: **Jr. Kindergarten**: Mon.-Fri., 9-1. Successful applicant will possess a min. of 2 yrs. teaching exper., ECE, own knowledge of Jewish kindergarten curriculum & the ability to convey & instil a love & knowledge of above. **Gr. 1**: Secular Studies, Mon.-Thurs., 1-4. **Gr. 3**: Secular Studies, Mon.-Thurs., 1-4:20. Successful applicant will possess a min. of 2 yrs. teaching exper. & appropriate academic quals. Pls. submit resume by May 15/03 by mail to: TTT, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill, ON L4J 5V3 or fax: 905-762-0443.

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Qualified candidates should forward their resume and cover letter to:

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

KAYLA AND DARRYL FRANKFORT are proud to announce the birth of *"THE PRINCESS"*, BAILEY LEAH, 8 lbs., 3 oz., on April 22, 2003. Proud grandparents are Krist and Peter Frankfort & Billy and Kathy Forberg and great grandparents Simi and Dave Forberg, Olga and George Frankfort, Eleanor and Syd LeGear and excited uncles Trevor Frankfort and Darryl Forberg.

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With sadness we announce the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother
Ileana (Ilonka) Klein ז"ל
Friday, April 18, 2003 — Nissan 16, 5763
She will always be remembered in our hearts
Dora & Robert Klein and Family
Donations may be made to the Ileana Klein Memorial Fund at Baycrest Foundation

SCHONBERGER, Livia – on April 14, 2003.
SPERGEL, James – on April 15, 2003, late of 52 Langholm Dr.
HOROWITZ, Barry – on April 16, 2003, late of 262 Ridley Blvd.
KLEIN, Ileana – on April 18, 2003.
MANDEL, David – on April 17, 2003.
LOBATCH, Boris – on April 16, 2003, late of 262 Ridley Blvd.
SIMONI, Alice (Ledisia) – on April 17, 2003.
ITKIS, Tamara – on April 20, 2003.
GREENBLATT, Harry – on April 19, 2003, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W.
LAPIDES, Edith J. – on April 20, 2003.
SHWARZBURG, Sofia – on April 21, 2003.
GOLDLUST, Ruben Israel – on April 21, 2003, late of 2 Neptune Dr.
SCHULTZ, Lily – on April 21, 2003.
BEM, Gina Franka – on April 21, 2003.
ROSS, Harvey – on April 21, 2003, late of 29 Vinci Cres.
CORBETT, Esther – on April 21, 2003.
MOUHADEB, Fortune – on April 23, 2003, late of 210 York Hill Blvd.
PAUL, Ena – on April 23, 2003, late of 50 Elm Ridge Dr.
POTOVSKY, Fred – on April 23, 2003.
MAMANN, Max – on April 23, 2003.
MARCOVICI, Silica – on April 23, 2003, late of 3174 Bathurst St.
LAPIDES, Halina – on April 24, 2003, late of 7420 Bathurst St.
SZOSENFOGEL, Edzia – on April 24, 2003, late of 93 Brighton Ave.
MANN, Allan Abraham – on April 25, 2003.
TROSTER, Estelle – on April 25, 2003.
ROTH, Lola – on April 27, 2003, late of 3636 Bathurst St.
MARKOVIC, Bertha – on April 27, 2003.
SHUB, Aleftin – on April 27, 2003, late of 1 Clark Ave. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RAYMONDE ALLOUL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 11th at 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MAX CARL BLUMENFELD ז"ל
will take place
Friday, May 9th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Torah Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HYMAN (HY) YOUNG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 11th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, south of Steeles
Blue Star Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

To my dear children, Cheryl and John, Mitch and Elaine, Risa and David, and my 8 grandchildren, Jason, Jory, Jaclyn, Lee, Stacy, Jesse, Cory and Carli, thank you for the love & support you gave to me during my recent illness.

To my family and friends, thank you for the many donations, lunches and dinners that were sent to me.

A special thank you to my best friends Gert & Nelson Ludwig for being there for me.

Eileen Grossman

The family of the late
IDA TIGER GOLD ז"ל
Of Blessed Memory

Wishes to express sincere and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all relatives and friends for their many acts of kindness, expressions of sympathy and for the many generous charitable donations made in her memory.

Your support brought us much needed comfort and gave us strength and courage in our bereavement.

Please accept this as our personal thank you.

ANNA, LOU, MICHAEL & INGRID VANDELMAN, L. HARVEY, CAROL, CLIFFORD & BRADLEY GOLD

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Arts & Travel

Disparate Jewish entertainers profiled

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Documentary films about Jewish personalities are not something new. Two such films have recently been released on video and DVD and provide two completely different viewpoints on the world of entertainment.

The Kid Stays in the Picture is the fascinating story of Robert Evans. Evans was a businessman visiting Hollywood in order to sell women's slacks when he was discovered by Norma Shearer at the pool at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

His striking good looks attracted Shearer's attention and she offered him the role of her husband in *Man of a Thousand Faces*.

Suddenly, Evans was the hottest new star in Hollywood, after having knocked on doors for years without success and being forced to seek work in another line.

Shortly after this, Evans was signed to play the matador opposite Ava Gardner in *The Sun Also Rises*. Evans was overjoyed, but he also learned something very important while working on this latter film. Many of the actors and creative people wanted him replaced, but Daryl Zanuk refused and told everyone complaining that "the kid stays in the picture and anyone who doesn't like it can quit."

Evans was impressed and decided he wanted to be a producer who has that kind of power. He wanted to be the boss.

That's exactly what happened. Evans took an option on a novel and used it to get into a position where he made the decisions. A short time later, Evans was hired as production chief at Paramount and became very successful with such hits as *Rosemary's Baby*, *Love Story* and *The Godfather*.

Evans, a Jewish boy from the garment business was now head of one of the biggest film studios in Hollywood.

But Hollywood has a history of chewing up people and spitting them out when its done with them. And just as Robert Evans was the toast of the town for a while, he also ran into a losing streak and was eventually removed from his position of power.

All this is chronicled in this terrific film, and it is all narrated by a much older and wiser Robert Evans.

The other interesting documentary is called *Porn Star*, which tells the story of one of the most popular stars in the history of adult films, Ron Jeremy.

His is not the stereotypical story about a porn star. Jeremy is short, overweight, hairy and middle aged. Yet despite this, Jeremy is adored by millions of fans.

This film shows that Jeremy comes from a loving Jewish family in New York. He got his master's degree in special education and only got involved in adult films after his girlfriend submitted his picture to *Playgirl* magazine.

Jeremy has spent more than 25 years in the adult film industry with more than 1,600 films to his credit and sits at the pinnacle of his chosen profession.

Despite all this, Jeremy is obsessed with making it in mainstream films. He has tried many time to cross over and leave the porn industry, with little success. But he is still hoping, and this film provides a peek into an area of the entertainment business most of us know little about.

What these two films accomplish is show us how people who have taken different paths have both succeeded in such different ways. Both films are available on VHS cassette and DVD. *The Kid Stays in the Picture* has been released in Canada by Alliance Atlantis and *Porn Star* is distributed by Mongrel Media.

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Tampa prospect's junior season comes to early end

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Adam Henrich moved back into his Thornhill home just days before Passover, satisfied with his third year of major junior hockey, but disappointed it didn't last just a little bit longer.

The 19-year-old Brampton Battalion power forward had just finished his second consecutive season as the club's leading scorer and led the team to its first-ever Ontario Hockey League (OHL) Central Division title.

After defeating the Barrie Colts in six games in the first playoff round, Brampton blanked St. Michael's 7-0 to start off round two before dropping the next four games to see their post-season drive come to a crashing halt.

"The team had a pretty successful season," said Henrich, in the process of packing his belongings prior to leaving his Brampton billet's home.

"If you looked at the papers in the beginning of the year, they had us finishing anywhere from seventh to ninth in the conference."

Henrich, the Tampa Bay Lightning's first draft pick in the second round (60th overall) of last June's NHL entry draft, got off to the fastest start in Battalion history when he scored seven goals in the season's first six games.

However, Henrich was assessed a gross misconduct penalty in the next contest after inadvertently flipping the puck into the stands following a two-on-one break that was whistled offside. Brampton went 1-4 while he served a five-game suspension.

He struggled upon his return to the lineup, with just one goal in the next 15 games, but picked things up in the second half, finishing the season with 31 goals and 33 assists in 63 games. The six-foot-four, 230-pounder tallied four goals and one assist in 11 playoff games.

Henrich showed a marked improvement in his overall play this season, winding up plus 24, a year after he was a minus three.

He expects to be back in Brampton in the fall, but will be working out hard over the summer with the hope the Lightning will offer him a training camp invitation.

Henrich's 23-year-old brother Michael, the Edmonton Oilers first-round selection in 1998 (13th overall), saw health issues hold back his development this year.

After getting mononucleosis at training camp in the fall, he was sidelined a few months. To get back into game shape, he signed a deal to play with Mora IK of the Swedish League.

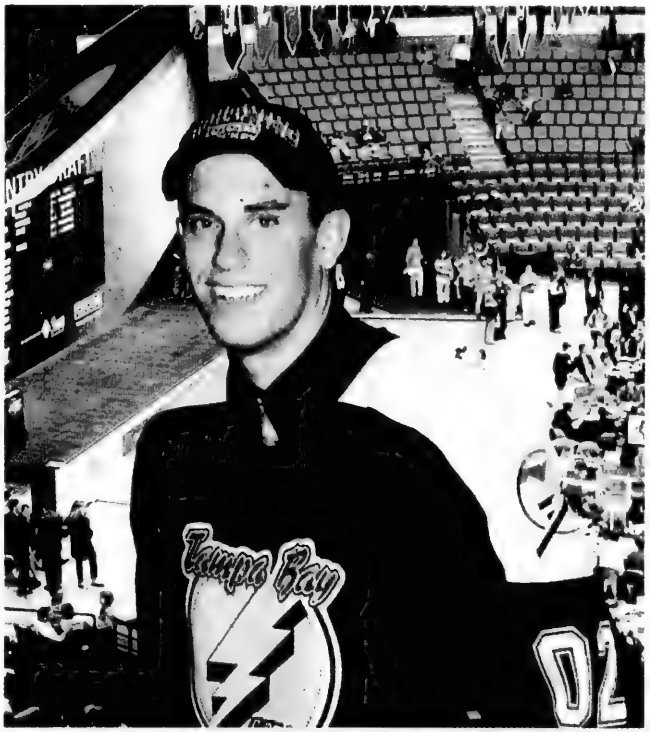
The six-foot-two, 206-lb winger also served some international duty this season as part of the Canadian National team that won the 2002 Deutschland Cup in Germany back in November. Michael also represented his country at the Sweden Games in Stockholm in February.

He is now back in North America and was loaned out by Edmonton's AHL affiliate in Hamilton to the Hershey Bears for the remainder of the Bears' season. Hershey, Colorado's American Hockey League club, was subsequently defeated in an opening round playoff series with the AHL's defending champion Chicago Wolves, Atlanta's farm team.

"It's unfortunate for him this year that things didn't go his way," said younger brother Adam. "He'll hope to go to camp next year and crack Edmonton's lineup. If not, it would be great for him if he could play at home in Toronto."

The Toronto Roadrunners will become Edmonton's AHL affiliate in the fall.

The Henriches' younger sister Laura is also quite an athlete. The 16-year-old student at Community Hebrew Academy of Richmond Hill excels as a member of the Cougars basketball team and also plays hoops in a league at the Bathurst Jewish Centre.



Brampton Battalion forward Adam Henrich was selected by the Tampa Bay Lightning in last summer's NHL entry draft.

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Cutting wood for a widow in Toronto

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

There is a chassidic tale told of a pious rabbi who arrived late at the synagogue for Yom Kippur services because he had been cutting wood for an old widow living in a cabin in the forest.

I have heard this story 10,000 times, but I always feel inspired and hopeful upon hearing its message about the decency of human beings. The rabbi in this parable conjures images of a pristine and fastidious person with a strapping physique but soft hands; a rebellious spirit prepared to challenge the omnipotent when a human being is suffering.

Over the years, I have been honoured to meet people in the Toronto Jewish community who personify the graciousness and caring of the rabbi in our story.

One specific person who stands out does not live in the forest near Lodz or Slupia, Poland, but off Bayview Avenue near Post Road. He is not a Talmudic scholar draped in a *kittel*, but a well-coiffed, Armani-dressed developer.

The person I'm writing about has requested anonymity. I will, therefore, call him Dave.

Dave and his family spend their summers at a cottage on Lake Simcoe. Dave's family became friends with a "lovely family" who live across the lake – the Macdonalds. Over the years, their friendship blossomed, even as the Macdonalds were visited by financial tragedy and a general lack of mazel (luck).

Dave's family decided they would accept one of the Macdonalds' sons into their home on their posh Bayview Avenue side street. They bought the young adult new clothes and sent him to a career placement and testing centre. Dave's children took their new family member to all of Toronto's great sports cathedrals. The Macdonalds were in awe of Dave and his family's giving and their willingness to chop wood for their son. Dave told me he couldn't think of a greater lesson in tikkun olam (repairing the world) for his children than the one they learned from sharing their home with the young Macdonald.

I have met many more people like Dave, rich and poor, who have sacrificed the quality of their familial solitude to assist someone less fortunate.

I have a friend who moved into a smaller apartment (600 square feet) so he could save $150 a month, which he gives to a lifelong friend struggling to make ends meet.

Can you imagine the enormity of this deed?

Examples of individuals who perform such beautiful acts – what the Ba'al Shem Tov (the founder of the chassidic movement) referred to as "getting your hands dirty to help your friend" – are plentiful in the non-Jewish community as well.

Recently my organization, Ve'ahavta, began working with members of a very virtuous gentile family who regularly travel the streets of Toronto, on their own initiative, feeding the homeless and assisting them to build their lives. This family owns and operates a major company with shares listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

I grew up in a home where our family space was shared with countless others in need. Over the years, I have met other people who have initiated large acts of kindness through the sharing of their "self" in a most commanding and memorable way.

Their diligently holistic approach to giving did not create a new need within either the giver – say, for honour – or the recipient – to grovel with appreciation – but rather reached the apex of an ideal sacrifice where no one slides, and where all can walk.

The next time the seat next to you is empty in shul, consider that the person who normally sits in it may just be wandering in the woods behind the Lipa Green Building, cutting cords of wood for a cold soul.

Go out and find him, and help him.

To share your ideas, e-mail mail@veahavta.org.

BROILED CHICKEN WINGS W/SPICY APRICOT SAUCE

18-20 chicken wings
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 tblsp. vegetable oil
2 1/4 tsp. salt
1 cup apricot preserves
1 crushed garlic clove
1/2 cup fresh lime juice
1/2 tsp. ground cumin
1/2 tsp. cayenne

Preheat broiler. Line broiler pan with foil, spray with cooking spray. Cut wing tips off and discard. Toss wings with oil, black pepper, 2 tsp. salt. Spread wings in a single layer in pan. Broil 20-25 min. turning over once.

Blend remaining ingredients plus remaining 1/4 tsp. salt until smooth. Transfer to small heavy saucepan, bring to soft boil, stirring; reduce heat; simmer 1 min., stirring occasionally.

Brush 1/4 cup sauce on cooked wings; broil 5 min. Turn wings over & brush with 1/4 cup sauce; broil additional 5 min. Brush with remaining sauce before serving. Yield: 4 servings.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My wife of 12 years and I have come to an agreement to separate. We are no longer seeing eye to eye on anything, and we argue more often than speak civilly to each other.

Although Sandra, my wife is as unhappy as I am, she is not taking this breakup well. She is constantly badmouthing me to our friends, relatives and, worst of all, to our two girls, aged nine and 13. My belief is that they should be kept out of this mess and that we should never speak badly about each other in front of them.

Sandra says the same thing, but she does not practise what she preaches. I am already noticing a difference in the children. They seem to be quieter and more withdrawn. What can I do to stop this before there is any more damage?

Poor Parenting

Dear Poor Parenting

You are absolutely right when you say you should keep the kids out of this mess. This is something you and your wife have created and the effect on your children will be an unfortunate result of the entire situation.

You can control how you behave and what you say to the kids, but you cannot control what is said when they are with Sandra.

Sandra must be told by an unbiased party about the damage she can inflict with her negative behaviour. The children must be protected from trauma and never be used as weapons.

You and Sandra should have a main goal of finding ways to co-operate as parents, regardless of your personal feelings toward one another.

You may find this very difficult to do on your own, and it would be appropriate at this time to enlist the help of a professional. You could try family counselling, or you may be able to get some insight about the children's behaviour and/or some direction from their pediatrician.

Any way you look at it, this is the path you and your wife have chosen and you must be on board together when it comes to raising your daughters. Their futures depend on it.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

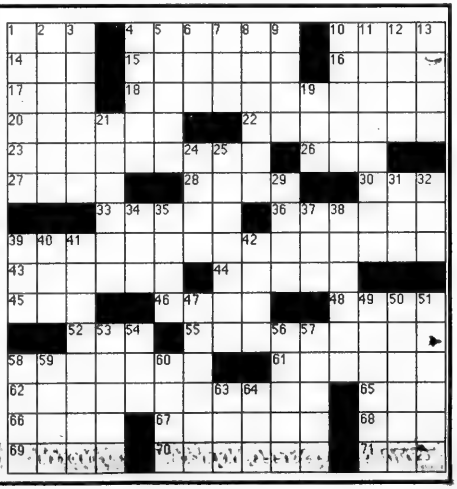
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

Stars of Laughter
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. "Delenda __ Carthago" (Cato's dire inveighing against Carthage)
4. Affectionate term some use for what the dog wags
10. ___ DeMatteo, actor in Deuces Wild (2003) and Swordfish (2001)
14. Trading symbol for Swiss mining company Xstrada
15. A work of Homer and such
16. Acronym for applied English language studies
17. Salt, near the Seine
18. Berle / Crystal
20. Moon of Saturn
22. English-styled dining salon
23. Jason
26. Fleur-de-___
27. Lip sore disease (abbrev.)
28. Harvard, Yale, Cornell, etc.
30. Vanity
33. First in a series of sagas?
36. Co-miscreant with feathered?
39. Lenny / Jack / Jackie
43. Iran/_____ Affair
44. Manages, makes do
45. U.S. job creation act of 1965
46. Plant whose name was given to the sea that Moses crossed
48. Texas city El ____
52. Baseball or rally
55. Julia Louis- ____ / initials of radio & tv Jewish mother in the Bronx
58. Victim of Indian with tomahawk?
61. What we feared the wolf would do to Little Red Riding Hood
62. Reiner / Caesar / Rivers
65. French key (var.)
66. ____-Bellum (pre-Civil War era)
67. Not far from
68. Yankees, Balt. Orioles, et al
69. Jerry (Lewis)' partner
70. One of three in 47 down got up?
71. Gov. Pataki's realm

Down
1. What Pahlevi was once he left the Peacock Throne
2. Author Danielle
3. Of higher stature
4. Site of Solomon's Mines
5. Foreigner
6. One way to write 48 in Latin
7. Angular dist. N or S of the Equator
8. Three-word idiom meaning "Am sure giving it my best effort"
9. Anglo-Saxon laborer
10. Where milk is drawn and processed
11. Regarding those who don't win
12. Cockney greeting
13. Not balanced in design (abbrev.)
19. Gala dance, in France
21. Anticipate
24. What are rolled, in gambling
25. One who proves or confirms
29. Prefix meaning the earth
32. 'Starter for amental
34. ___ annum
35. Girder
37. Soul, in Paris
38. The tsars' mad monk, for short
39. Before the Common Era
40. Steiger
41. One map, in Spanish
42. Swollen site
47. Duke of Windsor, for short, thrice
49. _____ School (early 20th century American painters)
50. Odorous, or malodorous
51. Female monster
53. Poet Ginsberg
54. Second added note at end of letter
56. Irish poet
57. Resort isle, Denmark's west coast
58. Large quanity or number of things
59. Sugar or walking
60. An, in Bonn
63. Tim coetcher
64. Gold, in Granada



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This Week

National

Toronto celebrates Israel's 55th birthday. *Page 3*

JVS spearheads effort to help Argentine Jews. *Page 12*

Philanthropists save Calgary day school. *Page 36*

Arts & Travel

Jazz player's performances display his considerable skill. *Page 45*

Sports & Leisure

Theo Epstein, Red Sox GM, aims to end Bambino's curse. *Page 54*

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CMDA resolves tax dispute

Organization retains its charitable status

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The two-year battle waged by Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA) with the tax department to keep its charitable status is over, after the organization went through the formality of being de-registered and then re-registered the next day.

CMDA president Joseph Bitton said this was part of a bargain struck with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA). For its part, CMDA withdrew its application to the Supreme Court to appeal a court ruling from last year that would have revoked its charitable status, and it has changed how it operates in order to conform to the Income Tax Act.

CMDA is now abiding by the CCRA's demand, which was upheld last year by the Federal Court of Appeal, that it maintain greater control over the ambulances and medical equipment it sends to Israel, Bitton said. CMDA has appointed two people as its agents in Israel to act as intermediaries with Magen David Adom (MDA), the country's emergency and blood service, the beneficiaries of its donations.

"They will check where the ambulances are at all times and report regularly to us," Bitton said. CMDA will retain ownership of the vehicles, as the CCRA requires, and have control over how they are disposed of when no longer needed by MDA.

CCRA spokesperson Collette Gentes-Hawn confirmed that, after the CMDA dropped its appeal to the top court on April 29, CMDA's registration was revoked on May 3. CMDA was then re-registered as a charitable organization on May 4. Both actions, she said, appeared in the *Canada Gazette*, the official medium for the publication of all legally binding decisions made by the government of Canada.

Gentes-Hawn would only say that CMDA had now been "reconstituted" and "changed the way it does business" to conform with the law.

Bitton said CCRA officials had offered CMDA the choice of not having the revocation notice published. But CMDA wanted to have the de-registration and the re-registration on the record in order to give both legal effect.

REMEMBRANCE AND JOY:
Israelis last week remembered their fallen heroes on Yom Hazikaron. The next day, they celebrated the country's 55 years of independence with fireworks, singing and dancing. At right, Israelis stand in silence beside their cars for two minutes as a siren wails in memory of the 21,541 soldiers and civilians who have died for Israel since 1948. Below, Israelis celebrate the state's anniversary in Tel Aviv.
[RNS/Reuters & Israel photos]

Shabbat: Behar
Candlelighting: 8:18
Havdallah: 9:23
Greater Toronto Area

The miracle of modern Hebrew — please see page 9

The News in Brief

CANADA

Interfaith Dialogue

VANCOUVER — About 300 people attended a recent panel discussion on Muslim-Jewish relations in what was billed as a significant community outreach effort. Sponsored by Canadian Jewish Congress and held at Temple Sholom, the panel included Jewish and Muslim scholars from U.S. and Israeli colleges and think tanks.

Raging Grannies Resign

OTTAWA — Two Jewish members of the Raging Grannies, a group of women over 55 who demonstrate for peace and social justice, withdrew from the group recently over anti-Israel and anti-Zionism in the protest movement. The last straw for the women was at an anti-Iraq war protest when a speaker accused Israel of human rights abuses. Other Raging Grannies criticized the Jewish members for leaving the protest.

ISRAEL

Israelis Fire up Grills

JERUSALEM — Israelis were expected to eat some 800 tons of meat, hamburgers, kebabs, hot dogs and chicken products over the Independence Day holiday. Barbecuing is one of the traditional ways Israelis celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut and the upcoming holiday of Lag b'Omer.

Population Growing

JERUSALEM — Israel's population grew by 2.2 per cent during the past year, according to statistics released on the eve of Israel's 55th Independence Day. The country's population stands at 6.7 million people. The 5.4 million Jews in Israel constitute 81 per cent of the population. Israeli Arabs number 1.4 million. The Jewish population in Israel represents 38 per cent of the world Jewish population.

Telephone Fun

JERUSALEM — Comverse, an Israeli firm that provides systems services for wireless, wireline and Internet telephony, announced the availability of an entertainment application called Fun Dial. It allows callers to hear customized music, sound effects, or personal or promotional messages, instead of standard ringback, busy, and call waiting tones. Subscribers will also be able to personalize and select the content they will hear when they make an outgoing call.

Vin Gold

JERUSALEM — Two Israeli wineries took gold medals at the recent Challenge International du Vin at Bordeaux in France. Ramat Hagolan won for its 1999 Cabernet Sauvignon and Barkan for its Merlot 2001 Reserve. Some 5,000 wines from 31 countries were entered in the contest.

WORLD

Forest Awareness

WASHINGTON — The U.S. forest service and the Jewish National Fund are working jointly to help improve forest awareness in U.S. cities. The joint program will include information on fires and fuels, overstocked forests, invasive species and insect diseases, and managed recreation. The JNF will roll out conservation education programs in Jewish schools in Atlanta, New York, Southern California and Chicago, and will promote the issue in public festivals.

Download Posters

BOSTON — The David Project, a peace education organization based in Boston, has launched a new web site, www.IsraelCelebration.com, featuring free posters that celebrate Israel's multicultural, democratic and scientific contributions to the world, as well as its vibrant culture. The David Project invites campus and community members to browse the dozens of posters, print them and display them.

Hillel Interim President

WASHINGTON — The Hillel board of directors has named Avraham Infeld as its interim president. Infeld, who currently serves in Jerusalem as counsel for Israel affairs, will move to Washington, D.C., and hold the position for one year while Hillel continues the presidential search process. Infeld will assume his new position in June.

Teachers' Boycott

LONDON — Britain's professors union debated launching an academic boycott of Israel at a conference earlier this month. The tabled motion charged Israel with "repeated breaches of UN resolutions and the Geneva Conventions" and calls for universities and union members to "review, with a view to severing, any academic links they may have with official Israeli institutions, including universities."

NPR Slammed

BOSTON — A nationwide protest against National Public Radio's Israel coverage was to have taken place May 14. A Boston group called Friends of Israel is promoting "NPR: Tell the Truth" day, when demonstrations against NPR's "biased coverage of the Middle East" are slated for 33 cities in the United States. The group is also asking businesses and foundations that support local NPR affiliates to cease doing so until the network's tone improves.

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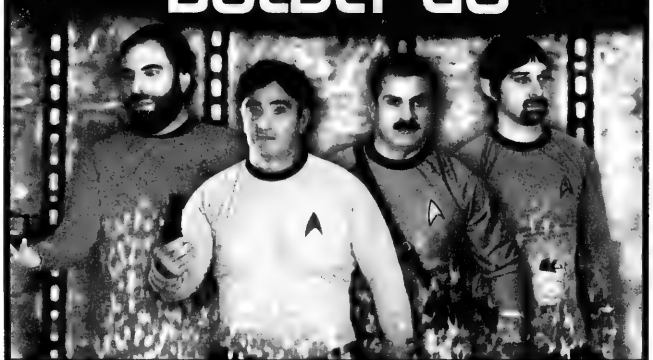

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Cousins Meet After 64 Years

CHICAGO — "After 64 years, I never imagined I would see her again. I was positive she had died," says a shocked and excited Ruth Alon, who last week was to be reunited for the first time since 1939 with her long-lost cousin, Angela Poeller.

Born in Vienna, the two cousins were separated early in the war and have not seen each other since. Leaving behind her entire family, Alon arrived in Israel in 1939 with Aliyat Ha'Noar (Immigrant Youth Movement) and settled in Kibbutz Beit Ha'Shita.

For many years, Alon searched in vain for any sign of life from the family she left behind. Two years ago, in a last attempt to locate any family survivors, Alon began to search the Internet and stumbled upon four families with the last name Poeller living in Chicago. She immediately wrote four letters detailing her story, but did not hear back until two months ago when she received a moving letter from Chicago. With the help of the United Jewish Communities (UJC), Angela Poeller, who arrived in Israel on a UJC Mission, was to be reunited with Ruth Alon at the Inbal Hotel in Jerusalem.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Toronto turns out to celebrate Israel's 55th birthday

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

"It's Israel's birthday!" cheered Kaille Goldman, 4, from atop her father's shoulders.

A light drizzle couldn't keep her away from Toronto's annual Yom Ha'atzmaut walk on May 7, along Bathurst Street from the Bathurst JCC to Earl Bales Park.

Nor could it wash away Elisha Krauss's grin. "Israel is the best!" exclaimed the six-year-old Netivot HaTorah student whose family went on a mission to Israel several months ago.

"I liked everything – the Kotel… I love to go to McDonalds. The food is the best!" she declared.

Because of the evening's damp, chilly weather, attendance was down this year. Whereas about 15,000 attended last year's event, the 55th anniversary of Israel's independence was celebrated by fewer than 6,000. Once the walk was under way, though, enthusiasm returned and umbrellas closed one by one as the rain eased off for a few hours of songs and flag-waving, Israeli music and kosher barbecued treats.

At Earl Bales, the Moshav Band entertained the crowd with its noisy brand of country hoedown-style Israeli music. In the midst of the happy din, students in their teens and 20s draped in Israeli flags and sporting Tzahal (Israeli army) gear, ground the grass in front of the stage into a grimy mosh pit.

"The 20-somethings came out in force," said Israel Now's Danny Fine, organizer of the event. "Folks with younger kids in carriages saw the rain at 6 o'clock and had to make the decision whether or not to go."

Brenda Cappe, 21, a European History major at the University of Toronto, visited Israel in 1998 on a Young Judaea trip. Wearing her Tzahal shirt proudly, she said she hopes to go back as soon as she can afford to. Why support Israel? "If we don't, no one else will," she said.

Progressive Conservative candidate for Eglinton-Lawrence, Corinne Korzen, was also on hand to show she's backing Israel 100 per cent. Korzen, an observant Jew, said she's looking forward to travelling there more frequently when her daughter's family – her son-in-law has most recently served as rabbi of Vancouver's Orthodox synagogue – returns to live in Efrat in the near future.

When she can't get to Israel in person, Korzen does what she can to shop "kachol v'lavan" (blue and white). "We're trying to buy only Israeli wines from the Golan," Korzen said. "And, of course," she added, pointing to a sticker on her jacket, "my party colours are blue and white."

Blue and white is also a passion for Joseph Fox, chair of Israel Now's Buy Israeli campaign. He was promoting the wide range of Israeli products available in Toronto.

Continued on page 22

CHAT students, from left, Hailey Banack, 18 and Bailey Newman, 17. [Jennifer Paquette photo]

A suicide bomber changed my life forever …

Like other victims of terrorism, Sheri Ben-Aroya's life has been changed permanently as the fight for freedom continues and as Israel's very existence is being threatened.

"I had managed to get leave from my Golan Heights air-force intelligence unit to spend the Pesach holiday last year at home. Our guest list had grown so large that we decided to have our seder at the Park Hotel near our home in Netanya.

During the seder, a suicide bomber exploded himself near our table. As a result, my 46-year-old father was killed instantly, and each member of our family suffered severe physical wounds and mental trauma.

The doctors gave me a 50% chance of survival. I had suffered critical head injuries, lost the sight in my right eye, my right arm and leg were paralyzed and I developed chronic problems with my nasal tissue and fluids.

I was beyond recognition — my long hair had been shaved off and my 8-year-old brother Elad refused to hug me saying, "this is not Sheri". I cried many hours and tried to console myself that he was just a kid. I didn't learn of my father's death until weeks later; everyone thought that the shock would make my condition deteriorate.

At the time of the terrorist attack, I was in military service and and was now considered a disabled veteran. I could join the Beit Halochem Centre in Tel Aviv and undergo rehabilitation there. I go there twice a week for occupational therapy, physiotherapy, art and ceramics. From being in a wheelchair, not able to talk or move half my body, I have re-learned to speak, move the right side of my body and walk again, and I've become left-handed and have memorized the English alphabet.

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Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat shalom

From the editor's desk

There is a typically powerful and poignant expression in Yiddish that speaks to the vicissitudes of human existence: *mahn tracht, Gott lacht*. In literal translation it means: man thinks, God laughs. In poetic translation it means: man proposes but God disposes.

What the saying refers to, of course, is the fact that although we may make plans, indeed, are obliged to make plans, it is not always in our power to fulfil them.

It was my plan to be in Israel on Yom Ha'atzmaut and to describe for *CJN* readers the colours and the spectacle of the Independence Day ceremony on Har Herzl in Jerusalem.

That was my plan. But "God laughed."

I did eventually arrive in Israel last week, which is where this column is being written, but only after Yom Ha'atzmaut.

Nevertheless, even though I missed the celebrations in Jerusalem, it is still a great thing to be in Israel. The excitement at landing in Ben-Gurion airport, despite the feeling of crumpled grunge that accompanies an 11-hour nocturnal flight, was palpable. And the emotional pull one feels after stepping into the sway of Israel's unique magnetic field is indescribable.

Suitcase collected, shekels purchased, hugs and kisses exchanged with awaiting family, cell phone rented, I was on my way to the home that would be my repose for the Shabbat gently approaching beyond the next sunset.

Shabbat is a vital weekly respite in Israel. The Jewish state is experiencing a great deal of turmoil. (Turmoil, it seems, was Israel's midwife at its birth 55 years ago and has remained with it ever since, like a guest who refuses to leave.)

A new peace process (the road map process) has already begun, with all its attendant uncertainties and partisan, political combativeness. Proposed severe budgetary cuts have alienated the public sector and threaten to emaciate public services. The economy is depressed due to the reduction in tourism and foreign investment wrought by 2½ years of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's war. And social, health, education and welfare problems are exacerbated as a result, due to the drastic fall-off in the economy.

Despite the turmoil, however, and despite the *chamsin* (the hot, desert wind that blows up from the Arabian peninsula approximately 50 days a year bringing with it temperatures near 40 C), being in this home even after Yom Ha'atzmaut was a celebration in and of itself.

There is a great deal about this home that embodies the surge and flow of Jewish history during the last century and captures the signal importance of having a Jewish state, even one in turmoil – and a state for the Jews, however imperfect – on earth.

My journey to this home actually began in Poland before World War II. My mother was born there and lived with her parents and siblings in Zamosc, not far from the home of her uncle (her father's brother) and his children, her cousins.

The war was a horribly cruel passageway. Only one out of each 10 Jews from Poland made it through.

In addition to my mother's immediate family, one of those Jews who made it through the war was my mother's cousin's son. After the war, he found his way to the newly created State of Israel.

There, he fell in love with a dark-haired, brown-eyed Jewish girl from Haifa. She and her parents were born in Beirut.

Her father walked by himself over mountains and through forests, in the mid-1930s, to reach what was then Eretz Yisrael, not yet Medinat Yisrael. After he found a job, he sent for this wife and children and they eventually settled in Haifa, where their family was enlarged by the advent of more children.

One of those children was a boy whom I would eventually meet and befriend when he was married (to someone whose parents were born in Yemen) with four children of his own, in the early 1970's, while visiting his brother-in-law and wife (my mother's cousin's son and his wife).

It was in his home that I greeted the Shabbat last week.

His eldest daughter is married to a man whose parents, both survivors of the Shoah, were from Romania. Another daughter is married to a man whose parents, also survivors of the Shoah, were born in France and in Romania. The youngest daughter is married to a man whose parents were born in Tunisia. His son is not yet married. But he bears the name of his father's best friend, a paratrooper, who was killed in the Six Day War recapturing Jerusalem.

The line of Jewish peoplehood and of Jewish history that took me to my Shabbat experience last weekend travelled from Canada to Israel through Poland, Lebanon, Yemen, Romania, France and Tunisia. And it is only in Israel that such a line could exist. For no other place or government on earth was willing to let that line pass through its borders.

The name of the family in whose home I spent Shabbat last week is Shalom. How fitting that is.

–MBD

SeeJN

YOM HAZIKARON: Gerry Males, whose grandson Daniel Mandell, 24,was killed recently while commanding an operation to rout out terrorists in Shechem, lights the memorial candle at the Consulate General of Israel's Yom Hazikaron assembly at Adath Israel Congregation. Daniel, his parents David and Cheryl, and his three siblings had made aliyah from Toronto 15 years ago. The assembly, which attracted a capacity crowd began with a moment of silence in memory of the fallen soldiers of the IDF. The program included poems and songs, and talks by Israel Consul General Meir Romem and Rabbi Steven Saltzman of Adath Israel. Cantor A. Eliezer Kirshblum of Adath Israel sang *K'El Maleh Rachamim*. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

Zundel expresses admiration for Hitler

Ernst Zundel, who once wrote a book titled *The Hitler We Love and Why*, last week told a Federal Court he owes his life to the German dictator.

"I am entitled to admire a man who brought Germany work, bread, peace, honour and a place in the sun," Zundel stated. He said his mother once told him he would not have been born had it not been for Adolf Hitler, whose economic policies gave his father work and enabled his parents to have children.

Zundel was testifying at a court review of a government finding that he poses a security threat to Canada. Confirmation of that finding could open the door to Zundel's deportation to his native Germany, where he faces incarceration for promoting hatred of Jews.

Court documents filed in support of the security allegation state Zundel's "status within the white supremacist movement is such that adherents are inspired to actuate his ideology. By his comportment as a leader and ideologue, the ministers [of justice and citizenship] believe Zundel intends serious violence to be a consequence of his influence. To this extent, the ministers believe and assert that Zundel is engaged in the propagation of serious political violence to a degree commensurate with those who actually execute the acts."

Addressing Federal Court Judge Pierre Blais, government lawyer Toby Hoffman described Zundel as the patriarch of the white supremacist movement. He said the movement employs violence to further its goals.

Court documents outlined Zundel's record of distributing neo-Nazi propaganda through a variety of media, most recently the Internet, making him a critical player in the movement in Canada and internationally.

Zundel has ties to Nick Griffin and the British National Party, which has been linked to a bombing spree in April 1999; to William Pierce, author of the *The Turner Diaries*, the book that inspired Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh; as well as to extremists Wolfgang Droege (Heritage Front), Marc Lemire, Terry Long (Aryan Nations), Tony McAleer, George Burdi (Church of the Creator), Tom Metzger, Richard Butler (Aryan Nations) and others.

Zundel, meanwhile, testified that "there is no white supremacist movement," saying the extremist right is too fractured to agree on anything. He argued he has never advocated violence, calling himself "the Gandhi of the right."

Zundel has been in detention since he was thrown out of the United States by U.S. immigration authorities after he overstayed a visitor's visa. Zundel lived in Canada from 1958 to 2000 but left for the United States in the middle of a Human Rights Tribunal that eventually ruled his Web site (www.zundelsite.org) distributed material that brought contempt on Jews.

At the time, Zundel said he was leaving Canada for good. On his return this year, he immediately filed a refugee claim, arguing he would face political persecution in Germany if he was deported there.

Zundel will remain in custody until his case is resolved. The next hearing is scheduled for Friday.

Meanwhile, Zundel's lawyer, Doug Christie, has said he plans to mount a constitutional challenge to the proceedings.

Correction

A headline in our May 1 story on Warsaw Ghetto survivors suggested Rebeka Bialystok's husband had left Poland for Israel to escape the Nazis. In fact, Bialystok's husband had left Warsaw with her brother, Israel, in 1939 and headed for Russian-occupied Poland. *The CJN* regrets the error.

COMMUNITY BONDING PROJECT: Bialik Grade 8 students and Zareinu have partnered in a Tikkun Olam project throughout the year where students have assisted in classrooms at Zareinu and gained insight and understanding into the challenges that some children face. As a culminating activity, Bialik will spearhead a community bonding project where Team Bialik will participate in the Moveathon, Zareinu's annual community fundraising event scheduled for June 22. Pictured above (from left) are Lisa Ludmer, parent coordinator of Team Bialik, grade 8 students Nathan Ladovsky, Adam Richardson, Melissa Lanys, Moveathon event coordinator Shaindy Cohen Goldstein and Jennifer Pollock.

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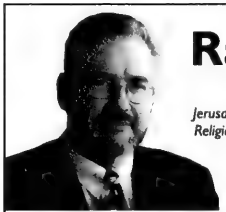

Rabbi Uri Regev

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Born in Tel Aviv, Rabbi Regev is a graduate of Tel-Aviv University Law School and a member of the Israel Bar. He was ordained as a rabbi by Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, in Jerusalem, in 1986. Rabbi Regev has held positions on many public boards, including: the Association of Civil Rights in Israel, HEMDAT (the Council for Freedom of Science, Religion and Culture), Freedom of Religion and Rabbis for Human Rights. He is a Founding Member of B'Tselem (the organization monitoring human rights in the occupied territories), Constitution for Israel, and National Forum for Civil Rights in Israel, among others.

A frequent guest on television and radio programs, Rabbi Regev is often quoted by the media on matters of religious pluralism and Reform Judaism.

Greater Toronto Area

Walkers will stand up for Israel at annual walk

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's upcoming Walk with Israel on May 25 has a few new features this year, but its goal of expressing solidarity with Israel and raising money to help Israel is a longstanding tradition.

For the first time, organizers are encouraging adult walkers as well as children to get sponsors and help raise funds, said Dodi Weill, who is co-chairing the walk with David Peltz.

Also, the operation has gone more high-tech, with registration and on-line sponsorships being facilitated electronically if participants like.

This year's 7-km route begins and ends at Coronation Park, across from the Canadian National Exhibition's Prince's Gates at Lakeshore Boulevard and Strachan Avenue. The walk will proceed along Strachan to Dundas Street, with checkpoints at Trinity-Bellwoods Park and Bellevue Square before heading south again.

The post-walk festival, sponsored by RioCan, will take place at the National Trade Centre at Exhibition Place from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature play areas, a kosher barbecue with vegetarian options, and entertainment including magicians, jugglers, clowns, Mandell Entertainment and the bands Bais Groove and Kenahora.

"Our goal is to have a real festive celebration of Israel," said Weill, a teacher and former chair of UJA Federation Women's Campaign and Advocacy. "There will be activities for all different ages."

The walk, the largest of its kind, has typically attracted 15,000 walkers in recent years, said Weill. Between 800 and 900 volunteers, working before and during the event, make it all possible. Volunteers are still needed, particularly for marshalling at street crossings, said Weill.

Money raised will be used to help Israel's social services, which have been affected by government cutbacks, and also to assist victims of terror attacks and to fight anti-Semitism locally and worldwide, said Weill.

Peltz, a longtime community volunteer who sells investment real estate, said that for him the walk is a commitment to two things: "standing up and being counted as a strong supporter of Israel, but [also] we have to stand up as proud Jews against anti-Semitism, which is growing at a fairly alarming rate throughout the world."

Organizers hope to exceed last year's fundraising of $300,000, said Peltz.

For more information, to volunteer or to register for the walk, go to www.jewishtoronto.net, or call the Walk with Israel Hotline at 416-631-5700.

Mayor Lastman bows out of municipal trip to Israel

Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman has cancelled his trip to Israel to deal with the SARS crisis and its aftermath.

Lastman and his wife Marilyn were to have led a dozen other Ontario mayors and municipal officials on a mission to Israel, sponsored by Canadian Jewish Congress, May 10-16.

"He has to take care of business at home instead of abroad," explained Lastman's spokesperson, Scot Magnish.

"There was lots of discussion. He wanted to go," said Magnish, but Lastman is too busy dealing with the impact of the SARS outbreak to have gone on the mission.

A similar mission to Milan has also been put on hold.

Magnish said the mayor is "holding out hope" of still travelling to Israel in the near future.

The mission, scheduled to return this week, met with a host of municipal officials in Israel and was slated to hold talks with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

CCCJ INTERFAITH PROGRAM: An interfaith "trialogue" on the role of faith groups in Canada was the highlight of the recent Canadian Council of Christians and Jews Spring Governors' Forum. Moderated by University of Toronto historian Prof. Margaret MacMillan (left), the speakers were (l-r) Rabbi Yossi Sapirman of Beth Torah Congregation, Imam Shabir Ally and the Rev. Karen Hamilton, general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches. [Stephen Epstein photo]

Rabbis voice opposing views on same-sex marriage

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Judaism regards marriage as the union of a man and a woman, and is driven by the biblical commandment to "be fruitful and multiply," a leading academic has told the House of Commons committee studying same-sex marriage.

"My views are informed by the normative authority of the Jewish tradition and are, I believe, held by the majority of Jews in Canada who are religiously affiliated," Prof. David Novak told the Commons' justice and human rights committee, which recently wrapped up cross-country hearings on whether and how same-sex marriages can be legally recognized.

Novak's appearance came about the same time as the Canadian Coalition of Liberal Rabbis for Same-Sex Marriage argued in support of homosexual marriage before the Ontario Court of Appeal [*CJN*, May 8].

Novak, an ordained rabbi and professor of Jewish studies at the University of Toronto, said that in a strictly religious sense, Judaism is only interested in a marriage between two bona fide Jews. "This is what the Jewish tradition calls *kiddushin*, or sacred marriage."

But the Jewish tradition also recognizes marriage as an institution that began with Adam and Eve, and thus as a human institution. Judaism, said Novak, doesn't negate what might be called universal marriage, it simply adds some further requirements for its adherents.

"Among the essentials of universal marriage that remains intact for Jews is the restriction of marriage to a union between a woman and a man. On this point, Judaism reaffirms a norm it views as being in place since the creation of humans on earth."

In this universal definition of marriage, he went on, the commandment in Genesis to "be fruitful and multiply" applies to all humans, and does not require the affirmation of any particular religion.

And the commandment is not just to conceive children – through the natural way – but for a heterosexual couple to form a lasting union "designed to build a family in which the raising of children is its main, although not exclusive, purpose.

"The birth and rearing of children by both their natural parents is in the best interest of society. That is why heterosexual marriage deserves the approval and encouragement of society," said Novak, whose views have also been included in testimony before courts considering same-sex marriage.

Judaism also considers the insemination of a lesbian "immoral" because "it excuses a father from taking any responsibility for the children resulting from his sexual relationship with the child's mother, even if that relationship was only based on masturbation. It excuses the father from the responsibility of even having to identify himself to his child."

Allowing two women to marry and engage a third party to impregnate one of them "willfully destroys the natural right of children to the responsibility of both their parents, and it destroys the natural duty of both parents to any children they have enabled to be born."

Novak said the same holds true for two men who engage a woman to bear a child one of them would father.

"Jewish tradition affirms that the best possible conditions for the birth and rearing of children are found in a family rooted in a permanent marital union between male and female parents," Novak said in his submission.

Members of religious traditions like Judaism "have a right" to insist that the state not radically re-define an institution like marriage, he added.

Finally, Novak posited that same-sex marriage could open the door to religious discrimination because faith groups opposed to it would "very likely be looked upon as enemies of the state. If that happens, the religious liberty exercised by many Canadians in questions of marriage and family will be regarded as a form of socially unacceptable prejudice. That will be detrimental to the type of multicultural society we now have in Canada, a society of which we are proud and want to extend into the indefinite future."

Novak told *The CJN* his presentation has been approved by the Beit Din of Toronto.

* * *

The committee heard an opposing view from the first openly gay Orthodox rabbi.

In a written submission, Rabbi Steve Greenberg said Orthodox rabbis "are beginning to understand that their gay and lesbian congregants are not freely choosing to be gay, but are simply discovering themselves to be essentially different."

While Orthodoxy rejects homosexual relations, experts in Halachah are beginning to include in their deliberations the testimony of gays who wish to remain faithful to the tradition, said Rabbi Greenberg, an instructor at the New York-based CLAL – the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, and who appeared in *Trembling Before G-d*, the landmark 2001 film about homosexual Orthodox and chassidic Jews.

Orthodoxy places many restrictions on marriage, he pointed out, such as between a kohen and a divorcée or convert; and between the child of an adulterous union and any Jew. However, civil marriage is open to all those, and no one hears protest from the Orthodox community over the violation of its sensibilities. "Orthodox communities have grown accustomed to the challenges of living in secular societies."

Same-sex marriage, like marriage generally, is a conservative institution expressing lifelong commitment, caring, love and support, he said.

"Central to Orthodox Jewish teaching is the importance of family. The rejection of gay coupling is hardly an expression of family values. Indeed, it is just the opposite. It is surely in the interest of families to support such unions that glue us all together by the force of our loving commitments to each other."

As well, adoption and surrogacy offer gay couples the same potential to reproduce as they do for heterosexual couples, he argued.

Toronto man loses 30 lbs., keeps it off – then loses more!

Hi, my name is Joey Thernesz. On a whim, I stopped in at a Positive Changes Hypnosis Centre to inquire about weight loss. I approached hypnotism as a last resort.

Up to then, I had been on numerous diets and exercise programs, where I succeeded up to a point but failed again and again.

I was overweight at 177 lbs., my clothes were tight and my jeans size had increased repeatedly. I hated looking at myself in the mirror and hated looking at any photographs of myself.

I was indulging in everything I fancied: chocolate bars, donuts, hamburgers, milkshakes, cakes, tons of ice cream, and more. I spent an awful lot of money on food — mostly junk food.

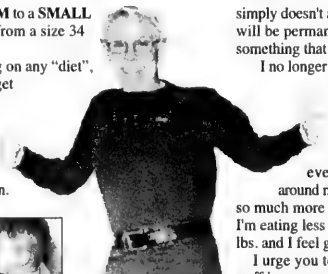
After the first hypnotic session, it seems my whole life changed. I virtually floated out of the clinic.

I began purchasing vegetables and fruit. I now sleep up to 8 hours every night whereas before, I would sleep four or five hours and perhaps snooze in the afternoon, between eating binges. Now I awake refreshed and alive.

The most important benefit was the immediate weight loss. I was quite unprepared for this. A miracle! Gradually, the belt was tightened to the next level, and the next, until I reached the end. I went from a **MEDIUM** to a **SMALL** size, my pants from a size 34 to 30.

By not being on any "diet", I don't have to get *off* any "diet". There is no calorie counting, pills, negative side effects or starvation.

BEFORE



AFTER

I've learned to make better choices because I *want* to, not because I *have* to. There is nothing to stop me from overeating or from eating junk food — if I were so inclined. It simply doesn't appeal to me. I feel that this change will be permanent; for the rest of my life, this is something that even *I* can manage.

I no longer dwell on food or the next meal because other things happening in my life are more important. Food is no longer an obsession. What I *do* feel is a sense of joy, a more positive outlook and an interest in everything going on with me and around me. I have more pep, energy and feel so much more alive. Cravings have disappeared. I'm eating less and enjoying it more. I weigh 147 lbs. and I feel great!

I urge you to call Positive Changes now. The staff is very professional and helpful and the clinic is beautiful, warm, and comfortable. If I have one regret, it's that I wish I had done this years ago.

UPDATE — TWO YEARS LATER:

After almost two years, I'm down to a trim 136 lbs. Meanwhile, having received my certification as a hypnotist, I'm now helping clients at a local Positive Changes Hypnosis Centre.

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The challenge we dare not ignore

Last week in the *Jerusalem Post* there were two reports about American Jewry that were very troubling and that carried major implications for Jews worldwide.

On the occasion of Yom Ha'atzmaut, the paper interviewed Hebrew University professor Sergio Della-Pergola, one of the world's leading experts on the demographics of the Jewish people, on matters relating to the future of Israel and the Diaspora. He spoke openly about the dwindling number of Jews in the United States.

"During the 1990s, the size of the American Jewish population did not grow. It should have because of continuing immigration of Jews to the U.S. In fact, it declined by about 200,000.

"We know that in the 1990s, more Jews came to America – from eastern Europe, Israel, South Africa, Latin America and Iran – than left. Yet the surveys show that young age groups have significantly diminished. This points to a low birth rate and a low rate of Jewish identification by the children of mixed marriages."

Three days later, the paper carried a short news item about a 50-page report funded with a grant from the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies concerning those very same "young age groups" of whom DellaPergola spoke. In particular, the report dealt with the way in which those young age groups in the United States related to the causes and to the messages of mainstream, communal Jewish organizations.

The report was titled *Israel in the age of Eminem*. According to the *Jerusalem Post*, the author concluded that "organizations, traditional messages and marketing methods do not appeal to most Jewish youth [defined as between 18 and 29 years of age], 80 per cent of whom are not engaged at all on the issue."

Without commenting on the merits of the report, its methodology or its underlying premises, the sheer size of the 80 per cent figure is staggering. When tied to the observations conveyed by DellaPergola, it is absolutely alarming.

Jewish communal leaders in Canada, as throughout the Jewish world, must take notice of this worrisome data. We cannot take too much solace in the fact that Jewish self-identification among Canadian "young age groups" may currently be higher than among their American counterparts. (Indeed, the Jewish census by self-identification under the category of "religion" will be released this week by Statistics Canada.) We know that the demographic pattern in the United States sounds a loud warning for the Jews of Canada as well.

The solution is decidedly not in the packaging of a resonant Jewish message to our "young age groups." The true solution is in instilling that message in them, in trying to foster in them a deeply held, unshakable attachment to their Judaism. That means ensuring access for our children to appropriate avenues of intensive Jewish education. Such access, of course, requires, at a minimum, that formal Jewish education be affordable to the widest number of children possible. Achieving that affordability is the most urgent challenge facing our communal leaders. It is a challenge they dare not ignore.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones

WE CAN'T SAY THAT MAYBE BUSH CAN PULL ISRAEL OUT OF THE MESS WE'RE IN...
...BECAUSE SAYING IT COULD JINX THE WHOLE THING.
WOW!
SO YOU THINK HE COULD SUCCEED?
YES I DO.
AAARGH! YOU SAID IT!!...YOU JINXED US!!
RATS!!
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'Ethnic cleansing' unacceptable

In recent years, ethnic cleansing has aroused strong opposition from many quarters. Yet one group of people continues to be singled out for ethnic cleansing – the Jewish people.

In her letter ("Communities should relocate," *CJN*, April 25) Andrea Kwavnick joins many who believe that elimination of the Jewish presence in Judea, Samaria, Gaza and eastern Jerusalem will assure the safety of those Jews remaining within the pre-1967 borders.

There is no longer any doubt that all Palestinian Arab factions want the Jews ethnically cleansed from "their land" of Palestine. For them, Jews in Tel Aviv have no more inherent right to live there than the hundreds of thousands of Jews living in the post-1967 territories.

In the Hitler era, there were Jews who thought that if they could help the Nazis clean out selected Jews, they would be saved.

If Jews hope to survive the Arab threat to their existence in Israel, all Jews must unite by asserting that no Jewish life is expendable and no Jewish home is dispensable.

Marvin Maurer
Monmouth University
West Long Branch, N.J.

* * *

Proud to be Jewish

As we lit yahrzeit candles in memory of our brothers and sisters who perished in the Shoah, we were reminded of how the Star of David, once a proud Jewish symbol, was used during the Holocaust as a badge of shame. The yellow star with the word "Jude" scrawled on it identified Jews as worthy of derision, hate and worse.

After the 1967 Six Day War when the Israel Defence Forces so spectacularly defeated the armies of five Arab countries whose goal was to destroy the Jewish homeland, soaring sales of Judaic ornaments attested to the pride and solidarity felt by Jews and non-Jews worldwide. The Star of David was once again seen as a badge of honour.

Fast forward to 2003 when 2½ years of intifadah have dealt a big blow to Israel. The scourge of anti-Semitism is once again rearing its ugly threatening head. Astronaut Ilan Ramon brought a ray of joy amid the anguish. We were all inspired by his powerful gesture, taking into space fundamental and poignant symbols of Jewish heritage. His special mission was to be an ambassador of the Jewish people.

We too have opportunities to be ambassadors of the Jewish people. By performing acts of love and kindness, by endeavouring to assume more responsibility for tikkun olam (repairing the world) and by proudly wearing symbols that identify us as Jews, we help to honour the cherished memories of our heroes and loved ones.

Liliana Zanzouri Leitman
Anna Mae Waxer Belmont
Toronto

* * *

Beware relativism

Regarding Barbara Balfour's column, "More than two sides to every story" (*CJN*, April 25), it is obvious that much has changed since my years at university, particularly in the area of discomfort felt by many Jewish students as a result of aggressive intimidation by members of the "latest tile" in the Canadian mosaic.

I'm rather surprised that there is a course in Arab film studies at the University of Calgary. Are there also courses devoted to the study of Russian cinema, or German, Italian, Brazilian and Mexican? If not, could you enquire as to why that is so?

I thank Balfour for showing the Jewish "flag." Even if it is a little uncomfortable sometimes, we must never shrink from raising it even higher. We have much to be proud of.

As for the headline of her column, beware of moral relativism. Too many versions don't always illuminate the truth; on the contrary, they all too often tend to obscure and even conceal it.

Nathan Shuster
Toronto

* * *

One more word on role of universities

From the content and tone of her letter, "Getting an education" (*CJN*, May 1), I believe that Aliza Libman misinterpreted my letter and message of April 16 ("Students, smarten up").

The issue here is not the extra-curricular activities that I would encourage students to participate in while studying at a place of higher learning, but the discouraging of uncontrolled demonstrations that do nothing but cause animosity, hatred and in some instances physical injury.

Students learn from their professors and from their textbooks. They learn from each other by participating in organized discussions and debate while on campus. Students also learn from their parents and grandparents and take advantage of their years of experience. Nothing can be accomplished by political activism that encourages hostility towards fellow students, especially those of another ethnic background or religion.

I encourage Libman to study hard, observe well, listen intently, exchange ideas and she will find that one can "catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

Lawrence Gaum
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

The miracle of modern Hebrew

To commemorate the 55th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, The CJN *has commissioned a number of essays that explore various aspects of the state. The essays will appear periodically over the next few weeks. The following article celebrates the revival of the Hebrew language.*

By CHANNA PINCHASI

We ought to recognize the greatness of the miracle that happened to the Hebrew language. Less than a century ago, it was hard to imagine that Hebrew could be the mother tongue of millions of Jews. That tens of thousands of Israeli kids would struggle – mainly with English – trying to learn other languages as their second language, that there would be Hebrew poetry, curses, movies and slang, and that all this would be completely normal and natural.

In order to metamorphosize from a holy tongue into a living language, in order to leave the synagogue and house of study and enter the wider world, the Hebrew language had to be reinvented.

How was this transition, from an ancient written to a modern spoken language, accomplished? Surely, from a cultural perspective, it was a complex process that required many people to willingly relinquish their mother tongue (and quite literally in many cases, the language of their mothers) and persevere in speaking a language that was missing many words.

Let's illustrate the problem using three examples of words that joined Hebrew within the last century. The first is *matzlema* (camera). Let's imagine for a moment a person – say, Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the man credited with reviving Hebrew as a modern, spoken language – saw a camera and wondered what to call this object in Hebrew. As you may know, Hebrew is a language based on three letter roots and often new words for objects are derived from them.

The person probably recalled the verse in Genesis, "And God created man in his image, in the image of God He created him," and he made an association between the words *tzelem*, image, and *matzlema*.

Applying the Hebrew root *tz.l.m.* to this everyday object carries a lot of meaning. From this association, one implies that the human being using the camera is acting, in a way, like God. The person is creating a photograph containing a piece of reality, just as God created human beings, within whom there is a piece of the divine. Isn't this an incomparably daring (even chutzpadik) choice of word? It's almost a new interpretation of creation and a surprising positioning of human beings in the world.

Or take the word *chashmal*, electricity, a modern phenomenon that needed a name, one found in a prophecy by Ezekiel.

When God was revealed to Ezekiel in one of the most astounding visions in the Bible, Ezekiel said: "I looked and lo a stormy wind came sweeping… a huge cloud and flashing fire, and in the centre of it… a gleam as of *chashmal*…"

None of the commentators knew exactly what it was that Ezekiel saw, because this is the only appearance of the word *chashmal* in the entire Tanach. But when a word for electricity was needed in modern Hebrew, it was clear that this verse, which combines fire with great divine might, captures precisely the modern "power" of electricity, which to us, today, seems so unremarkable.

Or consider the word *atzma'ut*, independence, whose root is from the word *etzem*, meaning bone. What is the link between *atzma'ut* and *etzem* ? Is atzma'ut the solid, stabilizing thing within us, as Adam says following the creation of woman in Genesis: "… this one at last is a bone of my bones (*etzem me'atzamai*)."

Perhaps it is worthwhile to check other Biblical references for the root *etzem*. Is independence related to power, as it is in reference to the Israelites in Egypt: "And the people of Israel were fruitful… and became exceedingly mighty…" (*vaya'atzmu*).

Perhaps *atzma'ut* has a more lofty spiritual connotation, as in the vision revealed to the Israelites at Mount Sinai: "And they saw the God of Israel… like the very essence of heaven for clearness." (*ke'etzem hashamyim*).

Eliezer Ben-Yehuda [Illustration by Michael Nissimov]

Each of these possibilities invites us to define for ourselves the meanings of independence in general and Yom Ha'azmaut in particular. Do we celebrate lasting stability, might or spiritual essence?

This potential within Hebrew for bridging between the spiritual and the day-to-day symbolizes for me the potential that life in Hebrew offers. It contains a connection between the common and the holy, lowly and lofty, trivial and extraordinary. Anyone who visits Israel experiences this, and it can nourish the individual and his or her spiritual world. It is clear to me that most Israelis do not take advantage of this potential and that many are not even aware that it exists. Perhaps this is also part of the miracle of Zionism: the creation of a reality in which the Hebrew language can, if we want it to, lend spiritual meaning to everyday life.

I have no illusions about the challenges facing the Hebrew language or the State of Israel. Hebrew is evolving rapidly and is absorbing foreign words galore, especially from English and Arabic, but also from other languages. For instance, when Israelis today part from their friends, they do not say "shalom," a word whose origin is in the root for wholeness and perfection (*shalem* and *shlemut*). Rather, they say "yalla bye." – *yalla* (as in c'mon) comes from Arabic, while bye, of course, comes from English.

To add to this, I believe many Israelis consider Hebrew to be provincial. That is, despite living in a state with a Jewish majority, Hebrew is seen as a language of a minority, and English allows one entry onto the world at large.

On top of that, Hebrew is also a young language that must deal with the issues of the modern world, such as loaded accusations of being chauvinistic. In Hebrew, every plural that refers to people is expressed by default in the masculine gender. For example, when speaking to a group of children of both genders, a person would refer to them as "*yeladim*," even if some are girls. As well, many words take for granted male dominance. This is not the place to expand on this discussion, but I will mention, for example, that the word *zachar* – the past form of "to remember" and the word for male – is the root of the word *lizkor* (to remember), suggesting that memory is the purview of men.

Hebrew is a language that is not yet sure of itself. Each time a new Israeli film is released, public discussion begins once again: why is it that a love scene in Hebrew is less convincing than a comparable scene in English? Is it because we are steeped in American culture that "I love you" in movies sounds better than "*Ani ohev otach*?" Or is it that we don't yet know how to make Hebrew films?

In any case, a sense of historical perspective must allow us to recognize the extent of the miracle.

Ain li eretz acheret, a song by Korin Alal that has become a classic on Israeli radio in recent years, begins: "I have no other country, even if my land is burning, only a word in Hebrew penetrates my veins, my soul." As I see it, this song expresses the essence of Zionism in the 21st century, in which Hebrew is one of the basic definers of Israeli identity, a platform upon which an entire culture grows and flourishes: poetry, theatre, politics, law and literature. A culture that is prepared to ask itself the hardest questions, in its own language.

The question then arises: what is the place of Hebrew in the Diaspora? Jewish day and supplementary schools invest time, effort and thought into the teaching of Hebrew. How great is the temptation for a Tanach teacher with students of any age to teach in English rather than investing time in the translation and memorization of Hebrew words. It is clear to every teacher that by using English, the level of class discussion would rise, as would the students' level of interest. The dilemma is not simple: how do we make the special potential of Hebrew, as described above, user-friendly for Diaspora students? Is the effort required worthwhile?

Perhaps perspective is needed. Despite Israelis' aforementioned feelings of provincialism about Hebrew, and despite the Internet and the North American sensibility that the world was created in English, the language that most Jews have in common is, after all, Hebrew. And as the years go by, the community with the largest Jewish population – Israel– is getting stronger and is speaking Hebrew.

Does this statistical fact have any meaning for us in our deliberations about the importance of Hebrew in the Diaspora?

English is not my first language. During the 1½ years that I have been in Toronto as a shlichah for the Jewish Agency, I have learned a lot about how tremendously difficult it is to function, both professionally and personally, in a foreign language. This experience has helped me to better understand the challenge of learning Hebrew as a second language. (My children, of course, have a great advantage over me in second language learning, as is the case for all students in Diaspora Jewish schools).

However, in this context, I am reminded of a poem by the Israeli poet Salman Massalcha, whose first language is Arabic and who writes in Hebrew. The poem begins: "I write in Hebrew, which for me, is not my mother tongue, in order to become lost in the world; whoever does not get lost cannot find wholeness." In order words, perhaps the one who comes to Hebrew from the outside has the advantage. A deficiency in command of the language can be an asset if one relates to it in this way.

Hebrew has had astounding achievements since it was born anew. Judaic studies and Jewish philosophy are flourishing, so much so that one might have thought the verse "and from Zion shall go forth the Torah" was referring to our times.

In current Hebrew literature, there is a profound body of poetry, significant portions of which will stand the test of time and become classics within the wider culture. One of our authors, the late S.Y. Agnon, earned the Nobel Prize for literature in 1966, and there are others who are worthy of it.

Will Diaspora Jewry be wise enough to listen in on what is happening across the ocean? Will it take advantage of the opportunity to broaden its cultural and spiritual horizons? Will it recognize the greatness of the miracle?

How does one say it in Hebrew? *Halevay* (would that it be so).

Channa Pinchasi is a Jewish Agency shlichah to the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education in Toronto.

Just the facts, ma'am

Two unrelated court cases were recently resolved. One was a Canadian case with possible international implications, the other was heard before the Supreme Court of Israel.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Both cases were lengthy, although the Israeli one took an inordinate amount of time – 14 years – to resolve. I am intrigued by how judges are– or are not – bound to consider only the facts of a case.

In Canada, a judge decided in favour of a divorced woman who sued her husband for damages. Although the financial rewards were below those requested, the ruling benefited the plaintiff. The man had promised in a separate document to give his wife a get – a Jewish divorce – but did not do so for 15 years. Based only on the facts of the case, the judge ruled the man contravened a voluntary civil agreement, hence the woman was entitled to damages.

Appropriately, this decision did not invoke issues of religion and state, nor did it involve the federal divorce law often called the "get amendment." The ruling will influence jurisprudence on damages and divorce. It might also strengthen prenuptial agreements. It most definitely should encourage divorcing couples to be legally explicit about their get requirements.

Significantly, it stands as an argument for rulings based on case facts only.

In that sense, the second case is an antithesis of the first. Last month, the Supreme Court of Israel ruled the Women of the Wall can pray out loud and as a group at Robinson's Arch, a section of the Western Wall outside the Western Wall Plaza, but not at the plaza itself.

In 1988, some women, myself included, began praying at the Western Wall Plaza – commonly known as the Kotel – with Torah and tallitot. As violence against us escalated, the government passed an injunction prohibiting this form of women's group prayer at the Kotel. Subsequently, the Supreme Court agreed to hear our case.

The facts were always about the Kotel and never about Robinson's Arch. How did the court get diverted? Were the political considerations more regnant than the legal ones?

The case presents many legal firsts. This was the first time in history the religious prerogatives of Jewish women have been decided in a court of law. It is noteworthy that the courts did not find any halachic violation in our conduct. The final decision was based on fear of riots by those who oppose women's prayer at the Kotel, rather than facts of commission by the women.

Previous rulings indicated the government should find a way to satisfy both groups, but the court refrained from issuing directives to the state.

In the end, the ruling released the court from making a decision on the merits of the case and avoided political fallout. It was an act of abdication, not justice.

Lessons of Lag b'Omer: bonfires, bows and arrows

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Last year, on our sixth visit to Israel, we finally made it to a Lag b'Omer bonfire extravaganza. After a short walk from where we stay in Ramat Hasharon, we found ourselves in the midst of dozens of celebratory bonfires. Not only were participants happily burning smoky pieces of wood, they were popping firecrackers, sparklers and dispensing masses of food.

My favourite was one of the last hearths we visited – a North African celebration, complete with drumming and enthusiastic harmonies.

The smoke from the fires was still in the air the next day, a pungent haze covering the sky above the Tel Aviv suburb.

It wasn't until this year that I began to wonder just what Lag b'Omer was all about, so I headed for my trusty encyclopedias – the classic 1912 Jewish Encyclopedia and the most recent Encyclopedia Judaica. Yes, I knew about the story that on the 33rd day between Passover and Shavuot, the plague that had killed thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students was halted. But that seemed, well, a bit apocryphal. Surely there was more to it than that.

This is what I learned. The Talmud mentions the plague – Rabbi Akiva's students are said to have died of a plague during the Bar Kochba rebellion "because they did not respect each other" – but mourning during the Omer is only mentioned explicitly first in the 8th century CE in a responsum of Natroni Gaon in Babylonia. Maimonides doesn't mention it at all.

In later centuries, the period of mourning gathered other catastrophes to it, the massacre of Jews during the Crusades being just one. Like Tisha b'Av, it became a period of recalling various times of death and suffering.

Rabbi Akiva was known to be a supporter of Bar Kochba, declaring him the King Messiah, and so some conjecture that the rabbi's students were actually soldiers in this devastating, and ultimately futile, uprising against the Romans.

Others suggest Lag b'Omer might have marked a brief victory in that war, or that it's the day when the manna began. According to the kabbalists, it was the day Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, whom they regard as the author of the Zohar, died. As they believe that on the day of his death he revealed many secrets to his followers, and the world was filled with light, the fires and holiday are a symbol of these luminous mysteries.

Some suggest that Rabbi Akiva's student soldiers died because they fought in an uncoordinated and unco-operative way – or that we celebrate because they did fight together and on this day were victorious!

You can take your pick of theories as to why we celebrate Lag b'Omer with fire. It could be in memory of the mystic Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai – or the scholar Rabbi Akiva and his students, or the failure of the Bar Kochba uprising (or a brief success).

To bring in another explanation, Lag b'Omer could be a much-changed version of a pagan holiday whose origins and ceremonies blended with Jewish stories. This latter reason is connected to the bows and arrows children play with on that day.

By contrast, the kabbalists connect the bow with a rainbow that will appear just before the coming of the messiah.

So we come back to the messianic, which deluded Rabbi Akiva. When he proclaimed Bar Kochba to be the King Messiah, one of his colleagues is supposed to have said:"Akiva, grass will sprout from your cheeks, and the messiah will not have come!"

It's an ageless lesson that religious fervor and politics make a lethal brew. Religion and politics, as Israel and other states have discovered, can be a disaster.

Some Jews today see the rebirth of Israel as heralding the end of time. Others hear approaching messianic footsteps in the settler movement, or in world events that appear more and more extreme.

The lesson I would take is different.

Rabbi Akiva, a genius in all other ways, was tragically wrong and led his students to their deaths. For me, the lesson of the Omer and of Lag b'Omer is that we can't wait for such apocalyptic salvation. It's up to us to repair the world, to build with human hands a just society here and in Israel. Thus, we will survive, or perish, by our own deeds.

Can't let go of camp – and proud of it

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

I can't tell you what I had for lunch yesterday, but I can sing my entire Camp Massad *Gezah Baneem* cabin song from 1976. It was to the tune of Sammy Davis Jr.'s *Candyman* and we were called the *Cochaveem* (Stars). The following summer, we were the *Machos* and our cabin song was written by our counsellors to the tune of *Close to You* by the Carpenters. (I was 11 and, at the time, I thought the Carpenters were the people who fixed our cabin.)

I went to Camp Massad – a Hebrew immersion camp in Winnipeg Beach, Man. – as a camper from 1976 to 1981. I served on staff until 1990, missing only 1984 for a summer trip to Israel. My last four years at Massad were spent as the director. I've since been back for two alumni reunions and one family weekend.

I sing, er, I mean, mouth, in the Camp Massad Alumni Choir. I sat on the board for about a decade and still sit on one committee. A few hours before I wrote this column, my wife and I made a commitment to the camp's endowment fund through the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. (It's not a huge gift by many standards, and the camp was not crazy about my desire to pay it off in just under 2,000 years. Still, for us, it was an expression of passion for the camp and Jewish camping in general.)

My Massadnik friends and I still reminisce about the camp days, and much of our humour and discourse is influenced by a two-decade-old shtick first celebrated on the shores of Lake Winnipeg.

What is it about Camp Massad that has stuck with me so dramatically?

Sure, Massad was fun, but a kid can have fun rolling around in the mud, too. At Massad, fun was – and is – just a tool to deliver the really important stuff. I think Massad sticks because it represents what we all need – simple, positive Jewish experiences. Massad was Hebrew without the tests, shul without the necktie. A summer at Massad was a licence to create, take risks and feel really good about being Jewish.

As beautiful and inspiring as Jewish living can be, a Jewish life can be complicated. We struggle with degrees of observance. We worry about the future of the Middle East and figure out how to best support Israel. We get involved in communal politics. We deal with difficult decisions about education for our children and care for our elders.

Camp was never complicated. It was intentionally simple. And perhaps it's that simplicity that I and many others long for in our lives. Singing a camp Shabbat melody today isn't just about nostalgia. It's about trying to draw on the memories to awaken the soul. The songs, the jokes, the personalities all trigger that inner peace that came with a summer at Massad.

In a few weeks, my wife, kids and I will spend a couple of days at Camp Massad for a family weekend. My kids will barely sleep. They'll eat too many treats. They'll likely resist participating in some of the activities.

But they'll also stare in awe as the counsellors raise the roof off of the auditorium with a deafening, spirited rendition of *Chiribim*. They'll do Israeli dancing. They'll sing Shabbat songs with 100 other people. They'll cuddle with Mommy and Daddy around a bonfire.

Their positive Jewish experiences today will be their positive Jewish memories tomorrow.

So, as I look forward to our weekend at camp, I'm reminded of my youth. I'm reminded of happy times and exciting experiences. I'm reminded that when Jewish organizations bring Jewish people together –to do Jewish things – greatness can occur. Simply.

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

The sabra: a thread in the fabric of Zionism

In the numbing aftermath of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in 1995, Israel's airwaves resounded to the lilting melodies of Natan Yonatan's nostalgic song, *Where Are There Still Men Like That Man?*

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

For a moment during those sad days, the whole country seemed yet again to embrace the myth of the fair-haired, blue-eyed sabra, of whom Rabin was an archetype.

Usually of Ashkenazi stock, sabras were the first generation of Israeli Jews to be educated and socialized within the labour movement of the Yishuv, the Jewish community in Mandatory Palestine.

Drilled in Hebrew language and socialist Zionist ideals, they were moulded by iconic institutions: kibbutzim, moshavim, agricultural youth villages, the Palmach and, later, elite units of the Israel Defence Forces.

Likened to a prickly pear cactus, which is sharp on the outside but pulpy inside, the sabra was supposedly a person whose rough exterior hid a sensitive soul.

A generic term for native-born Israelis, the word sabra was coined by Uri Kesari in the newspaper *Do'ar Ha-Yom* on April 18, 1931. But it was journalist Uri Avneri in 1946 who first expressed his generational consciousness through the concept of the sabra.

According to Oz Almog, the author of *The Sabra: The Creation of the New Jew* (University of California Press), a discerning and well-written book about an essential component of Israeli history, the sabra's prestige peaked during and after the 1948 War of Independence. This was a period when most Israelis tended to attribute the war's achievements to the sabra and the new immigrants steeped in their values.

The sabra's image was burnished by newspaper stories, by victory albums and by novels, poems, songs, movies and plays.

Almog, a senior lecturer in sociology at Emek Yezreel College, explains that Zionist-oriented schools, with their emphasis on Hebrew, Jewish history and physical fitness, were the incubators of the "cult" of the sabra.

Textbooks that challenged the fundamental assumptions of Zionism were omitted from the curriculum. The Bible was studied from a secular, nationalist perspective, and Hebrew culture was glorified. An atmosphere of what the poet Chaim Nachman Bialik called "unconscious ideological instruction" pervaded the classroom.

During the War of Independence and the 1956 Sinai Campaign, teachers encouraged students to intensify their emotional participation in the national experience by writing letters to soldiers on the front. Pupils' sense of involvement in the Zionist enterprise was reinforced through the medium of school assemblies paying tribute to fallen soldiers.

From the 1920s onward, an integral aspect of Zionist education was a love of nature and an appreciation of the country's landscape. Texts dwelled on a mixture of topics, from geography to Hebrew literature. The underlying assumption was that Jews should learn about the land, not only for practical and intellectual purposes, but for ideological reasons as well.

Field trips, hikes, marches and farm work were also supposed to foster a deep attachment to the land, as were tree-planting ceremonies and the Festival of the First Fruits, Succot, which commemorated Zionism's success in working the soil.

Marches were of particular significance, Almog suggests. With Israel's establishment, marches organized by Gadna – the para-military youth group – turned into exhibitions of national strength and vitality.

These marches morphed into treks in which participants scaled cliffs and crossed hostile Arab borders. Petra, the ruined Nabatean bastion in Jordan, was probably the most popular of these dangerous off-road adventures.

The historic right of Jews to Eretz Yisrael was a common theme running through the Zionist curriculum, and it was never seriously questioned until after the 1967 Six Day War.

The ethos of heroism and national pride was conveyed through lessons about biblical figures such as David and Judah Maccabee and about Zionist stalwarts such as A.D. Gordon and Josef Trumpeldor, the martyr of Tel Chai ("It is good to die for our country").

As might be expected in a society that valued collectivist values, volunteerism was an important benchmark by which a person was judged. The willingness and ability to sacrifice oneself for the nation, especially in military service, became a personal standard of worth, "a mirror in which a sabra compared himself to others."

Promoting an anti-Diaspora mentality, the curriculum glorified the Land of Israel and underscored the persistence of pogroms to demonstrate that Jewish life in foreign nations was pointless. In this connection, sabra were taught to regard themselves as the polar opposites of the stereotypical galut Jews.

As a result, until the mid-1950s at least, sabras usually displayed a superior and patronizing attitude toward Diaspora Jews and a certain insensitivity regarding the Holocaust.

The practice of giving sabras Hebrew names from the Bible and the land itself, and of Hebraicizing European family names, came into vogue during the First Aliyah (1882-1903).

The stereotypical sabra

During the heyday of the sabra "cult," sabras affected a deliberately dishevelled appearance: haphazard clothes, short, unkempt hair with forelocks, tanned skin and a dust-encrusted face.

For a while, simple khaki dress, which was supposed to evoke simplicity, modesty, idealism and anti-style, was all the rage, as was bedouin headdress.

Bare feet, simple leather sandals, bare-chestedness and tousled forelocks – the *blorit* – became the stuff of legend in literature, poetry, painting, caricatures, posters and film.

Makeup for women was frowned upon and considered almost whorish.

Dugri, the concise, pointed and unpolished colloquial Hebrew of sabras, fortified their cocksure, arrogant and impertinent attitude. But deep down, *Dugri* was seen as a sign of honesty and of the courage to speak boldly, without embellishment or prevarication.

Thanks to the sabras' influence, Hebrew was buoyed by a skein of slang words – ranging from *davka* (exactly so) and *kachah* (just because) to *betach* (of course) and *me'ah achuz* (without a doubt).

Israeli folk dances, principally the horah, and sing-a-longs, were defining features of sabra culture, too.

Tapping into Yiddish, Russian, Oriental and chassidic traditions, Zionist folk songs celebrated nature and work, children, holidays and, after the War of Independence, the experience of conflict, loss and memory.

Songs such as *Bab-el-Wad*, *On the Negev Plains*, *Dudu* and *Believe Me, The Day Will Come* became quasi anthems and were sung with gusto at festive occasions.

A tradition known as the *kumzitz*, which evolved from pioneer days, was immensely popular. Sabras would prepare a campfire, cook the meal, dance the horah and sit cross-legged on the ground in a circle of conversation.

The kumzitz may sound corny today, but in its day it generated a kind of closeness, togetherness and solidarity that are all too absent in Israel now.

Almog claims that the identity of the mythical sabra was burnished by three factors.

• Sabras were lauded in hagiographic memorial books published to mark the War of Independence and the Sinai Campaign.

The military deeds of Israeli heroes – Moshe Dayan and Meir Har-Tzion, to mention but two – were romanticized and favourably compared to biblical conquerors. And after the 1967 Six Day War, the exploits of Israeli pilots were widely publicized.

• Sabras, drawing on their diaries, letters and poems, published a plethora of books to much acclaim.

• Sabras had much greater access to printing presses and publishing houses than new immigrants.

By the end of the 1960s, a new generation of writers, playwrights, poets, journalists and scholars began challenging the sabras' "ideological derivativeness and their one-dimensional view of reality," Almog writes.

And a critical, anti-establishment Zionist canon, which coincided with the War of Atttrition and the Yom Kippur War, virtually shattered the aura of the sabra as a role model, he adds.

Indeed, some writers from this school actually poked fun at sabras, belittling them as pathetic and ridiculous figures.

Since the 1970s, this critique has entrenched itself, as sacred cows of Zionism have been taken out to pasture.

But in Almog's mind, the sabra was an immensely pivotal figure in Israeli mythology – an indelible thread in the fabric of modern Zionism.

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Canadian Friends of Boys Town honours two couples

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

For the first time, Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem (BTJ) is honouring two couples at its tribute dinner, to be held May 15 at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

Harriet and Brian Morris and Frances and Jules Kronis, are being honoured for their support of BTJ, and for their contribution to the Canadian Jewish community.

Brian Morris, a lawyer, is past national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee and past national president of B'nai Brith Canada. He is also a board member of BTJ, Canadian Magen David Adom and Associated Hebrew Schools.

Harriet Kravitz-Morris holds a PhD and has lectured at York University and University of Toronto. She has also been co-editor of fiction for *Parchment*, a journal of Canadian-Jewish writing, and is the immediate past national co-chair of the B'nai Brith League for Human Rights. She has served on the boards of B'nai Brith, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education.

Jules and Frances Kronis

Jules Kronis, a lawyer, has been on the national advisory board of B'nai Brith Canada, has been honorary legal counsel for Jewish National Fund, legal counsel and director of State of Israel Bonds and an executive of BTJ.

Frances Kronis, who has a master's degree in science specializing in virology, has lectured at the Toronto Institute of Medical Technology and the faculty of medicine at the University of Toronto. She is now a manager in enterprise practice for a chartered accountancy firm. She has also been a canvasser for several Jewish causes, including UJA Federation.

Harriet and Brian Morris

In an interview prior to the dinner, Brian Morris said that BTJ, a technological school for about 1,000 boys, many of whom come from economically disadvantaged families, "has been part of Israeli fabric since the country's inception.

"The school has staying power; it must be doing everything right. It was a Zionist idea that was well fertilized, and it should be on everyone's support list," he said.

Kravitz-Morris said BTJ is integral to the State of Israel.

"The boys go on to serve in the army, and when the air force started making its own planes, Boys Town was there. The boys that come out of the school form the backbone of Israel.

"The school has been around a long time, yet it is not in the daily news. It's newsworthy, but it is not part of the daily broadcasts. It needs to be brought to public attention.

"Boys Town is honouring us, but it is our honour to be able to support Boys Town and raise its level in the community," she said.

This year, when Israel has cut funding to a lot of institutions, "we have to make an extra effort to help out," Kravitz-Morris said

Jules Kronis said he can identify with the students at Boys Town. "I attended a downtown high school and I had to put myself through university. Most of these boys come from an economically deprived background, and this is their break.

"Some boys come from countries with political problems, and Israel is a haven for them."

Supporting an educational institution is important to the Kronises, Frances Kronis said, "because Jules got where he is because of his education."

It is their duty to help out said Jules, 59, because "I believe in the transition of generations. We have to step up and actively ensure the survival and viability of the State of Israel.

"It is not enough to buy tickets. Some had to take a pro-active role. I regret that not enough of our generation is doing that."

Tribute co-chairs are Harold Meyer and Eli Rubinstein.

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JVS spearheading effort to help Argentine Jews

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

JVS Toronto is looking for other organizations to join its Community Task Force for Aiding Argentine Jews.

The group was established in February with half a dozen organizations, but there are all kinds of initiatives going on in the city, according to Anat Wertheim, JVS' vice-president of employment and training.

"We would like to co-ordinate ourselves a little better in terms of the kind of assistance we can provide to this group," she told *The CJN*.

Task force would like to provide social and/or financial support

Jewish immigrants from Argentina "go to synagogue, to JVS and to JIAS. They are all over," said Wertheim. In addition to co-ordinating efforts for new immigrants, the task force would like to provide social and/or financial support for Jews in Argentina.

Participants in the task force, which is chaired by Daphne Wagner, include UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, Holy Blossom Temple, Temple Kol Ami and Ve'ahavta, the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee.

In addition to professional mentoring, the task force is looking at how to help newcomers from Argentina integrate into the Jewish community. Probably a couple of hundred – most of whom are professionals in their 20s, 30s and 40s with good English skills – have used the services of JVS in the past year or two, said Wertheim. "We would like to invite other organizations that have their own initiatives to the table, to see how we can co-ordinate our efforts in an efficient and effective way," said Wertheim.

The group effort, Wertheim's idea, came about after JVS was asked to help Argentine Jews find jobs and qualify for landed immigrant status, she said.

Although she knows of no other task force in Canada, Wertheim noted that the Jewish communities in Montreal and Winnipeg also have initiatives in place to help Argentine immigrants.

The task force's next meeting is scheduled for May 28. For further information, contact Anat Wertheim at awertheim@jvstoronto.org

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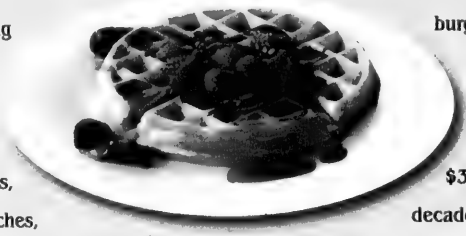

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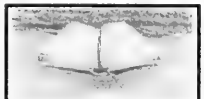
Jewish Life

Rabbi Shimon & Wal-Mart

By RABBI AARON MITNICK

As Lag b'Omer fast approaches, I wonder: am I the only one for whom the mysterious holiday automatically brings to mind the great Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai *and* the great retailer Wal-Mart?

All right, maybe I am the only one. But please allow me to explain why.



I think we're all familiar with Wal-Mart, so let's move on to Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.

On Lag b'Omer, we celebrate Rabbi Shimon's yartzeit, but just who was he? And what did he do that was so important that he merited having a day set aside on the Jewish calendar in his honour?

One reason given is that Rabbi Shimon was able to grasp, and teach to his disciples, some of the most mystical concepts of Judaism. On the day of his death, he passed on many of these sublime secrets of creation, which formed the basis of the seminal kabbalistic work, the *Zohar*.

Fine, but I still don't see why that wins the get-a-holiday-in-your-honour grand prize, when there are plenty of other Jewish greats – Moses and Abraham are just two that quickly pop to mind – who weren't accorded the same distinction.

I think the answer lies in how Rabbi Shimon was seen by the rabbis down through the generations. He is always cited as the exemplar of "*toraso umnaso*," meaning his vocation, his very raison d'être, was Torah study.

There's a fascinating story the Talmud recounts about Rabbi Shimon that illustrates this. At one point in his life, a bounty was placed on Rabbi Shimon's head by the Roman ruler of Israel, and Rabbi Shimon was forced to flee. The Talmud tells us that he and his son spent the next 13 years secluded in a cave and did nothing other than study Torah the entire time. They survived on the fruit of a nearby carob tree and a spring of water.

You're probably thinking: what in the world does any of this have to do with Wal-Mart?

The answer: Rabbi Shimon's total separation from the physical world and single-minded devotion to the Torah is the complete opposite of the physical side of life that Wal-Mart represents.

Don't get the wrong idea. Judaism certainly doesn't advocate everyone running away and living in caves. In fact, I love Wal-Mart – with quality merchandise, excellent value and friendly service, what's not to love?

The problem lies in overindulging in the Wal-Mart side of life, in getting caught up in the plethora of distractions that make up modern life: acquiring the latest in high-tech gadgetry, television, sports, the Internet… the list goes on and on. Of course, none of these is inherently bad, but together they constitute an almost irresistible force that draws us away from what we know deep inside that life is really all about.

And that's where Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai comes in. He reminds us – indeed, confronts us – not to lose sight of who we really are: spiritual beings who long to connect with that side of ourselves and with God.

And that's a message that deserves its own date on the calendar.

Rabbi Mitnick is spiritual leader of Beth Zion Congregation in Oshawa, Ont.

Examining Jewish mysticism

EHYEH: A Kabbalah for Tomorrow **by Arthur Green, Jewish Lights Publishing, $21. 95 US.**

Zohar: Annotated & Explained **by Daniel C. Matt, Skylight Paths Publishing, $15.95 US, paperback.**

Kabbalah, the ancient mystical tradition of Judaism, reached its most mature development in the 12th and 13th centuries with the appearance of the Zohar (the Book of Radiance). This influential work in Aramaic by the Spanish scholar, Leon De Modena, included teachings and insights from earlier sources.

In Safed in the 16th century, mystical ideas were recast and reinterpreted by Isaac Luria (the Ari) and his followers. The kabbalistic teaching, its intricate and elaborate language of symbolism, the involved interpretations by which the Kabbalists sought to reconcile their ideas with biblical and rabbinic teaching, made it a closed study for most Jews.

In the 18th century a new kind of popular mysticism emerged in eastern Europe. Known as Chassidism, it aimed to simplify the kabbalistic teachings and make them accessible to anyone. Opening yourself to the Divine Presence that is within you and all about you became the immediate goal of this Jewish mysticism. The Chassidim cared little for esoteric lore, seeking only to serve God with joy and wholeness of heart.

In EHYEH, Rabbi Arthur Green, professor of Jewish thought at Brandeis University and former president of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, points out that modern men and women are less confident about the steadiness of progress in many areas of human endeavour than were preceding generations. They seek to re-examine the more profound tools of human self-understanding that were cast aside with the advent of modernity. Kabbalah is one of these, and in this spirit they open themselves to learning from it.

As a sophisticated and modern seeker of mystical wisdom the author asks questions such as these: How is the kabbalistic tradition relevant to today's seeker? Are the ancient and mysterious symbols of value to us in a very different world? How should Kabbalah be refitted so that it might serve as an appropriate vehicle for a contemporary spiritual quest?

The author offers 14 personal teachings that he regards as essential for living a Jewish spiritual life in our day.

Some of these are:

Know that all of life is holy, all exists within the One. There is no time or place in which God's presence cannot be found. Meditate on this each day. Think about it at home, while commuting, at work and back at home.

Live the rhythm of the sacred calendar – Shabbat, holidays, seasons – as rich with traditional forms or as simply as your spirit desires. Remember that it is you who has to fill those forms with God's presence. It is the joy of your spirit that brings them to life!

Share with others the fullness of spirit that flows from your religious life. Give to others beyond measure, just as no one has measured the great gifts you receive. Give of yourself: give time, not just money; give directly, not just impersonally. Above all, give love.

Recognize every person as the image of God. Work to see the Divine Image especially in those who themselves seem oblivious to it. Seek out the divinity in those who annoy, anger or frustrate you. Hope to find and uplift sparks of holy light, even where it seems hardest.

For those interested in Jewish mysticism the author presents a rich, informed and intelligent examination of the complex subject.

Prof. Daniel Matt, in his valuable and groundbreaking little book, offers brief selections from the Zohar and then in a facing-page commentary, brings meaning and life to them.

Jewish Life

Yiddishe Mamas – Part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Mother's Day may be over, but that doesn't mean you should stop thinking about your wonderful mother. Today a look at Jewish mothers in books, film and humour.

If you want to read about some real Jewish mothers who have brought up famous boys and girls, take a look at the Jewhoo site. Fred Bernstein interviewed Beatty Rutman (Bob Dylan), Florence Hoffman (Abbie Hoffman), Leah Adler (Steven Spielberg) and many others for the book *The Official Jewish Mothers' Hall of Fame*. The book is now out of print, but Bernstein is reprinting the interviews online. **[http://www.jewhoo.com/editor/interviews]**

French writer Bruno Halioua has recently written a book titled *Mères juives des hommes célèbres* (Jewish mothers of famous men) for which he researched 13 mothers of distinction. Here's a great anecdote Halioua uncovered: "Did you know that Albert Einstein sent a telegram to his mother when he won the Nobel Prize in 1921, which read: 'Mother – WE won the Nobel Prize'?" **[http://www.jrep.com/Books/Article-15.html]** You can find a list online of dozens of books that feature Jewish mothers in fact and fiction. **[http://www.fetchbook.info/Jewish_Mothers.html]**

Menlo Park, Calif.'s Esther Heller has compiled a Mother's Day list of some of her favourite Jewish mothers, women she feels don't reinforce sexism and anti-Semitism. Among her choices are Betty Friedan, founder of the National Organization of Women; Beverly Sills, soprano and director of the New York City Opera; and Dr. Ruth Westheimer (Doctor Ruth), psychosexual therapist and broadcaster. **[http://www.newbridges.org/Newsletter/5_99/news599_mom.html]** You don't have to have a famous son or daughter to be a proud Yiddishe mama. The *Atlanta Jewish Times* profiles five lovely Jewish mothers. **[http://www.atljewishtimes.com/archives/1999/050799cs.htm]**

After you finish reading all about Jewish mothers, you can watch them on the silver screen, often as hectoring, self-sacrificing stereotypes. Australian filmmaker Monique Schwartz was curious about the portrayal of mothers, so she decided to dig a bit and she created Mamadrama: The Jewish Mother in Cinema. Schwartz analyzes Jewish mothers on the screen in Yiddish movies including *Mirele Efros* (1939), American films such as *Portnoy's Complaint* (1972), *My Favorite Year* (1982), and *The Jazz Singer* (1927), and Israeli pictures like *Noa at 17* (1981) and *Summer of Aviya* (1988). At the same time, Schwartz tries to reconcile the screen mamas' image with her own Jewish mother. You can read a feature article on the filmmaker at Australia's RealTime Web site. **[http://www.realtimearts.net/rt46/stewart.html]**

And finally, there are Jewish mother jokes. Telling them is like walking a tightwire between a having good laugh and perpetuating a painful stereotype… as a Toronto radio station found out. When a host told a "How many Jewish mothers does it take to change a light bulb?" joke, a listener complained that it was anti-Semitic and offensive. The radio station apologized and said no malice or offence was intended. The Canadian Broadcast Standards Council agreed, ruling that the joke was not a breach of its code of ethics since it did not attack or demean and was told in the context of "light bulb" jokes aimed at other groups. **[http://www.cbsc.ca/english/archive/9704.htm]** You can look at some Jewish mother jokes and decide whether you think they are funny **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?125632C54]** or not. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?Z23666C54]**

However, I will venture out on that tightwire and leave you with a classic joke I found on the Web: **[http://www.clean-funnies.com/html/f695.htm]**

The married daughter calls.

"Hello, Ma."

"Shirley, darling, what's wrong?"

"Oh, Ma. Both the kids are sick with the flu. The fridge has just broken down. The sink is leaking. In two hours my Hadassah group is coming for lunch."

"Don't worry. I'm going to get on a bus and go into the city, take the train out to Long Island and walk the two miles to your house. I'll take care of the kids, cook a nice lunch for the Hadassah ladies, and I'll even make dinner for Barry."

"Barry – who's Barry?"

"Barry – your husband!!"

"But my husband's name is Steve."

"Is this 555-1212?"

"No, this is 555-1221."

(Pause) "Does that mean you're *not* coming?"

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

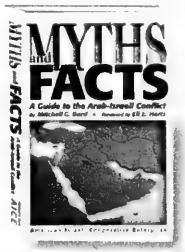
Read Palestinian claims carefully

MYTH:

The media carefully investigate Palestinian claims before publicizing them.

FACT:

Palestinians have learned that they can disseminate almost any information to the media and it will be published or broadcast somewhere. Once it is picked up by one media outlet, it is inevitably repeated by others. Misinformation can quickly take on the appearance of fact, and while Israel can present evidence to correct the inaccuracies being reported, the damage is usually already done. Once an image or impression is in someone's mind, it is often difficult, if not impossible, to erase it.



It is said that there are three types of lies: lies, damn lies and statistics. One staple of Palestinian propaganda has been to distribute false statistics, in an effort to make Israeli actions look monstrous.

For example, if an incident involves any death or destruction, the figures can be grossly exaggerated and the media will repeat the fabricated data until the information becomes widely accepted as accurate.

This occurred, for instance, during the Lebanon War when Yasser Arafat's brother claimed that Israel's operations had left 600,000 Lebanese homeless. He made the number up, but it was repeated by the International Committee of the Red Cross and publicized in the media. By the time the ICRC repudiated the figure, it was too late to change the impression that Israel's military operation to defend itself from terrorist attacks on its northern border had created an unconscionable refugee problem (*Washington Post*, June 25, 1982).

This happened again after Israel's operation in Jenin in April 2002 when Palestinian spokesperson Saeb Erekat told CNN on April 17 that at least 500 people were massacred and 1,600 people, including women and children, were missing. Erekat could produce no evidence for his claim and, in fact, the Palestinians' own review committee reported a death toll of 56, of whom 34 were combatants. No women or children were reported missing (*New York Post*, May 3, 2002).

What is perhaps more outrageous than the repetition of Erekat's lie is that media outlets continue to treat him as a legitimate spokesperson, which allows him to regularly disseminate misinformation.

If American officials were ever found to have lied to the press, they would lose all credibility and then would have little or no chance of being given a forum to express their views.

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Professional Advisory

Jewish Toronto

BJE's Bernard Shoub set to retire

A man who has played an integral role in developing Toronto's much-admired Jewish educational system, and who is largely responsible for the development of the new provincial private school tax credit, is calling it a career after 26 years on the job.

Bernard Shoub, who began his role as Director of School Finances at the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education in 1977, will be stepping down this summer, bringing the end to an extremely successful career.

Born in Montreal, Shoub, a 67-year-old father of three and grandfather of seven, has always been interested in looking after the children – and not just his own.

Montreal's loss became Toronto's gain following an education study that was undertaken in Toronto in 1975. Following that study, Toronto's Board of Jewish Education – which was expanding at that time – needed a Director of School Finance.

In 1977, after he got the job in Toronto, Shoub took the first set of guidelines dealing with the administration of the tuition subsidies, designed by Steven Freedhof, then-tuition Chairman of Associated Hebrew School, and began to reconstruct them. UJA Federation provides $7 million a year in tuition subsidies for families that cannot afford full fees at Jewish Day Schools.

"Bernie Shoub is a man who has dedicated his professional life to Jewish children," says Seymour Epstein, Vice President, Jewish Education, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Shoub's experience in Jewish education began many years before his arrival in Toronto when, as a volunteer, he chaired Montreal's Association for the Advancement of Jewish Education.

It was Bernard Shoub who, along with Aaron Blumenfeld, Ira Wolfish, and Simon Rosenblum, of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region, headed up negotiations with the provincial government about how provincial education tax credits would be applied.

"The government had a number of concerns relating to the tax credit, particularly what they feared was double-dipping," says Shoub. "They worried about parents receiving provincial and federal tax credits for the same tuition. We allayed their fears with a proposal prepared by economist Jack Mintz."

Bernard Shoub

While Shoub is obviously delighted to see the fruition of his hard work pay off with the new tax credit in effect, there is still one issue that requires further exploration.

"Grandparents who pay tuition for their grandchildren are not eligible for the provincial tax credit, plain and simple," he says. "The only ones currently eligible are parents or legal guardians."

While Toronto's Jewish education system has expanded dramatically during his 26 years, Shoub says that one thing remains the same. "The unique level of support and dedication from the community to our Jewish educational system has been spectacular from day one, and continues to be so today," he says.

Despite all of his accomplishments, Shoub is most proud of his commitment to what he calls community building. "That's something I feel very strongly about," he says. "Whether it's through the Administrators and Principals Conferences, or when I co-chaired UJA Federation's Education Division, it's important to involve everyone from the secular to the religious, from large schools or the smallest. That is the way to build one community."

"Bernie Shoub is man of complete devotion, dedication and commitment, never leaving a figure or a fact unturned if it will help the cause of Jewish education," adds Epstein.

81-year-old man shares his knowledge of all things Jewish

For more than 10 years, a Toronto man has been quietly volunteering behind the scenes at Toronto's Lipa Green Building, and his contributions have made an important impact on the Jewish community.

David Forberg, 81, has been lending his extensive knowledge – as well as his impressive collection - of "all-things-Jewish" – to the Media Centre at UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education, where countless teachers and students alike are benefiting from his generosity.

"Even though I'm retired, I felt that I could still be of use by contributing to the Media Centre," says Forberg. "I love everything Jewish. I'm not a particularly religious man, but when it comes to tzedakah, I'm there in any way that I'm needed."

Forberg spent many years accumulating an impressive video library, some of which he has contributed to the Centre. Even today he spends much of his time looking for treasures of knowledge, including books, records, and videos. In all, the Media Centre – located on the second floor of the Lipa Green Building – boasts more than 2,600 videotapes, tens of thousands of slides, and well over 10,000 audiotapes.

"I've known him for many years and immediately I was amazed by his knowledge of Jewish history," says Ahivu Bar-El, who retired last summer after 21 years as the Centre's Media Director. "He's not a teacher or a scholar, yet David knows so much about everything, and he loves to share that knowledge with all the visitors who come to the Media Centre. Because of David, they always went home satisfied with what they learned."

Dave and Syma Forberg enjoy spending time with one of their great grandchildren

Unfortunately, much of Forberg's knowledge of the Holocaust was learned firsthand in a concentration camp in Poland where he met the love of his life, Syma.

After losing their entire families during the Holocaust, David and Syma moved to Toronto in 1948 to start a new life. Their children, Joe and Honey, were born in a German Displaced Persons camp, while their other children, Esther and Bill, were born at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital in Old Yorkville. Daughters and sons-in-law Kathy Forberg, Gail Forberg, Larry Silverberg and Albert Michaels have become an integral part of the family that has become the future of these Holocaust survivors.

"David is such a pleasant, good-natured mensch," says Brahm Goldfarb, Director of the Media Centre. "The thing that strikes you about him immediately is how much of himself he has given to the Centre so that everybody else can learn about Jewish history. David thinks it's absolutely vital to have any and all Jewish history available at the Centre."

"As a Holocaust survivor, I especially tend to look for materials relating to the Nazis," says Forberg. "I like to know everything possible about our history as Jews starting from Adam and Eve right up until today. It's also essential that we educate our children today - especially with this new rise of anti-Semitism. That's another reason why the Media Centre is so important."

During their early years in Toronto, David worked hard as an upholsterer, while Syma raised their four kids and ran a rooming house in order to save money for a business down the road. Eventually, their hard work paid off as Star Chrome Manufacturing was born in 1952 and went on to become the second largest dinette manufacturing company in Canada. In 1984, he sold the business and retired.

Finally, after all of their hard work, David and Syma Forberg can spend some time doing what they love most, spending time with their 10 grandchildren and enjoying the thrill of seven great-grandchildren. Obviously a history buff, he also enjoys anthropology, religion, geography and travel.

"It's funny," adds Goldfarb. "Sometimes David will worry when he's addressing a group of visitors to the Media Centre, and he'll say, 'I'm talking too much, aren't I'? But like we always tell him, for a man like David0 Forberg, there's no way that he could ever be accused of talking too much."

UJA goes wireless at Windsor Arms

More than 160 young business people recently attended a UJA Federation Jewish Chamber of Commerce (JCOC) event with keynote speaker, Jim Balsillie, Co-CEO of Research in Motion, creator of the Blackberry wireless platform. The event took place at Toronto's Windsor Arms Hotel. Allan Silber - Chair, along with Richard Venn of UJA Federation Campaign 2004 - was on hand to address the crowd about the upcoming Campaign. Pictured, Balsillie (l) poses with JCOC Board Member Neil Bass.

(Photo by Shimmy Wenner)

Israel the focus of campaign preview

UJA Federation's advance look at Campaign 2004 for its most prominent campaigners may have taken place in north Toronto, but Israel was clearly the centre of attention.

The event was UJA Federation's Leadership Launch at which the organization's key leaders get to know both each other and campaign basics before the fundraising drive officially begins.

Campaign 2004, a special campaign, chaired by Allan Silber and Richard Venn, will be raising funds to strengthen Israel's deteriorating social service network, help combat a rising tide of anti-Israel hatred and provide a new Jewish generation with the tools to defend Israel and the Jewish people.

Mark Talisman was the keynote speaker at UJA Federation's recent Leadership Launch.

"While Israel is not in the midst of the same emergency as last year, the crisis in Israel has worsened," said Venn, noting surging security expenses, dramatically decreased Israeli government funding for social services, rising welfare caseloads and increasing unemployment.

Guest speaker Mark Talisman, a leading Jewish organizational consultant, echoed Venn's assessment. "This is a continuous crisis that is going to get a lot worse before it gets better," he said. "There is no economy in Israel. It doesn't exist because Israel is on a war footing."

Talisman also expressed concern about the disturbing aspects of Israeli life today that we don't necessarily see – hunger, poverty and unemployment. "There is no process to allow the social side of the budget to be funded," he noted. "Every dime that we give allows programs to operate that benefit real, live human beings."

The Leadership Launch coincided with Yom Hazikaron, the day on which Israel and the Jewish world remember victims of terror and the many thousands who have died in Israel's defense. Allan Silber, who, with his wife Hinda hosted the event, observed that Yom Hazikaron is the perfect time to remember the troubling world facing Israel and Jews everywhere and how UJA Federation Campaign 2004 offers an action plan to deal with it.

Richard Venn (l) and Allan Silber, Chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2004 at the Leadership Launch.

New award honours Toronto philanthropist

Harold Lederman, who passed away in 2001 at the age of 69, was the personification of philanthropy.

Now, in recognition of Lederman's selfless efforts over the years, the UJA Federation Past Campaign Chairs Council has created the Harold Lederman Award, in honour of individuals who, like Harold, have demonstrated outstanding philanthropy.

"Harold and I were business partners and great friends since 1955 and remained so until the day he died," says Past UJA Campaign Chair Leo Goldhar. "He was such a good person – not only in terms of business, but when it came to philanthropy. He was always there when someone needed help, and not only in the Jewish community, but the community-at-large."

The idea of honouring his good friend came to Goldhar 18 months ago.

"I wanted some type of award for people who have the same passion for philanthropy that Harold had. That's what this award is all about," he says.

A tireless UJA Federation volunteer, Harold embodied the qualities necessary to make a difference. As chair of UJA Federation's 1988 annual campaign, no job was too big or too small when it came to tzedakah. He continued to take on challenging volunteer roles each and every year, such as canvassing or chairing UJA Israel solidarity missions, and other key committees. He was also Chairman of the Board of the Baycrest Foundation, and a board member of the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation.

"Harold was driven by a keen social conscience of what was right and what was wrong," says his brother-in-law, Gerry Ross. "Continuity was important to him. He taught his children and grandchildren that one should give as one lives and support their community."

Harold Lederman

"Harold was a very warm, bright and articulate person with a quick wit," says son-in-law Allan Brown. "He had so many friends. And when you were his friend, you were his friend for life."

"Harold's message was to be responsible. He led by example, not by rhetoric. We all miss his presence, his warmth and, above all, his leadership," adds Ross.

The award will be presented to an individual who has demonstrated an exceptionally high level or quality contribution, which significantly impacted on the community, and long-standing devoted service to the community.

Nominations should include the following (where applicable), with specific examples: description of time and effort; evidence of the impact of gift support; evidence of innovation; evidence of leadership qualities; evidence of success in a particular area exemplifying excellence, and evidence of creativity.

This year's Harold Lederman Award will be presented at a special event in the Fall. For an application form, or for more information, call Ronit Holtzman at 416.631.5738 or via email at rholtzman@ujafed.org

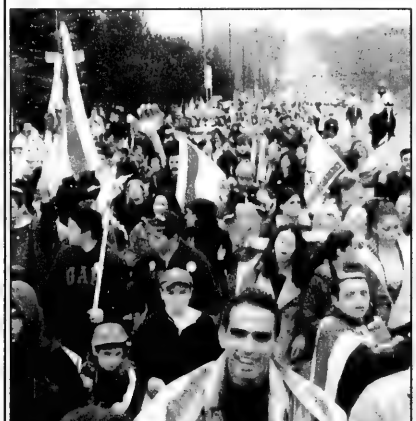
Toronto Celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut

An estimated 5,000 members of Toronto's Jewish community came out last week to show their support for Israel, while also celebrating the State's 55th anniversary.

Organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Israel Now Consortium of 115 organizations supporting Israel, the second annual Yom Ha'atzmaut march began at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, proceeding south on Bathurst to Earl Bales Park where old and young alike celebrated Israel's birthday by singing, dancing, enjoying special activities for children, and eating kosher Israeli foods.

"What a tremendous testament this march was to Toronto's incredible Jewish community," said Julia Koschitzky, Chair, Israel Now Consortium. "Despite the inclement weather, the community was more determined than ever to stand proudly with Israel. I was especially thrilled to see so many young people on hand, as well as the entire cross-section of our Jewish community. This was largely due to the tremendous efforts of the chairs of this year's celebration: David and Felicia Posluns, Mark and Robyn Shiner, and Ray Rubin and Lloyd Hoffman. I was already on the phone to Israel the next morning. They know what we're doing in Toronto, and it means so much to them."

Photo by Eve Marks



JF&CS executive director to retire this summer

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Gordon Wolfe's career at Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS) dates back to an era of hippies, drugs and "Don't trust anyone over 30," a catch-phrase used by young baby boomers in the 1960s.

At the time, Wolfe was just the wrong side of 30, but his first responsibilities at JF&CS included setting up and running the Yorkville trailer, a mobile office dedicated to street youth.

Now the lifelong Torontonian, a second-generation Canadian, is preparing for his upcoming retirement, when Ron Levine of Edmonton takes his place in mid-summer.

"There's still some ambivalence, [but] I think the timing is right," Wolfe said of his decision. "The place is in good shape, and I'm in good shape."

Wolfe, who turns 67 next month, said he'll miss the action, the people and the challenges. He's hoping to take on short-term projects like running agencies that are in trouble or that suddenly find themselves without a director, as he has on occasion in the past.

"I want to work," said the father of three and grandfather of 8-year-old triplets. "I don't have a lot of hobbies. I don't play golf. I'm not even a big traveller, so I want to stay involved in the community, both the Jewish community and beyond."

Wolfe has an affinity for youth work dating back to his student days as a youth program supervisor at Holy Blossom Temple, where he celebrated his bar mitzvah and is now a board member and former president (as he is at Mazon Canada).

"I like the people piece, providing leadership and supervising people and working with people," Wolfe said.

Although he started a university program in commerce and finance, he quickly concluded it wasn't for him. After completing his BA at the University of Toronto in 1959, he continued on for his master of social work degree.

Many of his friends chose careers that were more lucrative, he recalls. "But I've never regretted that decision."

After graduating in 1961, he began his career as director of youth activities at Holy Blossom, a ten-month-a-year job that allowed him to pursue his passion for summer camp. "I still refer to that as my first love," he said.

In fact, all his summers until 1981, when he returned to JF&CS as executive director after a seven-year stint in the same position at Huntley Youth Services, were spent at summer camps, including 10 years as co-owner of Camp Wabikon with his wife Linda, the preschool co-ordinator at Bialik Hebrew Day School.

Proceeds from a tribute dinner being held in Wolfe's honour on May 21 at Beth Tzedec Congregation will be used to send kids to camp as well as to provide other extracurricular activities and assist former crown wards as they enter adulthood, through the Gordon Wolfe Children & Youth Fund.

Gordon Wolfe

In 1967, Wolfe left Holy Blossom for JF&CS after being hired by then executive director Jerome Diamond. As supervisor of detached youth services, a "fancy title" that referred to his out-of-office field work, he addressed Jewish communal concerns about hippies, drugs and kids on the street.

Wolfe decided the way to approach the issue was to "hang out on Yorkville [Avenue]," then a haven for hippies including Jewish youth and American draft-dodgers.

"The idea of a trailer was born," said Wolfe, who hired workers in their 20s – to whom the Yorkville crowd could relate – to work from late afternoon into the early morning hours. The innovative program serving Jewish and non-Jewish youth used the trailer if private conversations or medical help was needed, but staff were expected to be out on the street.

In his straightforward, pragmatic way, Wolfe noted that young people "weren't going to come to 150 Beverley Street."

Within a few years the agency opened a second office at Lawrence Plaza, following the Jewish community northward. Wolfe supervised its staff of seven. By 1981, the agency was housed completely in that two-floor office, but today it has grown to 100 staff in three offices.

Over the years Wolfe has seen an increase in the array of JF&CS' services in response to issues related to rising divorce rates and dual-career families. As the children's aid society for the Jewish community since 1980, the agency has also become more "child welfare focused," he said, noting progress in recognizing, reporting and dealing with child abuse as an example.

The Jewish aspect is also significant, said Wolfe. "We think kids need to be brought up Jewishly in Jewish foster homes, provided with Jewish content, and have the opportunity to celebrate holidays." Also, he added, even secular Jewish clients speak of their comfort level dealing with a Jewish agency and with staff who "understand what it means to be Jewish."

"We also do a lot more in the area of camping," Wolfe pointed out. "We send a lot more kids to camp. That has to do with my past and my belief that camp is so important for kids in the summer."

These days, he added, there is more accountability to government and the United Way, both of which fund JF&CS. "It's not enough [any more] to say we carried out 2,000 interviews. Did anybody get better?" Although results are not easily measurable in the social work field, Wolfe believes the change is a good one.

"Providing quality services with diminishing resources" has been his biggest challenge over the years, he said. Among the solutions were the introduction of telephone counselling and training staff in short-term, solution-focused therapy techniques.

"One other piece I'm proud of," said the one-time would-be accountant. "We always balanced the budget."

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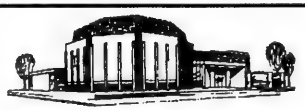

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Toronto yeshiva students spent part of Passover in Jewish communities across the former Soviet Union. From left, top row: Menachem Schechter, Sholom Adler, Sholom Rosenzweig, Moshe Chayempour, Yitzi Spalter. Bottom row from left: Zalman Zaltzman, Mendy Yarmush, Chaim Dovid Janowski.

Yeshiva students spend part of Passover in FSU

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Yitzi Spalter and 11 other yeshiva students from the Toronto area returned from the former Soviet Union where they spent part of Passover, they said they came away with a new outlook on life.

The boys were part of a group of 300 from North America and Israel who visited about 257 out of the 407 communities – 150 have permanent Chabad representatives – across the FSU on behalf of the Federation of Jewish Communities, which works in partnership with the Chabad movement.

The purpose of their visit, said Rabbi Moshe Spalter, administrator of Chabad Lubavitch of Southern Ontario, was to plan and run the two Passover seders.

"They arrived at their city a few days before Passover, looked for a place to hold the seder, arranged for the food, found a cook and drummed up business."

The federation had arranged for two million pounds of matzah and 250,000 bottles of wine to be sent to the various communities, he said. "The logistics are staggering."

The boys did an incredible job, Rabbi Spalter said. "As well as running the seders, they gave talks on Shabbat, ran pre-Passover workshops, and spoke at gatherings in honour of the Rebbe's birthday."

They had been previously trained in how to kosher a kitchen and how to deal with the difficulties of running a seder in Russia.

"Many of the boys were in Siberia where nightfall is at 11 p.m. Their rabbis had taught them which part of the seder could be done before nightfall so the seder would not go on all night," he said.

But, they also took something away with them. "One boy remarked that he went to a marketplace to shop and saw a man selling two onions and a bunch of scallions. That was the total of his wares.

"Another man was selling two iron rods. The boy said that suddenly he came face to face with what he has at home."

Residents of the various communities were overwhelmed with their visitors, Rabbi Spalter said.

"Passover touches a chord with people in Russia. They remember when they used to celebrate the holiday, and bake matzah. Younger families were thrilled that their children were learning Hebrew songs."

He said that one man was proud to show one of the boys his mezuzah, and the boy realized it was just a case. "He is arranging to send him the klaf."

What made their boys' visit special, said Rabbi Spalter, is that most of them lived away from home for most of the year, and could have had a 10 day holiday with their families.

"Instead they chose to help out where they could. We are all proud of them."

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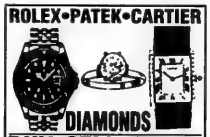
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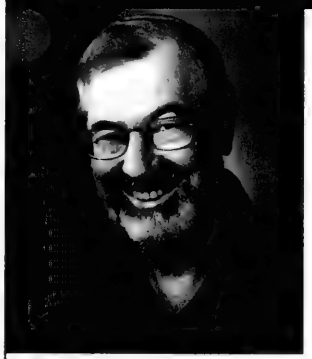
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Warsaw survivor posed as Polish farmhand

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

When he was a youngster attending public school in prewar Warsaw, Natan Janower and the other Jewish students had to leave the room while their Catholic classmates recited Christian prayers. Standing in the hallway, he could clearly hear their fervent prayers recited in unison, praising the father, the son and the holy spirit.

Years later, it was his memory of that prayer – and his ability to recite it flawlessly while making the sign of the cross – that saved his life while trying to avoid arrest in the Polish countryside.

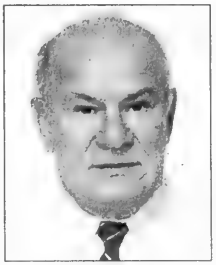
"I am sitting here because of that," Janower says today.

Through a fortuitous turn of events, Janower was able to escape the Warsaw Ghetto prior to the April 1943 uprising and wander the Polish countryside, taking short-term jobs as a farmhand. His survival depended on his ability to outwit Polish auxiliary police, who, working with the Nazis, were charged with hunting down Jews. On more than one occasion, he was stopped and accused of being Jewish and that's when, to prove his Polish credentials, he recited the prayer he had heard in school. Hearing his perfect rendition of the prayer, many of his Polish interrogators were satisfied. On another occasion, a more skeptical pair of police refused to believe him and Janower had to fight both of them, stripping one of his gun and chasing them off.

Now 81, Janower recounts the traumatic events of his youth with photographic precision.

Janower was born on Novolipia Street in Warsaw, a street that would later become part of the ghetto. But when he was quite young, around three, his family moved to Leszno Street in a Christian area of the city.

As he tells it, his father, Yosel, was a tailor who was barely able to make a living. Competition from other tailors in the Jewish quarter was fierce, so to better his prospects, he moved the family to another area of town.



Natan Janower

Despite the move, the family remained poor. Sometimes the family of four children skipped meals when there was no money for food. Things were so bad that when the weather turned particularly nasty in the winter, Natan would miss school because he and his brother, Shlomo, had to share one pair of shoes. On warmer, drier days, he'd slip on a pair of cardboard shoes and go to school, but unlike his classmates, he would do without lunch.

At first his Orthodox father sent him to cheder, but he never liked it and was eventually transferred into public school. There, the Gentile kids teased and tormented him, pulling on his *payot* (sidelocks) and beating him up. His mother, Sura, told him to stand up for himself and one day he fought back. To his surprise, he turned the tables on the Gentile kids, beating them up. From then on, they let him alone.

In September 1939, when the Nazis attacked Poland, Janower answered a call to join a Warsaw militia unit. He was given a uniform and put to work digging anti-tank trenches. During an artillery bombardment by German forces, his trench was struck and all the other diggers were killed. Janower was badly wounded by shrapnel and his entire left side was paralyzed. He spent months recuperating – at first in a Gentile hospital and later in the Czysta Hospital – and he still carries a piece of shrapnel in his leg that sets off airport alarms.

When the ghetto was established, his family was forced to move to incredibly cramped quarters on Wolynski Street. The six shared a kitchen that was part of a two-bedroom apartment while eight others shared the rest of the apartment. There was no running water, no electricity and washrooms were outside the apartment.

There were also no jobs for his father. Food was scarce and conditions were appalling. What's more, Germans took delight in humiliating Jews.

Janower recalls an incident that occurred to his father, a Chassidic Jew with a long beard and *payot*. "One day, my father came home. He was crying and wanted to commit suicide. The Germans had cut his beard, but my mother told him not to commit suicide."

In the ghetto's early days, Janower was able to don his Polish uniform and come and go from the ghetto at will, visiting his father's old clients and collecting money they still owed. With those funds, he bought potatoes, bread and lentils, the basics needed for survival. When security tightened up, he was able to exit the ghetto through a secret hole in the brick ghetto wall.

He also joined work details that left the ghetto to do a variety of jobs, like cleaning German barracks, removing bomb debris and – his best job – cleaning German kitchens. That allowed him to steal some food and bring it back home.

One day in 1942, he saw returning workers being beaten if they were carrying food. He turned around and decided he would not take a chance entering the ghetto, figuring he might never be allowed to exit.

He spent the following nights hiding out in washrooms and during the day, he mingled with Jews leaving the ghetto on work details.

He never returned to the ghetto after that.

Fearing capture in Warsaw, Janower headed to the countryside. It was during that period that he had his encounter with Polish auxiliary police.

Janower lived from day to day, working at farms and keeping on the move. One day, Polish auxiliaries arrested him and brought him to the mayor of the local town, Mroczky. The mayor's son had returned from forced labour in Germany and refused to return. Facing demands from the Germans that his son return, the mayor gave Janower a choice. Either he could go work on a German farm as a substitute for his son, pretending to be his brother, or he could be returned to the ghetto.

Though afraid to go into "the lion's den," he chose that option and was sent to a farm in Valtersdorf, a village near Konigsberg. It was while working there in the summer of 1944 – using the Polish name Stanislaus – that he learned of the fate of the Warsaw Ghetto.

One day a young SS man walked towards the barn where he was working. He was striding purposely and tapping his boots with a leather baton. Janower thought his days were numbered. Shaking and in a cold sweat, he said nothing as the officer told him to prepare a horse for him to ride to his girlfriend.

When he had done so and brought him the horse, he overheard the SS man speaking to his father, the farm-owner. "He told his father while I held the horse of the Warsaw Ghetto. He said the Jews were like worms, that in Warsaw the Jews wanted to fight the army and they were destroyed and there were no more Jews in Warsaw."

It was the first he had heard of the rebellion. "Then I start to know that my family was gone," he said.

At war's end, Janower retuned to Poland and learned that the mayor's son, whose place he had taken, had been killed while fighting the Germans.

"He wanted to save his son and he saved me," Janower said.

Janower remained in Poland after the war. He was able to upgrade his education and worked for 25 years as a designer of radio amplifiers in the Diora factory in Dzierzoniuw. In 1970, as anti-Semitism spiked following Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day War, he emigrated with his wife and four children to Toronto where he got a job with a large firm working on printed circuit boards.

In Toronto he integrated into the Jewish community, joining Jewish organizations and contributing to fundraising campaigns for various agencies.

Now retired, Janower has recorded his experiences on videotape for future generations. Even today, he shakes his head when he recalls how he avoided death. "It's unbelievable stories," he says simply.

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Dr. Michael Taylor, President *Arthur Weisz, Campaign Chair*

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A message from Eugene Levy,

Dear friends, in my life I have been blessed. I have been able to take a knack for making people laugh and turn it into a life of fulfillment and success. More importantly I have been blessed with a beautiful family and good friends. They are, what is most dear to me.

Even though I no longer live in Hamilton, my roots and my memories are deep. I still have a soft spot for my hometown. When I was approached to act as Honourary Chair of the Shalom Village Too Capital Campaign, I realized that this was a way to show my thanks to an organization that has made a tremendous difference in the care of those close to me and to the care and well being of our elderly community.

In a way, Shalom Village is a miracle. It's not as big or as rich as some other long term care facilities. However it has quietly gone about creating a name for itself as one of the best long term care centres in Canada and beyond. It has done this with an unwavering passion to provide the best home environment possible for people to live in.

The current physical expansion at Shalom Village is in response to a heartfelt need for increased programs and services for our aging parents. These are programs and services that will build on the strong foundation of an organization whose mission is to honour our fathers and our mothers.

Shalom Village is a community that's been built on ideas. These ideas have captured the imagination of hundreds of volunteers, donors and benefactors. I am asking you to respond generously because it is deserving of our energy, our time and our donations.

Thank you

Eugene Levy
Honourary Chair

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Ceremony marks Yom Hazikaron, Yom Ha'atzmaut

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The sombreness of Yom Hazikaron – the memorial day for those who have died in defence of the state of Israel – gives way immediately to an exuberant celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's independence day, dramatically illustrating "the ultimate dichotomy" of the Jewish experience.

"In a second, the focus shifts. There is no time to catch your breath," event co-chair Gav Martell told a standing-room-only crowd at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation last week at the annual ceremony marking Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut sponsored by the Mizrachi Organization of Canada, Emunah Women, Yavneh, and Bnei Akiva.

Using a theme echoed throughout the evening, which was co-chaired by Shloime Romberg, Martell said the gift God gave the Jewish people, the gift of a state, was given at a cost – "the lives of our soldiers, civilians and kids."

Israel's outgoing consul-general in Toronto, Meir Romem, said that despite the violence and the downturn in the economy because of the latest Palestinian intifadah, Israel "remains strong, and committed to peace."

Jews have the obligation to do what they can to assist Israel, so that "those who died did not do so in vain," he said.

He and Miriam Goldstein, a family friend, remembered Daniel Mandel, whose family made aliyah from Toronto, and who was killed last month during a military operation. His grandmother, Gerry Males, was in the audience.

In a break from the usual Yom Hazikaron program, Daniel Gutenberg, a member of Bnei Akiva, completed the study of a portion of Mishnah.

Local members of Bnei Akiva decided to do so in memory of Israeli victims of terror.

In an emotional explanation, Bnei Akiva members Shira Sokol and Sabrina Grodzinsky said studying the Mishnah so was in accord with religious Zionist philosophy to combine prayer and hope with action. Each chapter was devoted to the soul of a particular victim.

Perhaps the most poignant part of the Yom Hazikaron program was a speech by Rabbi Shlomo Gemara, rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot girls school, who served in the Israel Defence Forces.

Rabbi Gemara said that on Yom Hazikaron, he remembers his fallen comrades – those he studied with, those he served with, those he was friends with. He recalled his friend Yehuda Katz, a soldier who has been considered missing in action since being captured in Lebanon in 1982. "When he comes back, we will resume learning Torah at the same point as we left off."

Later, a moment of silence was punctuated by the eerie scream of an air raid siren.

Just as total darkness fell, and the day of mourning turned into the day of joy, the moment was marked by a recorded excerpt of David Ben-Gurion's declaration of the establishment of the state.

The mood then changed abruptly, as a group of young Bnei Akiva girls performed the *daglanut*, a stylized presentation with Israeli flags. Their performance was greeted with whoops, hollering and cheers, as was a concert by the Netivot Hatorah Day School choir.

David Bernstein led a special Yom Ha'atzmaut service, which included a prayer for the state, as well as *Ani Ma'amin*, a plea for the coming of the messiah.

The program was followed by a lively reception, including dancing to the music of the Shirayim band.

Also taking part in the evening were Rabbi Avichai Zahavi, a shaliach at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, and Elka Yarlowe, the new executive director of Emunah Women, who lit a candle for the dead.

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Alan Winer, Secretary

Toronto turns out to celebrate Israel's birthday

Continued from page 3

"You wouldn't believe the kinds of things – dry goods, deli items, soft drinks," he said

If every Jewish family in Toronto used 20 per cent of its weekly grocery budget for Israeli products, Fox said, we could send an extra $150 million to Israel annually.

He was also raising awareness for the Buy Israeli Web site, accessible through UJA's Jewish Toronto site. "The best way to help the country," he said, "is to keep Israelis employed."

About 10 people at the entrance to Earl Bales Park held signs protesting Israeli "occupation." Several Jews for Jesus missionaries also circulated among the crowd, handing out reading materials promoting Christianity. Many Jews responded emotionally to their presence, but even this couldn't overshadow the crowd's excitement, as children and adults paraded, singing traditional songs and an impromptu round of *Happy Birthday*.

"All those who couldn't make it because the weather was less than ideal... missed out on a wonderful collective outpouring of spirit and a feeling of the community coalescing for the cause of Israel," Fine said. "It was a bit chilly, but the spirit in the crowd... walking, singing and dancing... more than made up for it."

Thousands turned out to show their support for Israel.
[Jennifer Paquette photo]

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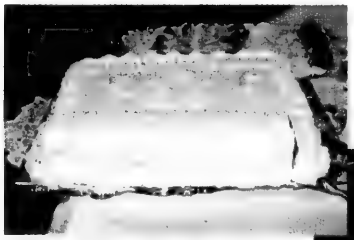
Almost 400 people gathered last week at the City Playhouse in Thornhill to celebrate Israel's 55th Independence Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut, at a gala evening organized by the Israeli Association of Greater Toronto, an affiliate of UJA Federation. Attendees admired the work of members of the Israeli Artists Group of Toronto at a reception preceding the screening of an Israeli film dramatization of an Israeli family's brush with terrorism. The evening ended on a more festive note with performances by an Israeli folk dance troupe and four young singers bringing a message of hope.

[Frances Kraft photos]



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From left, award-winning students and presenters are Suzanne Kaye, Shoshi Lockshin and Lisa Isen Baumal; Denes Rothschild and Jordana Ballas; Sari Gilboa, Susan Jackson and Eli Savage. [Frances Kraft photos]

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Edited by: ALEK SILVER
ייִדיש־ווינקל
רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

אַ בריוו אין דער רעדאַקציע
פון סאַלאָמאָן רובינשטיין

קאָמענטאַרן וועגן אריאל שרון און יאַסיר אַראַפאַט

חשובער רעדאַקטאָר אַלעק סילווער —

קודם כָּל וויל איך אויסדריקן מיין דאַנק צו אייך פאַר אייערע אַרטיקלען אין „ייִדישן ווינקל". איך האָב הנאה פון אייער שרייבן און איך גלויב, אַז אַ סך לייענערס האָבן אויך דערפון אַ הנאה. איך ווינטש אייך נאָך לאַנגע, געזונטע און שעפערישע יאָרן.

איצט דערלויבט מיר אַרויסצוברענגען עטלעכע געדאַנקען בנוגע דער לאַגע אין מדינת ישׂראל. מיר האָבן שוין מיט מזל אַ נייע קאָאַליציע רעגירונג און טראָץ דעם, וואָס נישט יעדער איז צופרידן פון דעם צוזאַמענשטעל, ווינטש איך איר לאַנגע און דערפאָלגרייכע יאָרן. זאָל שוין מקוים ווערן דער חלום פון יעדן ייִד, אַז שלום זאָל ענדלעך הערשן אין מדינת ישׂראל.

אָבער די לעצטע געשעענישן אין לאַנד מיט אַ סך קרבנות — סיי ייִדישע, סיי פאַלעסטינער — האָט מיך שטאַרק באַאומרויִקט. עס איז מיין מיינונג, אַז ביידע — אריאל שרון און יאַסיר אַראַפאַט — זיינען שולדיק אין דער אָנגעשטרענגטער און בלוטיקער לאַגע אין ישׂראל.

ווען שרון איז צום ערשטן מאָל דערוויילט געוואָרן, איז עס געווען צוליב זיין צוזאָג, אַז ער וועט ברענגען שלום און זיכערקייט פאַרן ייִדישן לאַנד. ביז איצט האָט ער דעם צוזאָג נישט דערפילט. זיין רעגירונג האָט זיך נאָר געהאַלטן מיט דער שטיצע פון די רעליגיעזע פאַרטייען און שרון איז געווען געצוווּנגען צו ענדערן זיין פאָליטיק קעגן די פאַלעסטינער. אָנשטאָט צו זוכן אַ פרידלעכע פאָליטישע לייזונג, האָט שרון, ווי אַ געוועזענער גענעראַל, געענטפערט מיט מיליטערישע אַקציעס.

דאָס האָט אַרויסגערופן נאָך מער האַס פון דער אַנדערער זייט און די זעלבסמערדערישע טעראָריסטישע אַטאַקעס קעגן די ישׂראלים האָבן זיך פאַרשטאַרקט. אויך איז אַ סך מער פאַלעסטינער בלוט פאַרגאָסן געוואָרן. דאָס האָט נאָך מער אויפגערעגט די געמיטער ביי די אַראַבישע שונאים, ווי אויך ביי אַ צאָל, אַזוי גערופענע, ליבעראַל־דעמאָקראַטישע לענדער, וואָס האָבן געטאַדלט ישׂראל פאַר איר פאָליטיק בנוגע די פאַלעסטינער. בלויז אַמעריקע איז געשטאַנען צוזאַמען מיט ישׂראל און, פאַרשטענדלעך, אַז אויך דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק אין די תפוצות שטייט שטענדיק צוזאַמען מיט דער מדינה, וואָס איז באמת זייער היים.

פון דער אַנדערער זייט האָט יאַסיר אַראַפאַט אַ גרויסע שולד אין דער איצטיקער לאַגע. מיט עטלעכע יאָר צוריק האָט דער דעמאָלטיקער פּרעמיער־מיניסטער פון מדינת ישׂראל, אהוד באַראַק, אָנגעבאָטן צו אַראַפאַטן כמעט 90 פּראָצענט פון דעם, וואָס ער האָט געפאָדערט און אַפילו געמאַכט הנחות וועגן ירושלים. אָבער אַראַפאַט האָט דאָס אַלץ צוריקגעוואָרפן. אָנשטאָט דעם האָט ער באַנייט די „אינטיפאַדאַ" און געהעצט זיינע נאָכפאָלגערס צו אַטאַקירן און מאָרדן ייִדישע איינוווינער. אַזוי גייט אָן דאָס בלוט פאַרגיסן אַרום צוויי און אַ האַלב יאָר.

ווי עס האָט זיך אַרויסגעוויזן, האָט אַראַפאַט בכלל נישט געוואָלט מאַכן שלום מיט ישׂראל. ער האָט געמיינט, אַז דורך פאַרגיסן ייִדיש בלוט וועט אים געלונגען צו דעראָבערן דעם גאַנצן שטח. דאָס איז אים נישט געלונגען און וועט אים קיין מאָל נישט געלינגען. דאָס פאָלק ישׂראל וועט צו דעם נישט דערלאָזן, ווייל דאָס איז אונדזער צוגעזאָגט היימלאַנד.

די פאָליטיק פון יאַסיר אַראַפאַט האָט אויפגערעגט די ייִדישע בירגערס אין לאַנד. זיי זיינען געוואָרן פאַרצווייפלט און דערשיטערט פון די טעגלעכע קרבנות און זיי האָבן געפאָדערט נקמה. אריאל שרון האָט, בלית ברירה, געמוזט באַקעמפן די טעראָריסטן מיט די זעלבע מעטאָדן, וואָס זיי האָבן גענוצט.

עס טוט וויי דאָס האַרץ און עס וויינט די נשמה פון די שוידערלעכע נייעסן, וואָס קומען פון דאָרטן. ווינטשן מיר דער מדינה, אידע פירערס און בירגערס, צום 55סטן יום העצמאות, אַז עס זאָל פאַרווירקלעכט ווערן דער חלום פון ייִדישן פאָלק — שלום און זיכערקייט אין ישׂראל.

Festive evening honours Jewish students

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Hillel of Greater Toronto's eighth annual awards night was held recently on the Ryerson University campus, a particularly appropriate venue, according to Larry Sonenberg, president of the local Jewish campus umbrella.

Speaking at the festive event, Sonenberg said the locale recognized Ryerson as an integral part of Hillel, as well as acknowledging Ryerson Hillel's Student Group of the Year award by the campus' own student administrative council. The school and its Hillel are less well known than their more prominent local counterparts at York University and the University of Toronto.

Recapping highlights of the year, Sonenberg noted that Hillel of Greater Toronto (formerly Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto) adopted its new name in January, formalizing its relationship with the international Jewish student organization.

Local programs include an annual arts festival, pub nights, Shabbat dinners and sandwich-making for the homeless, but the organization's "area of greatest challenge," said Sonenberg, is Israel advocacy.

"This has not been the easiest of years for Jewish students on campus," said Zac Kaye, Hillel Toronto's executive director since its inception eight years ago. "Confrontation and mistrust have been the order of the day, particularly between Jewish and Muslim students."

Anti-Israel sentiment on campus has created "a distinct anti-Semitic tone," said Kaye. "On some of our campuses, it has created an atmosphere of intimidation and fear. We believe in and support unequivocally the State of Israel... Hillel calls on administrators to ensure that the playing field remains level and that all members of the campus community can express their views with mutual respect and tolerance."

Among the challenges faced on Canadian campuses this year were the riots at Concordia University last September over former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit, resulting in the cancellation of his appearance; as well as the brouhaha over Middle East analyst Daniel Pipes' appearance at York, which was initially cancelled but eventually allowed to go ahead under heavy security.

"There is much to celebrate tonight," said Kaye. "We have managed to do some wonderful and creative programming."

In addition, he said, the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life – the long-awaited Hillel headquarters just off the University of Toronto campus – is expected to open in the fall and will include an advocacy centre, said Kaye. It is the first "purpose-built" Hillel centre designed and built from the ground up.

Kaye also cited leadership programs for Toronto students, some of which are based in Israel.

Honoree Jack Chisvin, who received a Founding Friend of the Campus award, paid tribute to the role Hillel played in his life, connecting him with Phyllis, his wife of almost 50 years.

The former federation president, who has taken an active role in the Wolfond Centre project (Kaye said he is referred to as "project manager"), remembers when Jewish students were marginalized and subject to quotas at Canadian campuses. The advent of Hillel in the late 1940s played a major role in raising Jewish pride, Chisvin said.

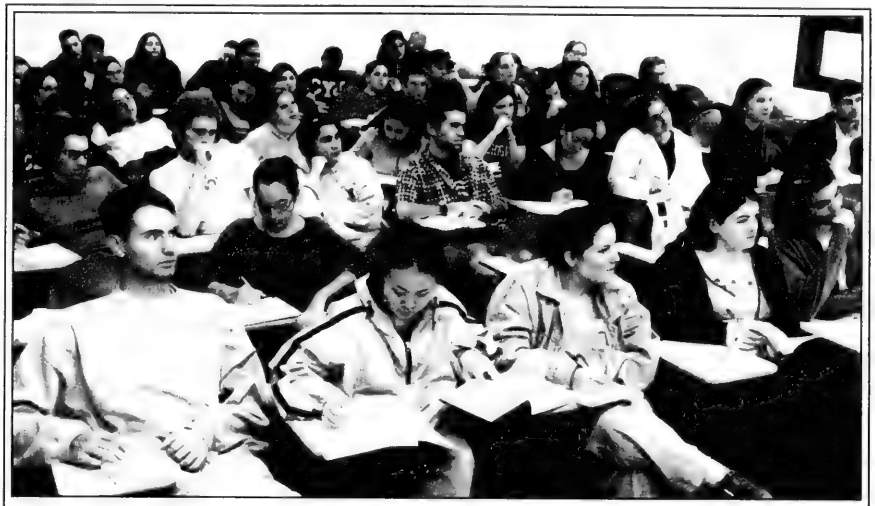
Hillel breeds leaders, he noted, recalling some of his fellow students at the University of Manitoba who went on to prominent community positions.

Hadracha (leadership) awards were presented to Seth Winberg, Adam Cutler, Daniel Steinberg, Joanna Szweras, Matt Rossner, Viktor Vitebski, Victor Volfson and Elysse Zarek.

Students receiving awards for contributions to Jewish life on their individual campuses were Ronit Kantarzhi, Ayallah Greenberg, Eyal Lewin, Almog Avisror and Holly Shulman (Ryerson); Yaniv Tzafir, Johanna Herman, Dave Horowitz, Ilene Harris and Lauren Parl (U of T); and Yaakov Roth, Jonathan Avery, Aliza Libman and Dori Borshiov (York).

Roth co-edited *Gam Yachad*, a student-written literary journal, in response to the crisis in Israel, with student Jason Rotstein and his sister Dalia Rotstein. The publication was launched at the event.

Citywide award winners were Eric Stutz (Schwartz Family Award for Tzedek and Social Justice); Denes Rothschild (Lapowich Family Award for Israel Advocacy on Campus); Shoshie Lockshin (Sidney Mendick Memorial Award for Building Pluralism and Diversity); Daniel Held (Nechama and Ya'akov Kainer Award for Creative Programming); Shira Zeliger (*Canadian Jewish News* Award for Communication); Andrew Ash, Noam Guberman and Paul Cooper (Paisley Manor Insurance Brokers Inc. Award for Special Involvement in Jewish Campus Life); Michael Garfinkle (Jacobovici Family Award for Arts and Culture); Michael Ferman (Gropper Family Award for Outstanding Leadership); Sari Gilboa (Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto Action Committee Award for Enhancing Jewish Identity and Continuity); and Jordie Saperia (Hillel of Greater Toronto Award for Ongoing Commitment to Jewish Student Life).



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INVEST IN A BETTER TOMORROW...TODAY!

A Taste of Turkish Cuisine

BY NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

Sheilah Kaufman, cooking teacher and author of 24 cookbooks, gave a fascinating cooking demonstration on Turkish cuisine at the Montreal Jewish Public Library last month. Nearly 100 people attended and were led on a delightful culinary adventure.

Kaufman explained that traditional Turkish cuisine focuses on beans, grains, fresh fruits, vegetables and of course, yogurt, one of Turkey's most important contributions to international cuisine. She co-authored *A Taste of Turkish Cuisine* ($24.95 US, Hippocrene) with Nur Ilkin, wife of the former ambassador of Turkey to the United States, who learned the secrets of Turkish cooking from her grandmother.

Kaufman demonstrated two delicious Turkish recipes – individual meat-filled boerek and a delectable rose-shaped baklava. The baklava was first prepared in 1973 for Queen Elizabeth II and served to her at Topkapi Palace. Her Majesty loved it and so will you!

Kaufman also demonstrated a delicious garlic dip from her book *Simply Irresistible* that will make a garlic lover out of anyone. Enjoy!

YOU'VE NEVER TASTED ANYTHING LIKE THIS GARLIC DIP

4 large cloves garlic, peeled
whole bunch of fresh parsley, with long stems removed
6 oz. can smoked almonds
2 cups regular or low-fat mayonnaise

In a food processor, carefully grind the garlic, parsley and almonds until finely chopped. Do not let the garlic turn to liquid. Place in a bowl and fold in mayonnaise. Blend well. Cover and refrigerate. Stir well before serving. Serve with fresh vegetables, crackers, bread, chips or whatever strikes your fancy.

This can be spread on grilled fish or chicken, or a potato and pop it into the broiler until the dip gets bubbly.

Makes about 1½ cups. Serves 8 or more. Can be prepared a few days ahead of time.

Hint: When fresh garlic and fresh parsley are chopped together, a chemical reaction takes place and the eater will not get garlic breath, or garlic upset!

TALASH BOEREK
Meat Wrapped in Puff Pastry

This easy, elegant dish can be used as a main course for entertaining or for family. Nur also fills these with chicken or other favourite fillings instead of meat.

2 tbsp. margarine
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1 lb. stew beef, cut into ½-inch cubes
2 cubanel peppers, seeded and sliced crosswise
1 large tomato, peeled and diced
2 tsp. tomato paste
salt and freshly ground pepper
½ tsp. dried oregano
2 cups warm water
1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
1 egg (for glazing)

Heat oil in a pot. Saute the onions for 5 minutes, add the meat, mix well and cook over medium heat for 3 minutes to sear in juices of meat. Add peppers, tomato, tomato paste, salt and pepper to taste, oregano and warm water. Bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat to medium and cook for an hour. You should have a thick sauce with meat and no juices.

Depending on your stove, if you still have a lot of liquid left after 45 minutes, remove the lid, and cook, stirring, until all the liquid has been absorbed. Or you can drain any remaining liquid off and save it for a soup or sauce.

Preheat oven to 350. On a lightly floured surface, roll out puff pastry until it is approximately 15 in. square. Cut pastry into 4 equal squares. Turn the squares so a point is facing you and squares now look like diamonds. Divide meat filling among pastry pieces. Bring the point nearest you up and over the meat. Bring the side points across the meat and the top point down, making an envelope over the meat. Turn the envelopes over and place on a cookie sheet.

Brush tops of envelopes with egg. Bake for 25 to 35 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve at once. Serves 4.

ORANGE BAKLAVA À LA KAZAN

Syrup:
3 cups sugar
juice of 1 or 2 lemons

Baklava:
4 large oranges
2½ to 3 cups sugar
1 lb. phyllo dough, thawed, room temperature
1 lb. unsalted butter, clarified (below)
garnish (optional): whipped cream and mint leaves

Syrup: Place sugar and 2 cups of water in a saucepan and bring to a boil, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Reduce heat to medium and cook syrup uncovered 10 to 15 minutes.

Stir in lemon juice; mix well. Cook another minute or two. Remove from heat, let cool, then refrigerate.

Using a small sharp knife, slice peel from tops and bottom of oranges, then slice orange peel in 6 pieces (from top to bottom), leaving each orange intact. Place peel in a large pot with cold water to cover; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook for 15 minutes.

Drain in a colander; place peel in a bowl of cold water until cool. This helps remove any bitterness from peel. Drain well, pressing with a clean kitchen towel to get rid of excess water. Chop the peel in a food processor.

Slice oranges into ½-in. slices; cut again into ½-in. pieces. Place in a large bowl with sugar and chopped peel.

Mix well and let mixture sit for an hour so oranges will absorb some of the sugar. Place orange-sugar mixture in a pot and cook 15 to 20 minutes on low heat, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat and let cool. If there is a large amount of liquid, drain it and discard. Consistency should be like a paste. Can be made ahead in large batches and stored in the refrigerator.

Place a sheet of phyllo on a work surface, covering remaining phyllo with a very slightly dampened towel to keep it from drying out. Brush sheet lightly with melted butter and fold in half to form a sheet about 13 x 8 inches.

Turn phyllo so long edge is facing you and spread about a teaspoon of filling across the top, about 1½ in. from the edge. Brush phyllo below the row of filling lightly with melted butter, bring the long edge over the filling. Continue to roll phyllo up like a log or jelly roll. Carefully begin to coil one end of the log, continuing until you have a "rose." Place on a lightly greased jelly roll pan and brush with a little melted butter. Repeat, making and coiling the remaining baklavas.

Preheat oven to 375. Bake baklava for 15 to 25 minutes, until lightly browned. Check to make sure bottoms are lightly browned also. Remove from oven and carefully pour chilled syrup over each rose. Serve with whipped cream topped with a mint leaf on top. Makes 24.

Note: Either the syrup must be cold and the baklava warm or hot, or the baklava must be cold and the syrup hot. If both are the same temperature, the dessert will get mushy.

Clarified Butter: Melt butter over very low heat until a foam appears on the surface. Do not burn. Skim off foamy top. Pour clarified butter into a bowl; discard milk solids that gather at bottom of pan. Refrigerate until ready to use.

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Hamilton federation fundraising up 14%

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — UJA Federation of Hamilton's fundraising campaign has reached $1 million in pledges, which represents an increase of $112,000, or 14 percent, over last year's campaign.

The $1 million mark has been reached only once before, in 1982, says UJA Federation president Dr. Bonnie Loewith.

Loewith attributed the success of the campaign largely to the hard work of its co-chairs, Dr. Lester Krames and Dr. Paul Roth, and women's division co-chairs, Lanie Goldberg and Beth Bandler, as well as to the efforts of the many volunteers who canvassed donors.

This current milestone was reached in a campaign designed to encourage donors to increase their pledges over the previous year, Loewith said in a telephone interview.

Another reason for the campaign's success was the instigation of professional training for canvassers provided by Jonathan Miller, canvasser trainer. The volunteers were taught the skills necessary to encourage donors to break from the pattern of flat giving.

UJA Hamilton made the commitment to reach out to new donors, as well as those who had made pledges in previous years, Loewith said at the recent annual general meeting.

"Running a successful fundraising campaign is not only a matter of having committed volunteers who are willing to make phone calls and visits. A successful fundraising campaign is a reflection of an agency where the donors trust that their donations are being used responsibly and in a way that will benefit our local community as well as the global Jewish community."

Funds raised by the campaign are directed locally to such institutions as the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, Kehila Jewish Community Day School, Beth Jacob Hebrew School, Temple Anshe Sholom Hebrew School, Midrasha High School, McMaster University Jewish Students Association as well as Jewish Social Services, the Kosher Food Bank, and the Jewish Community Centre. Funds are also allocated to UIA Canada, to institutions in Israel and to Jews in crisis worldwide.

UJA Federation also raised $500,000 locally in its Israel Emergency Campaign designed to help alleviate the economic crisis is Israel brought on by the ongoing Arab violence.

Loewith attributed much of the success of the Israel Emergency Campaign to its leader, Rabbi Mordechai Green, rabbi emeritus of Adas Israel Synagogue.

The Legacy Endowment Fund, established about five years ago, is being revitalized. UJA Federation board of directors has approved a new set of endowment fund by-laws, opening the way for the recruitment of a new endowment board of trustees.

"The endowment fund provides an opportunity for that vanishing generation of entrepreneurs, those who have carried this community for years, to leave a lasting legacy... Successful endowment initiatives now will make a significant difference to the kind of future we will leave to our successors," Loewith said.

UJA Federation of Hamilton has contracted a grant writer who is exploring a number of different avenues into funding from corporate and private foundations.

"I expect to see corporate dollars coming into the community income stream within the next few months," Loewith said.

Loewith emphasized the need to educate people about the role of UJA Federation.

"Their support of Federation is the single most important step they can take to ensure that this community has a brighter future."

Vancouver to Walk for Israel planned for May 25

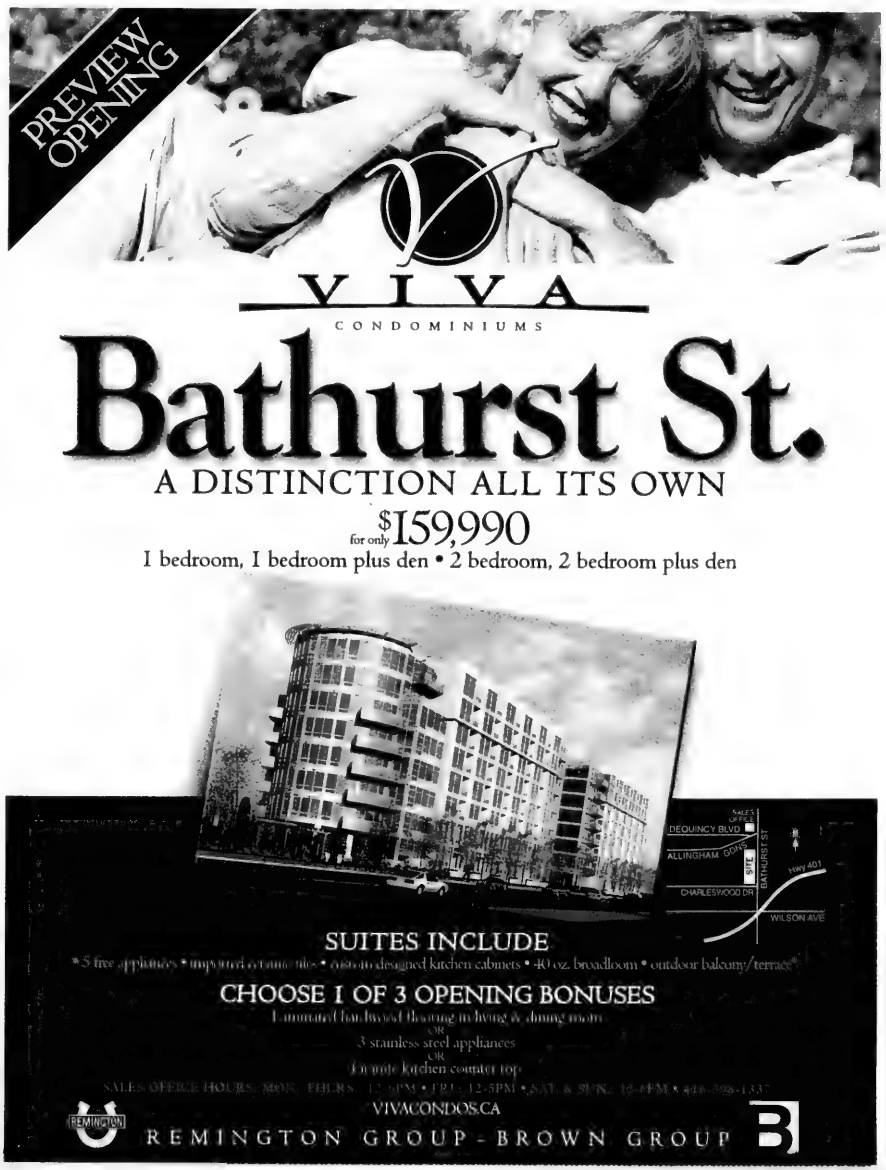
VANCOUVER — This city's annual Walk with Israel steps out at 9:30 am, Sunday, May 25, from Beth Israel Synagogue.

Attended by more than 2,000 people last year, the four-kilometre walk is expected to attract people from around British Columbia's Lower Mainland.

It will feature music by a band and a children's choir. The first 1,500 participants will receive a complimentary "We Stand With Israel" button and free admission to Vancouver Talmud Torah's spring fair.

Since the intensification of Palestinian violence in September 2000, the Jewish community of Greater Vancouver, like others around the world, has stepped up its support of Israel, hosting a series of town-hall meetings, rallies and a "Shop Israel" event, in which Vancouverites bought more than $82,000 worth of Israeli goods.

The Walk for Israel will run, rain or shine. Call 604-257-5100 for more information.



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By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Due to the Victoria Day holiday What's New and About People deadlines: Thursday, May 15, is deadline for May 29. Monday, May 26, is deadline for June 6. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, May 15

HEALTH FAIR

Recharge Yourself at Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living's Health Fair 2003, featuring Dr. Mel Borins speaking on Laughter and Play, gardening with fresh herbs workshop, health screening clinics and dietician. Free admission. Centre is located at 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Call 416-225-2112.

HEALTHY CHOICES

Panel discussion presented by Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in co-operation with Jewish Family & Child Service, with information about helping teens through adolescence. Topics include body image, athletics, healthy eating, friends, choices, relationships, family and food. Open to the community, seating limited. Call 416-485-8000 for information.

Sunday, May 18

WINGATE BRANCH

Wingate branch, Royal Canadian Legion, is holding a members' breakfast meeting, 9:15 a.m., Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. Call 416-782-5024.

RUMMAGE SALE

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue is holding a rummage sale, 9 a.m.-12 noon featuring clothing, housewares, toys, books. Call 416-633-5500.

Monday, May 19

JRCC

Relive the story of Ruth – The Path of a Convert to the Mother of Moshiach with **Chana Weisberg**, author, columnist, at the JRCC, 18 Rockford Rd. Register, 416-222-7105, ext. 230.

GIFT AND CRAFT SALE

Na'amat's semi-annual craft and gift sale is at Bayview Village, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Also includes hourly draws, face painting, silent auction. Call 416-636-5425, or 416-493-1089 evenings.

FAMILY FIREWORKS

Leadership Development Group of Baycrest Centre Foundation is holding an evening of professional fireworks and family fun, Crestwood School, 411 Lawrence Ave. W., 7:30 p.m. Fireworks start at about 9:15 p.m. Cost $36 per family in advance; $50 at the door. Call 416-785-2020.

Tuesday, May 20

RIVERDALE SHUL

Prof. Rachael Turkienicz will speak on Does Jewish Law Legislate my Soul: Spiritual Development in a Halachic Frame, 7:30 p.m. at the Riverdale Shul. For information, call 416-826-4539.

LAG B'OMER BONFIRE

Aish 20's presents an evening of music and merriment culminating with a bonfire, Earl Bales Park, Area 2 and Fire Pit 1, 7 p.m. No cost. To volunteer, call **Michal**, 905-764-1818, ext. 225.

LAG B'OMER BBQ

Pride of Israel Synagogue is holding a Lag b'Omer barbecue at nearby Lissom Park, 6:30 p.m. Cost $5, kids and teens half price, free for ages 5 and under. Must RSVP by Friday, May 16, at noon.

PIRKEI AVOT

Beth Tzedec series of lectures on the Ethics of the Fathers with **Jim Diamond** of the University of Waterloo, continues with The School of Abraham Versus the School of Balaam: Which Would You Send Your Child to? 7:30 p.m. Subsequent lectures May 28 and June 11.

Continued on page 31

The Women's Auxiliary
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Photograph from the book Tablescapes © Bentley Mills, Oakbrook

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What's New

Continued from page 30

Wednesday, May 21

JEWISH CONTRIBUTION

Rabbi Ken Spiro, Aish Hatorah, Jerusalem, will speak on Worldperfect: the Jewish Contribution to Civilization, Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, 613 Clarke Ave. W., Thornhill, 8 p.m. Admission free.

PROSTATE CANCER

Prostate Cancer Support Group Inc. is holding an awareness meeting, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Civic Garden Centre, Floral Hall Room, Edward's Gardens, Lawrence Avenue at Leslie. Call 416-932-8820 for information.

FIRST KINGS OF ISRAEL

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue continuing education presents the first in a three-part series on the first kings of Israel, with **Prof. Rachael Turkienicz**, who will discuss Saul: the Borrowed King. 8 p.m., no charge.

Thursday, May 22

THEATRE TRIP

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, presents a trip to the Shaw Festival to see *Misalliance*. Members $90, non-members $100. Prices include round trip on coach bus from Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Call 416-633-5100.

SAVE OUR CITIES FORUM

Alliance of Seniors presents a forum to examine issues causing an urban crisis in Canada, at St. Lawrence Centre. Call AJS office, 416-635-2860, for transportation, or **Derrell Dular** for more information.

Other News

BETH TZEDEC LECTURES

Beth Tzedec is hosting **Rabbi Joel Roth** May 15-17, who will deliver a number of public lectures and speak at Shabbat meals. First lecture is May 15, 7:30 p.m. To reserve for Shabbat dinner or lunch, call 416-781-3511.

TABLES OF DISTINCTION

Ever wonder what it would be like to dine at the homes of some of Toronto's top designers, artists and celebrities? Find out at Tables of Distinction, May 25 and 26, noon-7 p.m., Sheraton Centre, in support of Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive disorders at Baycrest Centre. Call 416-785-2500, ext. 2049 for advance tickets, or available at the door. www.baycrest.org for more information.

LEARN HEBREW

Karen Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Language and Bible Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., is taking registration for summer courses for adults, teenagers and preteens in conversational Hebrew and Bible for all levels. Call Joseph Klinger for information, 416-787-0197.

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

Ten-week course to master Hebrew prayers and learn vital synagogue skills, with **Shlomo Glaitman**, JRCC, 18 Rockford Rd. $50 for course, 416-222-7105, ext. 230.

STAYING FIT

Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood presents chiropractor, Dr. Paul Goldbach, who will speak on Getting Older, Staying Fit: Living a Healthy Lifestyle Without Arthritis. Lunch at 12:30 p.m. Call **Ruth Fruitman**, 905-731-6660.

JF&CS GROUPS

When you're about to separate: What to tell the kids, will be held Tuesday, May 27, at the Promenade Mall, suite 313, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Adolescents and divorce focuses on understanding your adolescent during this transitional time, Wednesday, May 28, at Promenade Mall, Suite 313, 7-9 p.m. For information or to register, call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets Thursdays 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Join them on their theatre outing June 12 to see the Stage West Theatre's production of *The Sound of Music*. Call **Libby** 416-782-2059, 416-630-9444 for information.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday dances, May 18, June 1, with live band. Saturday dances, May 24, June 7, June 28. Casino Rama, May 28, June 11, June 25. Dixie Mall Outlet, Sunday, June 8. Bingo Tuesdays 1 p.m. Membership open.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets Thursdays, 7 p.m. at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). May 15 is an Israeli movie. **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Bernard Betel is offering trip to Canada's east coast including Saint John, Charlottetown and Halifax, July 2-11. Cost $1,399 based on double occupancy. Call ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. May 20, trip to Unionville; space limited. Buy tickets in advance. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

Current events with **Joe Black**, Mondays, 10 -11:30 a.m. in the synagogue.

Diabetes education and counselling, Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the clinic room. Call **Alia**.

Literary luncheon at noon, with **Sylvia Maultash Warsh**, author and teacher, who will discuss her new novel, *The Stolen Princess*. Luncheon, $12 members, $15 non-members. Book review only begins at 1 p.m., $5. In person registration only.

Good Age Club, Miles Nadal JCC is holding a business meeting to discuss the June silent auction, May 15, 1 p.m. Also on May 15, 2 p.m., *New Morning*, a five-minute film by **Harriet Wichin**; trip to Casino Rama, May 22 leaves JCC 11 a.m. Free buffet lunch, shops, floor show. Departs 6 p.m. Nominal charge.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Latin jazz begins June 5, 6:30-7:30 p.m. for 10 weeks. Adult hip-hop dance for beginners starts Wednesday, May 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m. for 10 weeks.

Several summer programs for young children from 14 months to seven years old begin in June. Includes an infant program; Creating Together for children 14 months-3 years; Now You're Two; Mini Me Day Camp for 3-4 year olds; Everything For Me Day Camp for 5-7 year olds.

NA'AMAT TRIBUTE: A tribute luncheon was held recently in honour of Lorraine Levene, executive director of Na'amat Canada, Toronto, for more than 25 years. From left, Malka Weisblum, president; Levene; Orit Nusbaum, vice-president.

RADIO INTERVIEW: Zev Schwartz, a Grade 7 student at Leo Baeck Day School recently talked with Ted Woloshyn on CFRB 1010 about what preparations are involved in becoming a bar mitzvah.

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

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Contest Rules:

1. Not open to residents of Quebec.
2. Potential winners will be randomly selected from all entries received.
3. Early bird winners of an *Exodus* DVD (value $20.00) will be drawn on Monday, April 21, 2003, Monday, May 12, 2003 and Monday, June 2, 2003.
4. After each Early Bird draw the winner's name will be recorded and the entry goes back for the remaining draws.
5. Contest closed to entries at close of business, Friday, June 27, 2003.
6. Final Draw of *Judy & David* Party (value $1012.00) and the *Marriott Hotel* package (value $299.00) will take place Monday, June 27, 2003.
7. Odds of winning depends on the number of entries.
8. No purchase necessary to enter, mail in your name, address and phone number on an 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper.
9. *The Canadian Jewish News* employees and their immediate family are not eligible.
10. Potential winners will be selected at random, contacted by phone and must correctly answer a time-limited, skill-testing question.
11. Prizes must be accepted as awarded.
12. All decisions by the contest promoters (*The Canadian Jewish News*) are final and not subject to review.
13. By entering the contest you acknowledge these rules and agree to abide by them.

SINGLES EVENTS

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4 Avenue Rd., Toronto

To confirm attendance or to receive agenda and procedures, contact the Corporate Secretary at 416-586-5082

Coast to Coast

CBC gives Spector's realism a full airing

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

Let's get to the heart of the matter. The principal impediment to a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the Arab-Israeli conflict in general is that the Palestinians and the broader Arab/Muslim world refuse to acknowledge the legitimacy of Jewish sovereignty in the Middle East.

Journalists can complain about the Israeli right, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, settlements, and the "occupation," but they miss the point. Israel can compromise all it wants, but until the Arabs recognize its right to exist as a Jewish state, there will be no long-term end to the conflict.

That essential point was made shockingly clear when Michael Enright interviewed Norman Spector, former Canadian ambassador to Israel and the Palestinian Authority, on CBC radio's *Sunday Edition* on May 4.

The following exchange took place while discussing the U.S.-backed "road map" to Israeli-Palestinian peace in light of Spector's new book, *Chronicle Of A War Foretold*.

Enright: "You say that:.. 'I've never met a Palestinian who believes that Jews have not stolen Palestinian lands and that morally Israel has a legitimate right to exist as a Jewish state in the Mideast.' Not one? Not ever?"

Spector: "Not a single one. That doesn't mean I haven't met moderates."

Enright: "Uh-huh. But even the moderates believe that Israel should be driven into the sea? Is that it?"

Spector: "No, no, no, no. Moderates I would define as people who are prepared to recognize Israel. They will even say they are prepared to recognize Israel's existence. But they still think that it has no moral claim. I believe that what we have in the Middle East are two peoples, each of whom has aboriginal claims to the land. For each of those peoples that region is their ancestral homeland and the only way to resolve the conflict is, as the United Nations suggested in '47 and as the road map suggests now, two states for two peoples. But I believe that both claims are equally legitimate. I have never met a Palestinian who believes that Jews have a quasi-aboriginal claim and that it's their ancestral homeland, just as it is the ancestral homeland of the Palestinians. The moderates believe that they have to reconcile themselves to Israel's existence – it's too powerful, or it's the price that they're paying for the Holocaust or this sort of thing – but they do not recognize that the Jewish claim to that territory is equal to their claim."

On occasion, notably during his appearances on CBC Newsworld's *Counterspin*, Spector has drawn attention to this harsh reality. But never before did the CBC provide such an opportunity for Spector to explain himself so completely.

Coincidentally, on the same day as Spector's radio interview, Ethan Bronner's review of a new book, *Shattered Dreams*, by French TV Middle East correspondent Charles Enderlin on the failed Camp David summit, appeared in the *New York Times* 'Sunday Book Review. Bronner began by recounting a conversation he himself once had with the late King Hussein of Jordan. Bronner asked the king if he considered Zionism to be legitimate. "Did he accept that there was any historical basis to the Jews' claim to a portion of Palestine as their homeland? [King Hussein] looked at me as if I were from Mars and ducked the question." That from a true moderate, which King Hussein was.

No one could have underscored Norman Spector's own realistic, if depressing, evaluation of the current situation more credibly.

Paul Michaels is director of communications with the Canada-Israel Committee.

OJC PROGRAM: Bob Bidner, (right), president of the Okanagan Jewish Community, presents Rabbi Yosef Wosk with a commemorative gift from the OJC during a recent community program. Rabbi Wosk, who is the holder of the Order of British Columbia, has also been entrusted with many government appointments and serves on library and museum boards and on commissions for urban and mental health rights. Rabbi Wosk's involvement with Simon Fraser University's continuing studies programs led to his founding a series of café discussions, The Philosophers Café. This program has become an integral part of the OJC's continuing education effort.

Concordia Hillel-CSU dispute put on hold

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Concordia Hillel's lawsuit against the Concordia Student Union (CSU) for witholding its funding and denouncing it without just cause has been put on hold by Quebec Superior Court judge François Bélanger, who decided the dispute should be dealt with internally by the university.

Bélanger suspended all proceedings in the case until the plaintiffs have "exhausted their recourses" under the university's charter and other regulations, or have been "prevented from doing so such as can be assessed by a judge of our court."

Bélanger cited article 30 of the Concordia University charter, which stipulates that the board of governors has "a superintending and reforming power over all decisions affecting activities held at Concordia University" and has the power to overrule any decision made by an internal group which it "considers detrimental."

Bélanger did not directly address the administration's past assertion that the CSU is an independent legal entity over which it has no control, but he did say the university has "the power to intervene and sanction, if not the union, at least the students who are party to it."

He also noted that students are not likely to have the financial means to enter into a legal battle.

Hillel's lawyer Michael Bergman said his client is considering whether to appeal Bélanger's ruling, but even if it doesn't, the judgment may force the Concordia administration to act.

"The court believes that the board of governors has some authority to deal with the CSU. Historically, the university has insisted it does not possess the power to sanction or overturn the CSU's decisions. The court seems to disagree."

Bergman said the administration has not done all that it can to ensure civil debate on campus and to protect Jewish students from "intimidation." He said the decision gives Hillel the grounds to return to court if things don't get better.

The Hillel-CSU dispute began Dec. 2 when the CSU executive passed a resolution condemning Hillel for having flyers on an information table about Mahal, a program that allows Diaspora Jews to serve in the Israeli army.

The CSU said that amounted to military recruiting on campus, which is against CSU policy and might be illegal under a federal statute against recruitment for foreign armies.

The resolution deprived Hillel of using campus space for tables and postering and withheld its CSU funding, which amounted to $3,000. Hillel claimed it was "effectively banned" from Concordia.

Later in December, the CSU executive restored Hillel's ability to use space but continued the suspension of funds until Hillel apologizes and it and all other CSU-affiliated clubs sign a "statement of principles" committing it to mutual respect, avoidance of racism and no military recruiting. Hillel has refused.

Hillel was demanding $100,000 in punitive damages from the CSU, claiming it violated its own bylaws, the university's charter and Jewish students' constitutional freedoms by withholding Hillel's funding and denouncing it without just cause.The suit alleged that the CSU is deliberately suppressing Hillel because of its pro-Israel stance.

Bergman has also filed for an interlocutory injunction to have the court order the CSU to apologize and unconditionally reinstate Hillel as a member student club before the end of the semester.

Hillel named Concordia as a co-party, alleging that the administration has not exercised the authority it has over student conduct and security.

"The ball is now in Concordia's court," said Frank Schlesinger, legal counsel for Canadian Jewish Congress, which has been granted intervenor status in the case.

"We will call on the administration to do its duty, to pursue all avenues. This was one of Hillel's demands."

The CSU's lawyer Guiseppe Sciortino filed motions dismissing Hillel's injunction request, stating that any charges against the CSU of violating the university's regulations can be heard by the university's own conflict-resolution bodies. He also said the CSU never withdrew recognition of Hillel as an affiliated club.

Aaron Maté, an outgoing 2002-2003 CSU vice-president, said the CSU will not apologize to Hillel until it apologizes for the Mahal flyers and signs the statement of principles, as all 54 other clubs have done. All the CSU may apologize for is for "perhaps not giving Hillel enough notice" and following due process before it tabled the resolution condemning and sanctioning it, he said.

Maté hailed Bélanger's decision, saying it recognizes the difference between criticism of Israeli government policies and anti-Semitism. He accused Hillel and Jewish community leaders of seeking to "silence" people who support Palestinian rights. "I hope students who criticize the Israeli government will not have to worry about being sued by Hillel and its bosses."

Bergman said Bélanger misunderstood the nature of the dispute because of his characterization of it as one between Jewish students who differ on the Middle East conflict.

In his ruling, Bélanger describes the dispute as pitting the pro-Israel Hillel, which represents "a part of the Jewish students," against the CSU, "a majority of whose executive members are equally of the Hebrew faith [sic]… who support the position of the United Nations on this subject."

Even though the case is suspended, Bergman said Hillel is continuing with an appeal of Bélanger's granting of intervenor status to a group called Jewish Alliance Against the Occupation (JAAO). The same right was earlier given to CJC by Judge Allan Hilton. CJC regards the case as an important test of the responsibilities of student government and of university administrations to protect all students.

Both interventions would have been limited to establishing the effect of the CSU's actions on the Canadian Jewish community.

The JAAO, represented by prominent human-rights lawyer Julius Grey, told the court it wished to intervene on behalf of the part of the Jewish community that CJC does not represent. The JAAO, created in 2000 and claiming about 50 members – all Jews – in Montreal, opposes Israel's military presence on what it calls Palestinian land.

"In my opinion, the court misunderstood the intent and purpose of JAAO's intervention. It would politicize the case and turn it into a debate on the merits or lack of merit of Middle East policy," Bergman said.

CJC sought the appointment of a single judge to the case, Schlesinger said, but Superior Court Chief Justice Lyse Lemieux refused, because it was too early to do that.

Bergman said the election of a new, moderate CSU executive, which takes office for a one-year term June 1, should not be seen as an end to the dispute.

"The supporters of the CSU that was in office in the last two or three years still have positions of importance on the CSU council of representatives and they are vocal," he said.

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Advertising feature

LifeStyle

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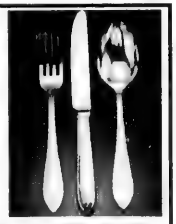

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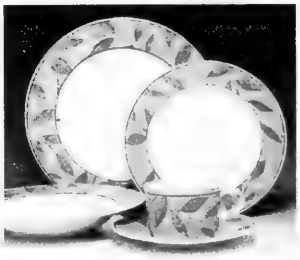

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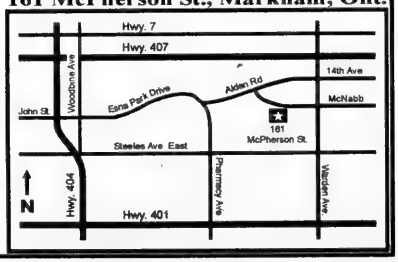

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Coast to Coast

Israel's fallen martyrs remembered in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Seven students from Danciger High School in the northern Israeli community of Kiryat Shmona gave Winnipeg's Jewish community a powerful perspective on Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Memorial Day for its fallen soldiers.

They spoke of personal loss.

In a ceremony they led last Monday at the Berney Centre, a program of poetry and song was interspersed with memories of Israeli soldiers – friends, relatives and others from Kiryat Shmona who were murdered or died in combat.

The students – Regev Ben Haroush, Ortal Ben Ayon, Moriya and Eden Malka, Nofar Yacovi, Sima Levy and Yehoram Mor Yosef – and their teacher, Ofer Zafrani, were in Winnipeg for an 11-day visit as part of Partnership 2000 program – co-sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and the Jewish Agency – which links Winnipeg and Kiryat Shmona and Winnipeg's Jewish schools with Kiryat Shmona schools.

Ben Haroush spoke of his cousin, Daniel Haroush, who was the victim of a bus bombing. He was 16 and a student at a military academy in Haifa. Regev read Daniel's father's moving eulogy, in which he spoke of Daniel's hopes of becoming an officer in an elite unit.

Mor Yosef talked about his uncle, a tank mechanic also named Yehoram, who was killed in an ambush in Lebanon in 1984. He was 19 and is buried in Kiryat Shmona's military cemetery.

The students also spoke of Boaz Pomerantz, from Danciger's graduating class of 1999, who was killed in action during Operation Defensive Shield in April, 2002, and they recalled Albert Ederi, who was 26 when he was killed in Lebanon.

Then there was the story, told in a moving song, of two young men from Jerusalem, both named Yuval Harel, who were killed just hours apart in Lebanon in 1982. When the first Yuval was killed, the other's parents were informed by mistake. When the error was rectified, the living Yuval's parents were greatly relieved, so much so that when they were later informed their son had also been killed, they kept insisting there was a mistake.

The Israeli students were very excited about coming here, Zafrani said. Six of them had never been on a plane before.

"Winnipeg is like a dream," he said. "The hospitality, the warmth, the love has been amazing. And it's so quiet. Two days before we left, Hezbollah fired a couple of bombs at our school. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The visit gives our students an opportunity to see what life can be like."

While in Winnipeg, the students visited Jewish schools to talk about life in Israel and met with their peers. They also took in museums and the ballet.

The Yom Hazikaron memorial evening was co-sponsored by the Winnipeg Zionist Initiative, Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate, the Rose and Max Rady Jewish Community Centre, JSA/Hillel and Partnership 2000.

Ottawa Jewish community celebrates Israel's birthday

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Ottawa Jewish community came out in force to show support for Israel on its 55th birthday.

Yet there were some notable absences from last week's local Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at Congregation Agudath Israel.

Gerald Levitz, president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir, and 63 others showed solidarity by celebrating together in Israel, as part of the largest community mission ever from this city.

Back in Ottawa, event chair Miriam Algom welcomed eight students from Kiryat Shmona, who were in town on an exchange visit with Yitzhak Rabin High School. She invited them to join the local community to "celebrate in the Israeli spirit."

Israel's ambassador to Canada Haim Divon thanked the Ottawa community for its support through thick and thin, past and present. "I reassure you that we will continue to be strong, with high spirits and we will be proud Israelis and will make all of you proud," he said.

Known for word play, Rabbi Reuven Bulka, of Congregation Machzikei Hadas, explained the number 55 is made up of 50 and five, and using the Hebrew letter equivalents for the numbers, it would spell "hen" which is "a Talmudic way of saying yes."

Rabbi Bulka then urged everyone to "say yes to Israel… by visiting Israel, by supporting Israel, [by] buying Israeli products, etc."

The evening was filled with song and poetry, and featured the Shira Ottawa Choir (whose director Cantor Daniel Benlolo was away on the mission to Israel), the Hillel Academy Choir, led by Ricki Grebler, and the Israella Singers, directed by Shirley Steinberg , in a program titled "We have no other land."

The evening presented an overview of the country's history, from its founding to its continuing hope for eventual peace.

Israeli refreshments and dancing to the sounds of Shimon Pe'er followed the formal proceedings.

Many of the people at the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration also attended the solemn Yom Hazikaron memorial ceremony for Israel's soldiers the previous evening, which was sponsored by the Embassy of Israel in association with the Vered Israel Cultural Program.

Are you getting all the natural health benefits of salt?

Over 3 million Canadians with respiratory problems may breathe easier today as Halotherapy finally arrives in Ontario! This 100% drug-free, natural, effective remedy has been available in Europe for over 50 years.

Breathing freely again - wonderful deep, cleansing breaths - and no hacking, wheezing, coughing, nasal congestion, pain - can you remember what that felt like? Can you imagine having that freedom again? Second hand smoke, household pollutants, pneumonia, 'sick building syndrome' hazardous material handling, viral respiratory infections, allergies - all side effects of living in a modern society, and increasingly affecting children as well as adults.

Almost 15% of Canadian children suffer from some chronic breathing disease - can you image giving your child an opportunity to breathe freely again, run, play,simply enjoy childhood?

Now you can - using a natural, side-effect-free treatment, Halotherapy. Pediatricians highly recommend Speleotherapy/Halotherapy for treating children suffering from breathing problems, in the periods after and between attacks. Efficacy is estimated as 75 - 85%, while medication intake (that might be the source of allergy and intoxication) is reduced, and the treatment can be used as a sole method or as a part of a complex treatment plan.**

Europeans have long had the advantage of special clinics in salt caves to help alleviate their breathing problems. Sufferers know these places: Solzbad-Salzeman and Oberzeiring in Austria, Fürstenzeche, a Duke's Mine in the Bayerischer Wald in Germany, Romania Sieged, Troilus mine at Tirgu Ocna near Slanic, Moldova, Wieliczka in Poland, Tapolca in Hungary, Bystrianská in Slovakia, Nakhichevan in Azerbaijan, Chon-Tous in Kirghiz Republic; Solotvino and Artiomovsk in Ukraine; Berezniki in Russia.

Now Canadians have an opportunity to enjoy the wonderful sensation of Speleo/Halotherapy treatment (without expensive travel to Europe), with the opening of the first Halotherapy Treatment Centre in North York, Ontario. The Centre will reproduce the full natural salt cave clinic atmosphere, with a microclimate aerosol treatment.

Medical experts support bringing this revolutionary treatment to North American shores: "this can help both adults and children with breathing problems in Canada - there is a great necessity for an efficient and safe method of treatment.*** There are no natural salt cave clinics in Ontario." Halotherapy is recommended for all ages including children and seniors."

Halotherapy works through an artificially created and controlled microclimate, based on. Speleotherapy, which is treatment in a salt cave microclimate. The halo-chamber walls and floors are covered with the salt layer, and dry salt aerosol (NaCl) is blown into the chamber, creating a curative environment identical to the microclimate of salt caves. Experts have noted that " the Halochamber works even better than a clinic in a natural cave. It has all the advantages without a certain level of radiation and gas radon presented in natural caves." Speleo/Halo therapy has been medically recognized to treat the breathing problems of Europeans for over 50 years.*** It is used for bronchial conditions, chronic bronchitis, bronchiectasis, sinusitis, pharyngitis, tonsilitis, psoriasis, atopic dermatosis, fatty seborrhea, and other diseases. The treatment is also recommended for sufferers of breathlessness, chest tightness, coughs (particularly at night or after exercise), mucosal edema, mucus plugs, wheezing, and other disorders of respiratory tract like rhinitis, sinusitis, tonsillitis, pharyngitis. Of course, it is also good for people who suffer often from colds and respiratory allergies. Smokers can also benefit from Halotherapy, especially significant as 'one in four Canadian smoke cigarettes on a daily basis'. A 12-25 session course is recommended depending upon the disease.** Each session lasts for 60 minutes for adults and 45 minutes for children."****

This method of treatment was initially called "Speleotherapy". ("Speleon" stands for "cave" in Greek). The origins of this method are quite peculiar. During the WWII residents of a German city of Ennepetal were using Klutert cave as a bomb shelter. Amazingly, they found they were coughing considerably less and breathing easier with each air raid. Later on it was confirmed by scientists that many of those using the cave as a bomb shelter were indeed cured of their asthma, chronic bronchitis, and other diseases of respiratory tract. The healthy individuals hiding in that cave had strengthened their immunity and stopped catching colds.

The modern basis of speleotherapeutics was established in the 1950's by Dr. Karl Hermann Spannagel . In the town of Enneptal, he used speleotherapeutics to relieve the chronic breathing problems of adults in the community. His experiences and results, were then developed in various speleotherapeutic centres throughout Europe, including Hungary, Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Carpathian Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, and Poland. The method was officially named "Speleotherapy".

Scientists developed the medical device called a Halogenerator, or Microclimate aerosol chamber. The modern Microclimate Aerosol Chamber uses state of the art technology to completely reproduce the atmosphere of the clinics located in salt caves or in special mines, and it has a monitored therapeutic microclimate. Air with low concentrations of curative NaCl (or salt) is ionized and saturated with a natural substance, i.e. with highly dispersed aerosol of NaCl. The therapeutic parameters (such as concentration, dimensions, and speed of salt aerosol particles and others remedial factors) are customized by medical professionals according to the individual needs of patients. These curative parameters are preset, and then controlled and maintained by a microprocessor.

Doctors have noted that "thousands of patients have been successfully treated by this method. After taking the Halotherapy treatments their breathing becomes easier. Symptoms such as sneezing, coughing, and shortness of breath are alleviated and patients no longer have to take large amounts of prescription medications."*****

The use of prescription medicines is increasingly disliked by many people; some feel overuse can lead to ineffectiveness of the drugs, others simply want a natural way to treat their bodies.

Parents with concerns about the use of prescription medicine on their children will be glad to know that medical research has shown "Halotherapy is most effective in children as they respond exceptionally well to any kind of natural treatment." Doctors recommend parents try this natural remedy before starting children on medications (with their bitterness and side - effects), "or at least alongside medications for further drug illuminations or reductions." Children treated by powerful hormones are far more at risk of bone fractures and cracks. This alternative treatment has an indisputable advantage - it has no side - effects - and efficacy is estimated at 75 - 85%. Excellent results have also been achieved in treatment of children with recurrent bronchitis It considerably reduces the need for antibac terial medications, thus reducing the risk c dysbacteriosis and allergic reactions Preventive treatment of frequently ill children i a Halochamber reduces the risk of reoccur rence of a disease and speeds up the healin process."

Halotherapy has passed many clinical trial and been found safe and effective, and is rec ommended by physicians in many coun tries.**** In some countries Halotherapy treat ment is considered as traditional drug-fre medicine and covered by health insurance. Th treatment descriptions and positive outcome are publicized in many journals in Europe. Th US publication, "Aerosol Med" 1995 Fall issue 8(3) carries an article on 'Halotherapy fc Treatment of Respiratory Diseases' . It quote clinical trials confirming the high efficacy an safety of this drug-free method. Halotherapy i also recommended by dermatologists Naturopaths applaud the use of Speleotherap clinics. The clinic has experienced license naturopathic doctors who examine ever patient to determine if an contraindication exists and t make a recommendation of th number of treatments and typ of microclimate suggested i each particular case.

Workers in air-tight offic building are increasingl warned about 'sick buildin syndrome'. The quality c indoor and outdoor air con tributes significantly to th exacerbation of symptoms c respiratory diseases.* This dis order manifests itself with quic onset of fatigue, deterioratio of memory, bad mood, skir eye and nasal irritation, an with allergic reactions of th lower respiratory tract Halotherapy sessions reliev these symptoms, reliev headache, and increase energ level.

Medical practitioners sug gest "Breathing clean air saturated with cura tive salts is recommended to all residents c big cities suffering from environmental pollu tion, even helping you avoid serious, compli cated and long lasting colds. It even boost general immunity, prevents frequent infections improves sleep pattern, and strengthens an prevents excessive perspiration."*** Patient have felt the Halochamber treatment ha turned their lives around -most of the patient report positive result of Halotherapy as soon a in 7-20 days.

For the latest news about Halotherapy and t make an appointment for a course of microcli mate aerosol treatment, call Olja Keserovic Naturopathic Doctor,The Speleotherapy Clini (416) 739-7777 ext. 43.

Sources:

* The Med. Institution for the children repiratory diseases Zlaté Hory

** "Aerosol Medicine" 1995 Fall issue

*** "Aeromed" respiratory research Clinic

**** Interastma 99 Palanga May 28-30, 1999

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This is not meant to be medical advice.The contents of this advertisement are provided for general information purposes only.

Coast to Coast

Toronto philanthropists save Calgary day school

By JUDY SHAPIRO
Jewish Free Press

CALGARY — Toronto philanthropists have come to the rescue of Calgary's Akiva Academy with funding that will allow the financially troubled Orthodox day school to remain open.

The Israel Koschitzky Family Foundation will provide the 24-year-old school with money to buy its building from the City of Calgary. In two years, the foundation expects to be repaid either in cash or with transfer of ownership of the building, said Akiva co-president Nelson Halpern.

Meanwhile, Akiva will be responsible for maintenance and repairs, but will also be entitled to collect rental fees (it currently shares its building with the Calgary Preparatory School).

Halpern said this income, along with savings from not paying rent and additional funds from supporters in Calgary and Toronto, will cover the approximately $100,000 projected deficit in next year's operating budget, a result of shrinking enrolment from an average of about 100 students during the 1990s.

Roughly half that number have been enrolled since December 2001, when a number of parents withdrew their children mid-year after former principal Rabbi Noteh Glogauer resigned a few months before the end of a three-year contract in an apparent dispute with the school's board of directors.

The Koschitzky family once lived in Calgary, but moved away in the early 1960s because the community did not have the facilities to support an Orthodox lifestyle. The family remains very committed to building Jewish life in Calgary and continues to generously support the Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel (HOJMI) and Akiva Academy.

(The shul and the school are one legal entity. Akiva's board is a HOJMI committee made up school parents and operates under the halachic authority of HOJMI's rabbi.)

"We've been supporting the school for years, since its inception," said Saul Koschitzky, who heads the family foundation with his brother Henry. "My dad [Israel] started his business in Calgary, and the whole family lived in Calgary for many years. We feel a connection to the city."

With financial and building problems sorted out ahead of the expiration of its lease and the option to purchase its building next month, as well as the deadline to submit its budget to the province in order to get public funding, the school can now plan for the future.

"I think this is great, because it will allow us to turn the corner and rebuild Akiva for the future," Halpern said. "I truly believe there is HaShem, that we have a guardian angel and someone is looking out for us."

As of late last month, 35 students were registered for the 2003-04 school year, and according to Halpern, these numbers are sufficient to run the school. (Akiva has 47 students this year.) He hopes more parents will enrol their children now that Akiva's future is more secure.

The news of the Koschitzky family donation comes after the failure earlier this year of merger talks between Akiva Academy and the non-Orthodox Calgary Jewish Academy (CJA), Calgary's other Jewish day school.

The talks apparently broke down over how to provide an Orthodox program or stream at the CJA and who would control it.

"It has become clear that there is a desire for two schools in this community and we are determined that Akiva continues," Halpern said. "We've been here for 24 years, and we will be here for another 24 years."

For Halpern and others committed to preserving Orthodox education in Calgary, which has about 7,500 Jews, the news of the Koschitzky family's contribution is the culmination of months of effort.

"All the hard work is paying off because of the generosity of others," Halpern said.

HOJMI co-president Judy Shriar shared Halpern's excitement over the new funding.

"The executive is delighted," Shriar said. "This is an amazing gift."

She said the shul's future is tied to the future of the school, as without an Orthodox educational program in the city, it will be very difficult for HOJMI to hire a new rabbi to replace Rabbi Seth Binus, who died last fall at age 30.

Others have also noted that the absence of an Orthodox school would make Calgary a less attractive home for other observant Jews, which could, in turn, affect community institutions such as the kosher butcher and kosher bakery.

While Akiva's lay leadership has been working to secure the school's finances, its administration has also been working hard to develop new programs to enhance its curriculum.

Principal Jemmie Silver said she is pleased Akiva has been chosen for a pilot project run by the University of Calgary's Centre for Gifted Learning that will allow the school's students to "work at their own ability level in all areas of the curriculum."

Under this project, which will run two or three years, Akiva staff will work with centre director Michael Pyryt, Marilyn Samuels of the University of Calgary's Learning Disabilities Resource Centre (and a former Akiva parent), and graduate students supervised by Pyryt and Samuels to design individual program plans (IPP) for each Akiva student.

Students will still be in a classroom with other children in their grade, but the program will allow teachers to "provide stronger individualized instruction to meet the needs of all students," Silver said. "It is a more formalized way of providing the individualized programming we've offered over the years."

She said this is the first time such a program has been run throughout a school.

"This creative, innovative approach will provide a richer learning environment for our students," Silver said. "Our goal is to achieve high levels of learning for all students and for students to achieve to their full potential."

With files from CJN *staff in Toronto.*

Advertising feature

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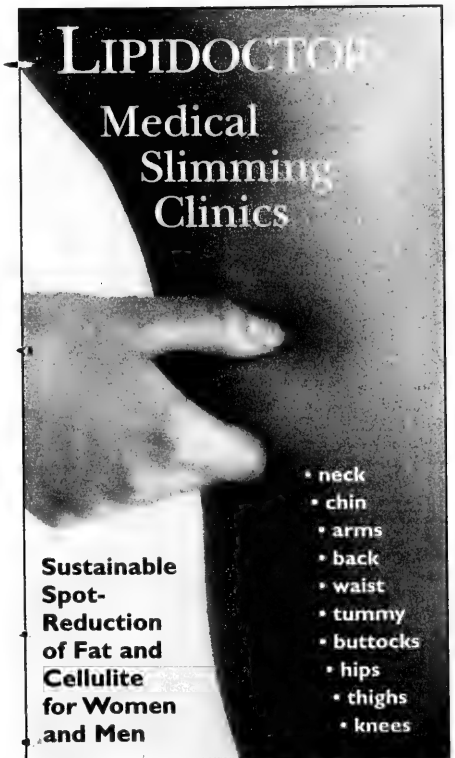

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Dr. Gore states that LIPIDOCTOR™ programs are safe and affordable. "You only require one medical clinic procedure for each problem area, followed by daily applications of our safe, custom-compounded, transdermal creams. Our Spot-Slimming, Cellulite Defence and Workout Programs are individually personalized for your age, gender, lifestage and metabolism. Compared to liposuction, Infusion Lipolysis™ is gentler, less dramatic, less traumatic, a fraction of the cost!"

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LIPIDOCTOR™ Medical Slimming Clinics also offer a unique program to optimize everyday workouts while spot-reducing fat. Their goal is to improve muscle definition in problem areas in only two to four weeks. The combined prescription and natural products in the Workout Program not only diminish fat, but also enhance muscle tone, power and endurance. "Casual exercisers, fitness enthusiasts and competitive athletes all love it because it's so easy. Following our clinical procedure, simply apply maintenance Workout Cream daily, before a sports or exercise activity."

When asked what differentiates his approach from over-the-counter remedies, Dr. Gore replied: "Infusion Lipolysis™ is a state-of-the-art clinical procedure, carried out in an established medical facility. No pain; no bruising. You now really *can* lose fat thickness. And we will prove it to you during your no obligation, medical consultation."

In fact, Dr. Gore routinely does just that. He measures each patient's tummy fat thickness with skin fold calipers, applies a test dose of one or more LIPIDOCTOR™ transdermal creams and re-measures 30 minutes later.

The results are remarkable. This test also helps the doctor predict how much more fat thickness the patient can lose and keep off.

Here is the story behind Dr. Gore's discovery. "I always had problem areas of fat. I underwent two disappointing liposuction procedures in my 40's. They weren't the easy fix I had hoped for. Results were not permanent. To maintain results, I still have to exercise regularly and watch what I eat. In the right hands, liposuction is effective surgery, particularly when major changes in body contour are required. But for smaller problem areas, flabby tummies and cellulite in particular, shouldn't there be a simpler, less invasive, less inconvenient, less transient, less expensive solution?"

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west of Bathurst St.

Morris Bader and Jean Cooper found each other at the Bernard Betel Centre -- and they've been together for seven years.

Love still blooms at Betel Centre

'Find a companion and live happily ever after,' that's Jean's secret for success

Romance doesn't end at 70, 80, or even at 90, if Morris Bader has anything to say about it. Morris, a widower who turns 89 in May, met Jean Cooper, 77, seven years ago through the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living.

Today, he still says, "she's a wonderful, wonderful companion."

A one-time milkman, union organizer, and candy store owner, Morris joined the Centre after his wife passed away in 1995. "I was a basket case … I lost control," he said.

Though his warm extended family did what they could, he says he joined the Betel Centre to help him find "something to do."

Thanks to Anna Halber-Karl, who coordinates the Bernard Betel Centre's V.I.S.I.T. (Volunteers In Support and In Touch) and Dial-a-Friend services, he's found much more. Anna spotted a potential volunteer immediately in Morris, but sensed he needed something more.

Jean was already a long-time Betel Centre member. Widowed a decade ago, her husband, who had also been a member, asked her to volunteer after he passed away.

"He knew I'd be lonely," Jean says. The couple had no children. With her outgoing nature and gift for conversation, she was a natural for V.I.S.I.T., which sends friendly companions out to seniors living alone or feeling isolated.

Jean says Anna asked her "to take Morris under my wing," showing him the ropes as a volunteer. She also gave Morris a little push in Jean's direction.

"Anna said she knew a nice young lady in the same position as me," Morris says. Jean nods, she's heard the "young lady" line many times over the last seven years.

"I paid for coffee," she says. "But I've been paying ever since," he teases her, gently. "We need each other," he says.

Over their seven years together, the pair, who live in Scarborough, have had several opportunities to see the world, taking cruises and going to Florida. But always, they've returned to the Centre and to their commitment as volunteers.

With Jean at the wheel, they continue to visit housebound seniors, both men and women. Jean says the couple's clients are "always very happy to see us." Visiting gives her a tremendous sense of satisfaction. Morris, who isn't able to drive anymore, says the feeling is mutual, as volunteering gets him out and socializing.

Jean is matter-of-fact about her secret of happiness in the senior years: "Find a companion and live happily ever after." Though she makes it look easy, she says, "it's all about what you want to put into it; helping it mature and growing together … taking it seriously."

For Morris, the greatest joy seems to be reaping the rewards of a life spent building a family. After 55 years of marriage, he wasn't sure he'd be able to carry on once his wife passed away.

But his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have accepted Jean from the start, drawing her into their family's circle. "There are always birthdays to keep us busy," he says.

Jean says proudly that they marched together in a family wedding last July, and plan to again at another soon. "My family appreciates what Jean does for me," Morris says. "They consider her as part of the family … I hope she feels the same way."

Morris and Jean's romance may not be what teenagers imagine when they picture their dream. But thanks to Anna Halber-Karl and the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, Morris calls their association, "the happiest part of my life."

As Tevye says in *Fiddler on the Roof*, "If that's not love, what is?"

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Both sides should follow 'map,' Powell says

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — For those who have been following the Middle East for the past few years, the scene might have seemed all-too-familiar: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell visits the region and attempts to prod Israelis and Palestinians to take up yet another peace plan.

But each side puts the onus on the other, and violence continues in the background.

If his public comments are any indication, Powell's message during his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas last weekend was clear: the time has come to act.

He called on both sides to take concrete steps to advance the political process.

After meeting with Powell, however, Abbas called on Israel to accept the internationally backed "road map" toward peace and allow Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to travel freely.

Following his talks with Sharon, Powell called Israeli proposals to improve conditions for the Palestinians "very promising." The measures are expected to include eased travel restrictions on Palestinians and a release of some 200 Palestinian administrative detainees.

But neither Israeli not Palestinian leaders yielded on their core demands, which each presented as critical for progress.

For Israel, these include a Palestinian declaration giving up the "right of return" for refugees from Israel's 1948 War of Independence and their descendants to homes inside Israel.

Israel also insists that the Palestinian Authority take concrete steps to fight terrorism and dismantle terrorist groups.

Palestinian demands include an Israeli declaration that they accept the "road map" toward peace as it is, and end settlement activity and targeted killing of terrorists.

According to a report in *Ha'aretz*, Sharon and Abbas are likely to meet toward the end of this week, before Sharon departs for Washington.

The planned meeting was announced following separate meetings by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell with both leaders Sunday.

Government sources in Jerusalem said Abbas has agreed to the meeting, but a date and venue have not yet been set.

After the Sharon-Abbas meeting, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz is expected to meet with the new Palestinian security chief, Mohammed Dahlan.

The two prime ministers are expected to discuss ways to reduce the violence and restart negotiations. They may also announce the resumption of high-level security co-ordination between the sides.

Mofaz will then follow up on an offer Israel has already made – to withdraw from any area where the Palestinians assume responsibility for security. He will propose to Dahlan that Israel begin by withdrawing from positions in the northern Gaza Strip.

Following his meeting in Jerusalem with Sharon, Powell called on the Palestinians to take "decisive action" to "disarm and dismantle the terrorist infrastructure." Without such efforts, Powell said, "our best efforts will fail."

He added that progress would depend on "concrete measures" by Israel to support further Palestinian reform. Powell said he and Sharon had also discussed specific measures Israel could take to "immediately improve the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to improve the environment for peacemaking."

Without elaborating on the steps Sharon outlined, Powell said he is pleased that the Israeli prime minister confirmed Israel's intention to take "positive steps in the days ahead," and looked forward to continued steps when Sharon visits Washington later this month.

Sharon also did not give details on what was discussed. Asked about Israel's readiness to halt settlement activity, Sharon reiterated his previous declarations that he is prepared to make "painful concessions" in real negotiations, but will not take steps that endanger Israeli security.

"We repeated to the secretary our sincere wish to move forward in implementing the vision of President [George W.] Bush" from a speech last June 24, "and our readiness to invest substantial efforts in order to make progress and not miss this opportunity," Sharon said.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Moderate Iraqi Shi'ites seem tolerant, but how much power will they have?

By MATTHEW GUTMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BAGHDAD — For now at least, the highest Shi'ite imams in Iraq are practising what they preached during three decades of oppression and assassination under Saddam Hussein — tolerance.

On April 22, after he called on millions of Shi'ites to return loot plundered from the Baghdad National Museum, Sa'id Kamal Din Al-Mukadas Al-Ruweifi gave museum officials 22 Torah scrolls and manuscripts, along with dozens of other artifacts that were stolen.

In mid-April, as the U.S. invasion of the city sucked the last dregs of power from the regime, Iraqi looters stripped the museum of artifacts, air conditioners, even door hinges.

Torah scrolls returned

In an interview with JTA, Ruweifi, a follower of the Al-Hawza Supreme Clerical Council in Najaf and the arbiter of Islamic law for about half of Baghdad's Shi'ites, looked puzzled when asked why he returned the Torah scrolls.

The two purplish, horn-like smudges on his forehead, marks of a devout Muslim who prostrates himself in prayer five times a day, inched upward: "True Islam respects other people's belief in God. Muslims respect others, whether they be Christians or Jews, as long as they respect Islam."

His voice husky with age and sickness, Ruweifi added that Jews once thrived in Iraq.

"We knew many of them. They were traders and lived and worked in the Al-Jorjia district in Baghdad," he said. "We had nothing against them. In Iraq a person's religion does not matter too much to the people."

According to U.S. Marine Col. Mathew Bogdanos, who heads a task force charged with cataloguing and retrieving the stolen artifacts, the "clergy has been instrumental in helping us."

The Torahs were delivered in a "wooden chest with rivets that was about a yard wide, full of scrolls and manuscripts," he said.

Bogdanos' task force had distributed leaflets, put advertisements on the one radio station still playing and walked the streets to convince looters that the " 'no questions asked' policy meant no questions asked," he said.

Little worked, until leaders like Ruweifi stepped in.

The response "was tremendous," Bogdanos said. "They made our job a lot easier."

Preaching last Friday at the Sunni Al-Rahman Mosque, Qassen Al-Tahi, a chief Al-Hawza member, called on thousands of Shi'ites in attendance to follow the peaceful path of the prophet Mohammed.

Instead of whipping the crowd into a fury, Al-Tahi preached patience and tolerance.

"The Americans are civilized and admired in many respects," he told the crowd. He advised his people to respect the Americans and hoped that the changeover to a new government goes smoothly, without affecting "women, children and the poor."

He also chastised the public for looting, but not a word was spoken about the "Zionist plot" or Israel.

While Saddam used the Palestinians ceaselessly to win support across the Arab world, Israel seems to be of little importance to most ordinary Iraqis.

Especially in Sadr City, the Shi'ites seem wary of Palestinians here who glorified Saddam during his decades of brutality. According to reports, hundreds or thousands of Palestinians were kicked out of Iraq as soon as Baghdad fell.

Ruweifi said the imams' "duty to our people is to make them do good, to follow God's wishes, to stop the stealing and the lawlessness."

This means returning the heritage of others, such as Jews, whose history in Iraq dates as far back as anyone's, he said: "It is their country too."

The Jewish community in Iraq dates from the time of the Babylonian exile in 586 BCE. Even though the Persian king who conquered Babylon 70 years later allowed Jews to return to biblical Israel, the majority chose to stay put, as Babylon was far richer and more cosmopolitan than contemporary Jerusalem.

Most Iraqi Jews made aliyah in the late 1940s and early 1950s after growing tensions between the Arab world and the new Jewish state led to pogroms and anti-Semitism.

Today, a few dozen elderly Jews still live in Baghdad, but they refused to be interviewed, fearing for their safety if their religion is publicized.

In the immediate aftermath of the war, Israel made some noise about "rescuing" Iraq's Jews by bringing them to Israel, but it was unclear how enthusiastic the Jews were about going, and the proposal has faded from the headlines.

As for the Jews who fled Baghdad pogroms for Israel in the late 1940s and early 1950s, Ruweifi said they should be welcomed back.

"If elections bring freedom and people want to come back that is their choice. They are our brothers, we must respect all the minorities here," he said.

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For further information call 1-800-935-8864 or your local Canadian Technion Society office.

May 5

• Israel's Memorial Day for its 21,540 fallen soldiers began Monday night, with a siren at 8 p.m. A second siren, two minutes long, was sounded Tuesday at 11 a.m. Since last year, 255 members of the security forces have been killed.

• An Israeli court gave 14 consecutive life terms to Nasser Awis, who served as deputy to West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti, and had been found guilty of helping to plan, fund and carry out terror attacks against Israelis.

May 6

• U.S. satellites are taking photos every few days to see if Israel is freezing settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza as called for in the "road map" peace plan, *Ma'ariv* reported. Also, Defense Ministry officials have asked West Bank leaders to stop setting up unapproved outposts, in order to avoid U.S. pressure.

May 7

• Heavy security marked Israel's 55th Yom Ha'atzmaut. A closure was imposed on the West Bank and Gaza, and police were out in force amid terror attack warnings. Events included receptions at the president's residence for decorated soldiers, the international Bible quiz and the Israel Prize awards ceremony.

May 8

• After the Histadrut announced plans for a renewed open-ended state employees' strike starting Sunday, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Histadrut head Amir Peretz met to try to avert it.

May 9

• Israeli troops raided the International Solidarity Movement's offices in Bethlehem, detaining an American and an Australian, for being in a restricted military area in Beit Sahour. Israel is cracking down on foreign volunteers in in the territories because two British suicide bombers had reportedly posed as volunteers in Gaza before a recent attack.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Humanitarian group shows another 'face' of Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In a village in the impoverished east African nation of Malawi, two Israeli women have given up the pampered life to dedicate themselves to the long-term betterment of the local population.

Employing the skills they were taught back home, they work at the Chembe AIDS Education Centre & Food Bank, where they hold HIV-AIDS awareness workshops, teach in local schools and help distribute food to the local population.

Funds to purchase the food they allocate has been donated by an NGO (non-governmental organization) that represents the Israeli kibbutz movement as well as by a Jewish NGO in Britain, UKJAID.

This summer, Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee, will dispatch Bekkie Vineberg, Ve'ahavata's 2002 volunteer of the year, to the village where she will work with the Israelis for four months along with a Brit and another Canadian already on the scene.

For Shachar Zahavi, that kind of co-operation is something of a dream come true.

Zahavi, 27, is the founder of IsraAID, a year-old organization that bills itself as "the Israel forum for international humanitarian aid."

Its purpose is to co-ordinate the activities of Israeli NGOs as well as like-minded organizations from other parts of the world.

Zahavi was in Toronto recently to touch base with Ve'ahavta representatives, to raise the profile of IsraAID and to lay the groundwork for possible future fundraising efforts here.

A veteran of international humanitarian relief work, Zahavi created IsraAID when he saw Israeli NGOs duplicating efforts and providing relief assistance in a less than efficient manner. He felt there was a need for a clearing-house that would inform NGOs about the work of sister organizations, which would, he felt, improve efforts during complex emergencies, such as earthquakes and hurricanes.

Zahavi, who worked in a refugee camp on the Uganda-Rwanda border in 1994 and was in India after the 2000 earthquake, saw first hand during the Kosovo refugee crisis how disappointing it can be to see the response of Israeli groups hampered by a lack of co-ordination.

"It was frustrating," he said. "One group had something, the other another thing."

A little over a year ago he approached a number of Israeli NGOs with his idea of creating IsraAID. So far, 35 Israeli groups have signed on, representing a broad segment of Israeli society: aid organizations, student and youth movements, industry, kibbutzim, religious groups and friendship societies.

Every three months, IsraAID holds a conference in Israel, bringing together its partner organizations along with other NGOs operating in Israel, such as the Red Cross, UN agencies, and Israeli health and foreign ministries.

Not only does it create good interpersonal connections, but participants benefit from lectures and seminars on topics like international humanitarian law, he said.

Through www.tikkunnews.org, a Web site created in conjunction with Ve'ahavta and UKJAID, IsraAID publicizes each group's press releases, informing its members of programs on the go.

Zahavi is keen to promote yet another aspect of IsraAID, one that goes beyond the provision of relief. IsraAID helps improve "the face of Israel," the image of Israel as perceived around the world, he said.

"It shows people that since Israel was established, it has helped many countries around the world.

"Our main goal here is to expose to people in our community and around the world another side of Israel," he said. Many young Israelis are keen to participate in that kind of altruistic effort.

Israeli Friends of Tibet, he noted, helps provide agricultural education to Tibetan refugees in India. Five years ago, Israeli NGOs responded to hurricane damage in Honduras and Nicaragua.

"We were part of a team of international humanitarian organizations and every time they saw us, they had at first a hard time...They don't understand how Israel arrived with 50 tons of relief equipment (blankets, tents, baby food, plastic water containers) and special knowledge.. and were helped there by an Israeli agricultural company."

Working in relief efforts has also improved ties between Israelis and Diaspora Jews.

Both sides worked together in 2000 to respond to a devastating earthquake in El Salvador.

That kind of co-operative efforts helps improve the Jewish identity of Israelis and promotes pride in Israel in both Diaspora Jews and young Israelis, he said.

Rachel Lasry, Ve'ahavta's program director, believes working on aid projects around the world actually strengthens the Jewish identity of its young participants. 'You don't know who you are until you're in a different culture and have to explain who you are," she said.

Co-operation between Israeli and Canadian NGOs is likely to broaden, said Lasry. Four young Israelis are scheduled to join Ve'ahavta volunteers in Guyana this summer, working to provide medical support and AIDS education.

An Israeli businessman in Toronto has donated the use of an apartment for a visiting Israeli who will join Ve'ahavta in its homeless project.

What's more, said Lasry, she will be leading a group heading soon to Israel on a mission which will see them volunteer in Israeli soup kitchens and work at group homes.

For more information about IsraAID, Zahavi can be reached at: 011-972-9-861-3367; 011-972-55-679-979 or by e-mail at: szahavi@hotmail.com.

Children tought to seek death for Allah

By ITAMAR MARCUS

Palestinian Media Watch's reports that document how the Palestinian Authority [PA] encourages its children to aspire to heroic deaths in the names of Allah – called "*shahada*" – have brought repeated denials by PA leaders in English. However, in the PA's Arabic-language media, PA leaders continue to see encouraging children to seek *shahada*, as a national achievement.

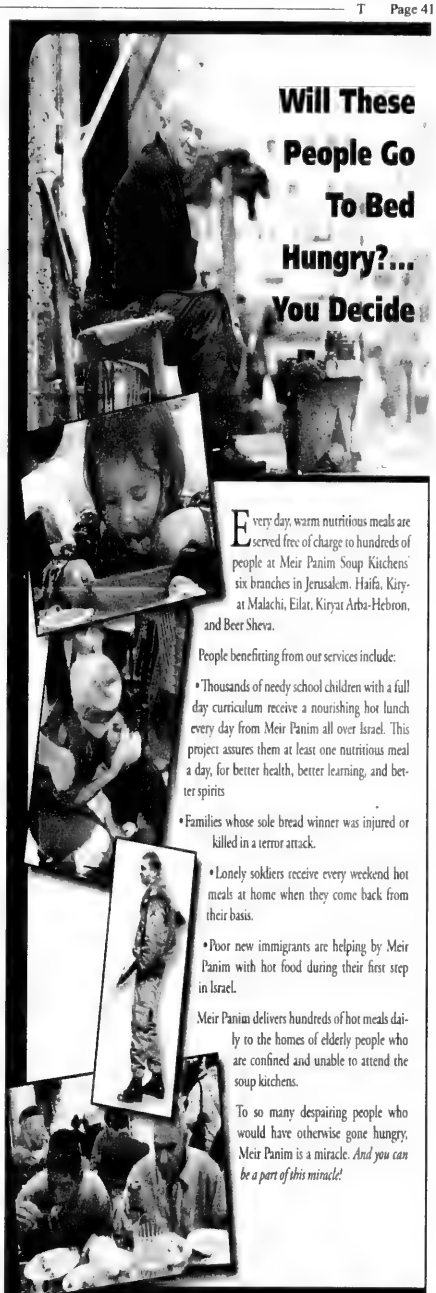
Palestinian Media Watch

In a candid interview March 4 on PA TV, the director of the Palestinian "Children's Aid Association," an agency whose function is to help children, stated that Palestinians teach their children to aspire to *shahada*.

The following is an excerpt from the interview:

Moderator: Mrs. Firial, in your opinion, does the Palestinian child understand the concept of *shahada*?

Firial Hillis, head of the Palestinian Children's Aid Association: "The concept of Shahada for him [the child] means belonging to the homeland, from a religious point of view. Sacrifice for his homeland. Achieving *shahada* in order to reach paradise and to meet his God, this is the best. We also teach our children to protect the homeland, belonging and to reach *shahada*."



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New PA leadership has so far done nothing: Ya'alon

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — Lieut.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, chief of staff of the Israel Defence Forces, sees the recent reforms in the Palestinian Authority as "an authentic internal development, and the battle has not yet been decided." Ya'alon points to PA President Yasser Arafat, and not the Islamist extremists, as the greatest threat to the new government of Mahmoud Abbas (a.k.a. Abu Mazen), who was appointed last month as the PA's first prime minister.

Speaking to *Ha'aretz* on the eve of Israel's 55th Independence Day, Ya'alon said that overall, given the circumstances, the past year was not such a bad one, and that certainly it was better than its predecessor. Ya'alon thinks Israel's situation is much improved from a year ago, despite the many casualties.

The Iraqi threat has been removed, thanks to the United States, Syria will think twice before igniting the northern border; and the IDF-Shin Bet response to the threat of Palestinian terror is much more effective than it was in the past, even if the terrorists' motivation has not declined. Ya'alon also thinks there is a good chance there will be an internal revolution in Iran that would topple the ayatollahs.

Ya'alon denied that recent military intelligence assessments of developments in the PA have turned sour.

"This is not a question of sourness, but of a very careful look at what is happening. The data have changed. [Abbas'] intention was to carry out [the measures outlined in U.S. President George] Bush's speech [last year]: a reformed government with one decision-maker, who would be the prime minister, rather than [Arafat]; security reform, with three security services instead of 14, all of which would answer to the prime minister; and economic reform, in which money would be managed and supervised so that it did not finance terror.

"That was the platform on which Abu Mazen was elected, but along the way, [Arafat] managed to curtail his authority. We've gone down from half the process [of Palestinian reform] to one-fourth. We certainly identified an opportunity here with respect to a new leadership that waves the banner of halting terrorism, but we also pointed out the risks. The principal threat [to Abbas' success] will not be from Hamas, but from [Arafat]."

Ya'alon said that the new leadership "has so far done nothing. We hear talk about intentions, but the leadership must get organized, reshuffle the security services and disarm Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Since 1994, the PA has led a marriage between a state and gangs that were partially armed and funded by [Arafat]. Now, the PA must not make do with words; it must start to demonstrate intention, effort and results. If intention and effort are there, we will respond accordingly, on the assumption that results will take longer."

Ya'alon is convinced the PA's security services are capable of dealing with terrorist organizations if they are ordered to do so. "But we must point out the risks: that instead of dealing with Hamas, they will reach an understanding on a ceasefire, a hudna, until the storm passes."

Meanwhile, "extremists who extol terrorism identify [what is happening in the PA] as a threat to the only arena in which they currently have freedom of action. Therefore, they have all mobilized to set off a wave of severe terrorism aimed at torpedoing any chance of renewing the [diplomatic] process."

This effort, as the recent attack in Tel Aviv once again proved, is being supported by terrorists from Europe, Ya'alon said.

"This attack is related to earlier incidents, like the infiltration of Hussein Makdad and Jihad Shuman [two Hezbollah operatives carrying European passports who were arrested in Israel]...

"The astonishing thing is who we are dealing with: The Tel Aviv bombers were two British citizens of Pakistani origin, who have nothing to do with us, but they fell under the influence of incitement that led them to come here to murder Jews and commit suicide."

Is this an omen of a cultural or religious war? "We are already there," Ya'alon said.

But despite this last statement, Ya'alon does not think the conflict with the Palestinians is unresolvable. "I don't see things pessimistically. We are at the height of a regional earthquake that stems from America's national security strategy, which has identified targets to deal with in the fields of the war on terror, unconventional weapons and irresponsible regimes.

"If they manage to stabilize a regime with a democratic flavour in Iraq, this will have an effect far beyond Iraq.

"In neighbouring Iran, the internal struggle is at its height. The people voted for reform, but the conservatives still hold the loci of power. Will there be an internal change there? The developments in Iraq could certainly accelerate this process. The Iranians are ripe to get rid of the mullahs."

Nevertheless, he maintained a cautious and skeptical approach: The new Palestinian government, he said, so far does not herald an end to terror, while Syria's promises to the United States are far from being carried out.

Moshe Ya'alon

"The Syrians meet all the American criteria for membership in the axis of evil," he said. "This is an irresponsible regime that has chemical weapons and employs terrorism. There is no doubt that the Syrians are under pressure as a result of the situation they found themselves in after the American attack on Iraq, as well as their behaviour during the attack: They allowed terrorists to enter Iraq from their territory and transferred anti-tank missiles and night vision equipment to Iraq. There are also serious suspicions that Syria helped Iraq to hide some of its forbidden weapons. Syria is currently directly in America's sights because of its behaviour."

Israeli military intelligence depicts Syria as a balloon that is rapidly losing air and sinking. To regain altitude, the leadership must jettison all unnecessary baggage. This means handing over all escaped Iraqi officials in its territory – and later, undertaking a series of steps that greatly interest Israel: allowing the Lebanese Army to deploy in the south of the country, dismantling Hezbollah's rocket batteries in south Lebanon and expelling the headquarters of various terrorist organizations from Damascus.

"These headquarters are not public relations offices, as the Syrians claim," said Ya'alon. "This is a ridiculous denial, like their denial of the chemical weapons in their possession. These are command posts that direct terror operations from Lebanon and in the Palestinian theatre; [they] finance, push, encourage and set policy.

Ya'alon views the American victory in Iraq as an opportunity for reducing the influence and freedom of action of extremist groups and terrorist organizations throughout the Middle East. Will Syrian President Bashar Assad bow to American pressure?

"The determining factor will be the amount of diplomatic and economic pressure. One cannot speak of Assad's decisions as irrational, but there are concerns about his maturity and responsibility. Anyone who, during the second week of the Iraqi war, decides to send a convoy of arms to Iraq raises questions about his abilities," Ya'alon said.

Ya'alon will finish his first year as chief of staff in July. An old adage says that what the head of a large organization does not accomplish during his first year in office will never will get done.

But in Ya'alon's case, it's the second year that is likely to be the most important. This summer, the General Staff will finish drafting plans for a major structural reform of the IDF that is based on three main developments: the American victory in Iraq, the lessons of that war for the IDF and the cuts in the defence budget.

But Ya'alon declined to elaborate on the plan, saying merely that it would "have a significant impact on the size of the army and the composition of the forces."

CMDA resolves tax dispute with Ottawa

Continued from page 1

"We preferred to have it done this way, because then we would not have a sword hanging over our heads. If a new [national revenue] minister came along, he or she might decide to publish [the de-registration]. Now, there will have to be grounds to do so."

"We are satisfied and they are satisfied," he said. "That's the end of the story."

Bitton said there were no "gaps" in the transition. CMDA has been operating normally throughout; its ability to receive donations and issue tax receipts has not been interrupted.

He said the public will also see no difference as a result of the deal. There has been no change in its name or leadership, and it has the same corporation number and charter.

The threat of CMDA being shut down sparked outrage around the world. An online petition launched by concerned individuals collected close to 160,000 signatures and countless letters of support.

In July 2001, the CCRA notified CMDA that its charitable status was being revoked.

The department cited three main violations. Ambulances donated by CMDA were being used by MDA in the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem, and the CCRA claimed this contravened Canadian public policy.

The tax officials also alleged that these ambulances were not always being used exclusively for medical purposes and pointed to one given to the Israel Defence Forces in 1999. It also questioned why MDA staff sometimes wore bullet-proof vests. CMDA said that was strictly for safety, that the MDA is a humanitarian organization and is not engaged in military activity.

Thirdly, the CCRA said CMDA was in the wrong for not retaining ownership of the ambulances it sends to Israel.

The Federal Court of Appeal last September upheld the revocation notice in a 2-1 decision. However, it was only on the third point that the court found CMDA at fault. The organization, it said, failed to provide evidence that CMDA maintains control over the vehicles and other equipment it provides to MDA.

But, in a landmark ruling, the judges were unanimous that "there is no Canadian public policy expressed in an Act of Parliament or in any publicly available government document that a Canadian charitable organization cannot operate in the occupied territories."

Last November, CMDA filed leave for appeal with the Supreme Court.

On the same day, Bitton announced that CMDA had reached a verbal agreement with the CCRA's charities directorate that would allow it to keep its charitable status, despite the Federal Court of Appeal's upholding revocation. He said CMDA would withdraw its legal action once the CCRA put the agreement into writing. This agreement was reached without any legal mediation, Bitton said.

Bitton believes that National Revenue Minister Elinor Caplan intervened, although CMDA had not directly asked her to. Bitton pointed to the fact that the revocation notice was never published in the *Canada Gazette* (before May 3), something only the minister has the power to stop. Because of that, CMDA operated normally throughout its legal woes, he said.

Caplan's spokesperson Derik Hodgson at the time denied any ministerial involvement. The CCRA also refused to confirm or deny any verbal agreement or even that it had met CMDA officials.

Ottawa tax specialist Arthur Drache, who represented CMDA, said that in dropping the Supreme Court appeal, CMDA missed an opportunity to establish what the tax rules are on the transfer of charitable goods abroad and how much discretion should be left to bureaucrats.

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Network offers support for Jewish singles

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

When Arie Baraf, a 56-year-old school teacher, died two years ago, he had no family.

Other singles who had met him at social events gathered and spoke at his funeral. They met a week later to memorialize their friend.

Two of Baraf's friends, Faigie Siegelman, a school teacher and member of the Forest Hill Jewish Centre, and Mike Ritz, a rehabilitation counsellor who is a member of Adath Israel Congregation, realized that there were other single people in the community who were without family and needed some assistance.

They came up with the idea of creating a group to assist singles.

They called other singles and an ad hoc committee was formed and named, Arie Baraf Chesed Network for Jewish Singles.

Baraf, a teacher at Oakwood Collegiate, had come to Canada from Israel, and lived in Montreal before moving to Toronto.

"He was on a leave of absence. We knew he wasn't well but he wouldn't talk about his ailment," says Siegelman.

Recently, Helen Lightstone, chair of the Inter synagogue Singles Committee of the Conservative and Reform Congregations that meets to share information and document events to avoid conflicts, became involved.

In an interview with Siegelman, Ritz and Lightstone, Ritz said that "Like Arie, I have no close family here. We are getting older and I realized that many singles are in the same situation. There is a need to support each other."

He noted that although many synagogues have chesed committees that do outreach, they usually don't fill the needs of single people.

After the formation of the network, a notice was circulated at singles events announcing the formation of a network of volunteers who would be trained and available to assist other singles.

Twenty volunteers met with Maura Cooperberg of Jewish Family and Child Service, who led a training session and gave volunteers an opportunity to set up their priorities.

"We now have a network within the GTA that is open to all Jewish singles," says Siegelman, who serves as a co-chair with Ritz.

"We are implementing our support system and we are ready to assist where needed."

Their activities will include, homebound visits, bereavement support, befriending newcomers to Toronto, transportation to events or appointments, phoning, and providing resource information.

She says that the network is not a substitute for distress situations and professional assistance.

Siegelman says that the network is being publicized though the singles committees and synagogues, and the group wishes to accept more volunteers who will participate in the program.

For more information, call Faigie Siegelman, 416-787-2999, Mike Ritz, 416-221-3782, or for assistance, call Nilly Korn at Adath Israel Synagogue, 416-635-5340.

Ride for Heart set to roll on June 1

On June 1, more than 14,000 cyclists and in-line skaters will be ready to roll in the 16th Annual Becel Ride for Heart.

From the start line right on the Gardiner Expressway at the west gates of Exhibition Place, cyclists will begin their ride along the world's biggest bike path, in support of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario.

The key to the success of the Becel Ride for Heart is the enormous effort of the generous participants in collecting pledges to support root-cause research into heart disease and stroke.

Together, corporate team riders and individual riders and skaters are expected to raise $1.45 million — dollars that will go to the 1,000 innovative research projects sponsored by the foundation across Canada.

From an event that attracted just 160 cyclists in 1987, the annual Ride for Heart is now Canada's largest charitable cycling event.

Over the past 16 years, the foundation has raised over $11 million for heart and stroke research through the ride, and contributed to advances in treatment and research that have benefited thousands of Canadians, from newborns with heart abnormalities to long-term coronary and stroke patients.

This year, cyclists will have a choice of a 25 km, 50 km, or the new 75 km route along the Gardiner and the Don Valley Parkway. To be eligible to participate, riders must raise a minimum of $60 in pledges and register before June 1.

Riders receive a Becel Ride for Heart T-shirt and even more incentive prizes if additional pledges are raised. In-line skaters can complete a 5 km, 10 km, or 20 km route on the Gardiner, west of Exhibition Place.

Pledges are the very heart of the ride, and collecting pledges is even easier with on-line pledging. Participants have to first register themselves for the event on-line, then send e-mails to the friends, family and colleagues who they want to sponsor them.

These sponsors can now pledge on-line at: www.heartandstroke.ca/rideforheart, and they will automatically receive an e-tax receipt.

Some ideas for increasing your pledge level include sponsoring yourself for $20; boosting your target by 10 per cent over last year; asking your workplace to match the funds you raise; and advising your sponsors that they will receive a tax receipt for donations over $10.

Six Toronto-area bicycle retailers are registration sites for the ride: Cyclepath, Curbside Bike and In-Line Skate Centre, Wheel Excitement, Gears Bike Shop, Bikes on Wheels, and Sporting Life. These retailers will also be offering bike and in-line skate tune-ups for a fee during the month of May.

Registration for the ride takes place up until the day of the event at various locations in the GTA. Cyclists and in-line skaters can register by mail (P.O. Box 3706, Stn. Industrial Park, Markham, Ont. L3R 6G9), fax (905-479-9707), phone (416-486-RIDE-7433) and on-line, or in person at the six bicycle retailers.

Registrations and pledge drop-offs can be submitted at four Heart and Stroke Foundation check-in centres in the GTA on May 30 (12 p.m. to 9 p.m.).

Call the rideline or visit the Web site for the address of the nearest check-in centre.

Event-day registrations take place between 6:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. for cyclists (those wanting the 75 km route or the Early Bird Start must pre-register) and between 6:30 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. for in-line skaters, at the Better Living Centre Building, Exhibition Place.

This event is supported by a team of 500 volunteers. For information on volunteering, visit the Web site, call the Rideline, or e-mail volunteer4ride@hsf.on.ca.

The ride takes place rain or shine for cyclists; heavy rain could force the cancellation of the skating event for safety reasons.

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Arts & Travel

Photographer explores conflict, violence & realism in new exhibit

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Photographer and teacher Daniel Abramson is presenting two series of his photographs at Holy Blossom Temple until May 28.

On exhibit are collections titled The Plagues and Scratching the Surface.

The Plagues contains images of conflict and violence. Abramson says the pictures are a way of coming to terms with his view of the world, a way of searching for meaning in the chaos of destruction.

He said one aspect of his work can be interpreted as being "critical of our apparent desensitization to the violence of the world, and other aspects can be understood as an emotional counteraction to this statement of complacency."

Daniel Abramson's Scratching the Surface series of photographs, on display until May 28.

His second series, Scratching the Surface, comprising mainly street scenes, uses a pinhole camera – one without a lens.

By using the pin-hole camera, Abramson gets a blurred negative. He then scratches the negative and makes an 8-by-10 inch print. He scratches the print with a pin, scans the image on a computer and prints the enlarged images.

"This hybrid process is between hi-tech and low-tech, and between digital imaging and traditional silver-based prints," he says.

Because the scratches take away from the realism of the photos, his street scenes have an impressionistic feeling.

He says the scratches are meant to bring attention to the aspects of the images he finds most compelling.

"The deeply scratched negatives and intentionally incised prints call attention to the true two-dimensional nature of the photographs."

Abramson was born and raised in Regina. In 1996, he went to Haifa University to study Hebrew for eight months. He returned to Canada for his second year to attend the University of Regina. In 2000, he transferred to the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD) in Toronto to study photography. He graduates this year with an associate degree in fine arts.

Abramson has participated in several group exhibitions, but the Holy Blossom exhibit is his first solo show.

Last fall, he was the artist-in-residence at the Canadian Council of Reform Judaism during their regional biennial conference in Toronto.

He is currently art director at Holy Blossom's religious school and also teaches comparative religion and Jewish ethics to senior students.

The Holy Blossom Gallery is open Sunday to Thursday from 1 a.m. to 5 p.m.Call 416-789-3291.

FOLK CHOIR'S SPRING CONCERT: Dos Naye Lid, a spirited klezmer work that was one of the last compositions of Milton Barnes (1931-2001), is the highlight of the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir's annual spring choir. Conductor Alexander Veprinsky (centre) directs the choir, soloists and musical guests on May 25 at 3 p.m. at Lawrence Park Collegiate, Lawrence Ave. W., Toronto. Soloists are soprano Miriam Eskin and tenor Marla Fox. Pianist is Lina Zemelman. Special guests, the Bialik Choir of the Bialik Hebrew Day School. Tickets $20; seniors and students $16; unwaged $10; children under 12 free; group rates available. Available from Jewish bookstores or call 416-445-7222 or 416-489-7681. [www.winchevskycentre.org/choir.html]

Jazz player's performances display considerable skill

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Most of us grumble when we have to pack up our households and move, but not many of us get the urge to write a song about the experience.

It takes a gifted songwriter to create an amusing and sophisticated song out of such mundane raw material as a household move. Jazz pianist and vocalist Don Glaser has done just that and he's recorded the results, the song *Moving*, on his recent CD *Slices of Life*.

Glaser, who's also a lawyer, wrote *Moving* after he and his wife, Carol, a clinical psychologist, moved from San Diego to Teaneck, N.J., in 1992, so their daughters could get an Orthodox education.

In the song *Moving*, Glaser vows, "another house I'll never buy or rent," because, as he says, he dislikes moving. But a few months ago he broke the promise he made to himself, when he and Carol, along with their four daughters – Faige, 22, Chaya, 21, Eden, 13 and Doren, 12 – left Teaneck for Toronto.

Glaser says he and his wife chose Toronto because it reminds them of San Diego but with a more laid-back atmosphere and because it has a cohesive Jewish community.

Members of the community, many of them new friends of the Glasers, came out in full force to Glaser's two-night Canadian debut at the Top O' The Senator recently.

Don Glaser: straight-ahead jazz pianist.

"It was such a warm atmosphere," Glaser says, "and one of the most wonderful times I've played."

At the Senator, Glaser, accompanied by bassist Steve Wallace and drummer John Sumner, demonstrated his considerable skill as a straight-ahead jazz pianist.

Glazer's spectacular playing, which takes a back seat on the CD *Slices of Life*, comes to the forefront at a live performance. On the CD, which is made of mostly original material, Glazer's playing is overshadowed by the engaging vocals, both his and his wife's, and the contributions of several other excellent musicians.

During his first set at the Senator the evening I attended, Glaser performed mostly standards. He opened with an original from the CD, *Strawberry Jam*, a tune about enjoying the small pleasures of daily life. The woman seated next to me was delighted when he did Bobby Troup's *Route 66*.

Glaser says he tries to appeal to people of all ages with his music, adding that the reason he aims for such a broad age range may stem from his having played piano for his parents and their friends while he was growing up in Oceanside, Calif.

Glaser's parents were musicians – his father played violin and his mother piano – who performed classical music and jazz standards. Glaser studied classical piano for seven years and is a self-taught jazz pianist.

Glaser's first jazz records, by artists such as Woody Herman, Benny Goodman and Ella Fitzgerald, came to him by way of the jukebox of a local soda fountain. He got a new batch of records every two weeks, when the records in the jukebox were replaced. He couldn't read at the time – he was four – but says when he played them at home he "knew which records were which by the labels."

From the age of 11 through his years at Stanford University and 27 years of practicing law – estate planning and appellate work – Glaser has continued to perform professionally, record and write songs.

While Glaser lived in Teaneck, which is close to New York City, he played at some of the Big Apple's jazz clubs, including the legendary Birdland.

Twenty years ago, Glaser, bassist Ray Brown, tenor saxophonist Bill Perkins and drummer Shelley Manne recorded an album he hopes to reissue on CD.

For now, Glaser hopes to play in the city as much as he can to establish himself. He says he enjoys the intimacy of performing in clubs, when musically "everything is co-ordinated and working together and people are happy and smiling." He hopes to record a live CD at the Senator.

Slices of Life, on Brownstone Recordings, is available through the Web site www.brownstonerecordings.com

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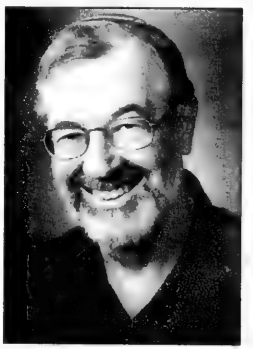
Concert celebrates Srul Irving Glick on the first anniversary of his death

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

A memorial concert celebrating the music and life of Srul Irving Glick will be held at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave., May 25 at 8 p.m., on the first anniversary of Glick's death at the age of 67.



Srul Irving Glick

The concert will feature eight renowned Canadian musicians: saxophonist Paul Brodie, violinist Moshe Hammer, harpist Judy Loman, flutist Suzanne Shulman, clarinetist Joaquin Valdepenas, cellist Stefan Glick and pianists Glen Montgomery and Valerie Tyron.

The artists participating in In Memoriam to Srul Irving Glick: A Joyous Celebration of his Works are donating their services for the evening. The proceeds of the concert will perpetuate the performance of Glick's music at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, where Glick became choir director in 1969 and composer-in-residence in 1993.

"For more than 30 years, Glick was the soul of Beth Tikvah Synagogue," says Rabbi Wayne Allen of Beth Tikvah. "His music brought us both comfort and challenge. It was infused with passion, a passion that characterized his life and his life's work.

"For the music community, Srul was in fact a genius. For Beth Tikvah, he was more than that. He was a friend. He was an inspiration and he will be sorely missed."

A prolific composer, teacher and mentor to many musicians, Glick's compositions include secular and liturgical music and orchestral, chamber and vocal works.

Son of a cantor, Glick's music is performed throughout the world. His lyrical compositions are permeated with his deep spirituality.

Born in Toronto, Glick studied composition at the University of Toronto and in Paris, France. He worked as a producer of classical music for CBC and won numerous awards, including a Juno Award, seven Grand Prix du Disque awards and the J. I. Segal Award for his contribution to Jewish music in Canada.

The memorial concert highlights Glick's enormous repertoire and scope, and the program will include his compositions for cello and piano, saxophone and piano, the harp, flute and piano and violin, clarinet and piano.

Tickets for In Memoriam to Srul Irving Glick: a Joyous Celebration of His Work are $25 for general admission. Donation packages range from $180 to $2,500 which include reserved seats, signed CDs, a post-concert reception with the artists and acknowledgement in a tribute program.

For more information or tickets, call 416-221-3433, ext. 0.

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Arts & Travel

Miniseries retraces Hitler's life from childhood to rise to power

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

It is probably safe to say that, of all of history's modern political figures, none has been as thoroughly examined, probed and analyzed as Adolf Hitler.

The massive attention paid to him by scholars, journalists and filmmakers stems from the fact that he had such a destructive and lasting impact on the world.

In light of this, can a new television miniseries about Hitler break new ground?

Hitler: The Rise of Evil, the two-part movie scheduled to be broadcast by CBS and CH Hamilton (Channel 11 in the Greater Toronto Area) on May 18 and 20 at 9 p.m. and repeated by History Television on June 21 and 22 at 9 p.m., offers nothing original about the man, his ideas and his ascent to Germany's chancellorship in 1933.

But is this sufficient reason to skip Alliance Atlantis' ambitious production? In short, no.

The film, skillfully co-written by John Pielmeir and G. Ross Parker and directed with a steady hand by Christian Duguay, makes an earnest attempt to retrace Hitler's ascension to power. Such an exercise is always instructive, given the enormous physical and psychological damage he inflicted on Europeans in general and on Jews in particular.

The actors who portray the malevolent Nazi leader during various stages of his life, Simon Sullivan and Robert Carlyle, acquit themselves honourably. Not once are they out of their depth. Better still, they are backed up by a fine supporting cast.

Spanning a 35-year period from his childhood in Linz, Austria, to his succession as Germany's unrivalled fuhrer, *Hitler* can be viewed as a cautionary tale of a demagogue whose appeal was due in no small measure to the harshness of the 1919 Versailles Treaty and the economic crisis that enveloped Germany during the 1930s.

Exploiting deep-seated national resentments, pandering to fears about unemployment and communism and stirring up latent anti-Semitic prejudices, Hitler captured the imagination of Germans with grandiose promises of renewed greatness before subjecting Germany to brutal dictatorship and abject defeat.

Hitler unfolds in a procession of impressionistic vignettes, some extremely brief. Our first glimpse of Hitler is as a 10 year old in Linz in 1899, a dour, detached, angry boy close to his doting mother, Klara (Stockard Channing).

The scene quickly shifts to Vienna, where Hitler's dreams of becoming an artist are rudely dashed by the Academy of Visual Arts. His ethnocentric inclinations are soon reinforced by an anti-Semitic speech by the racist mayor of Vienna, Karl Lueger.

In a frenzy of patriotism after the outbreak of World War I, Hitler joins the army. Even on the Western front, where he wins the Iron Cross, he cannot resist the temptation to inject anti-Semitic rhetoric into his conversation. His cruelty is revealed when he whips a dog.

The venue shifts to Munich in the aftermath of the war. The city is bubbling with revolutionary fervour and Hitler, still in uniform, agrees to be an army spy. He discovers the German Workers' Party – the forerunner of the National Socialist Party – and harangues members about the supposed dangers posed by socialists, communists and Jews.

Both Sullivan and, especially, Carlyle, bear an uncanny resemblance to Hitler, and both convey Hitler's unpleasant manner, fierce determination and self-confidence and unflinching loyalty to uncompromising principles.

Several other characters play pivotal roles.

Ernst Hanfstaengl (Liev Schreiber), a cynical German-American who was in the art book publishing business, becomes Hitler's confidant. On the strength of his canny advice, Hitler polishes his image, shortens his moustache and adopts a version of the Hindu swastika as the party's symbol.

Hanfstaengl's comely wife, Helene (Julianna Margulies), seems equally attracted to, and repelled by, Hitler.

Fritz Gerlich (Matthew Modine), a savvy newspaper editor who has taken a professional interest in Hitler's rising fortunes, develops an antipathy toward him. He comes to the conclusion that he is a psychotic, a monster.

In the meantime, Hitler plays the Jewish card to advance his cause, vehemently denouncing Jews as a "plague" that must be removed from the German nation.

As the first episode concludes, the 1923 beer hall putsch fizzles. Although he is found guilty of high treason, Hitler is a given a ludicrously lenient sentence.

In Landsberg prison, where he writes the turgid *Mein Kampf* with the assistance of the compliant Rudolf Hess, Hitler enjoys deference from a guard and lives in the lap of luxury.

Released only after nine months, he throws himself melodramatically at the knees of Helene, whom he praises as an ideal woman.

This show of misplaced affection is repeated when he falls hard for his niece and probable first mistress, Geli Raubal. Hitler's equally domineering and one-sided relationship with the flighty Eva Braun (Zoe Telford) is depicted in fast, bold brushstrokes.

One of the sobering themes of this miniseries is that Hitler, to Germany's peril, was usually underestimated by his enemies. "Nobody takes him seriously," declares Gerlich's boss, by way of ordering a virtual ban on reporting about him. "He's yesterday's news."

But after Hitler ruthlessly consolidates his leadership and runs for national office, Paul Von Hindenburg (Peter O'Toole), the aging, discerning president of Germany, correctly sizes him up as the biggest threat to German democracy. Despite his misgivings about Hitler, the infirm Von Hindenberg appoints him chancellor.

Strangely enough, Duguay omits the subsequent boycott of Jewish businesses orchestrated by the Nazis.

And, oddly, German Jews, the victims of Hitler's racial fantasies, are given short shrift in *Hitler*. Apart from several fleeting scenes in which Hitler offends a half-Jewish banker at a dinner party and in which the Jewish composer Friedrich Hollander (Harvey Friedman) is briefly seen, the Jews of Germany are virtually invisible.

As *Hitler* heads toward its climactic denouement – which turns on Hitler's assumption of unfettered authority after Von Hindenburg's death in 1934 and Hitler's murderous settling of scores with adversaries – it loses some of its momentum. But on balance, in terms of tone, production values and performances, the film is a worthy addition to the ever-growing Hitler genre.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 55.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

PARCHMENT STORY CHOSEN FOR JOURNEY ANTHOLOGY; COULD WIN $10,000 PRIZE

Cuckoo, a story by Toronto writer **Avner Mandelman** that appears in the latest issue of *Parchment*, has been selected as one of 10 Canadian short stories for *The Journey Prize Stories 2003*, an anthology to be published by McClelland and Stewart in the fall.

"It's the most prestigious prize for short fiction in Canada, bar none," said **Adam Fuerstenberg**, editor of the annual journal of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing that published Mandelman's story in its latest issue.

"I'm very happy," Fuerstenberg said. "This almost justifies my work on *Parchment*. This is third party recognition of the fact that what we're doing with *Parchment* is important."

The 10 stories were chosen from a total of 89 submissions, said M&S officials, who administer the prize with the Writers Trust of Canada. If Mandelman's story is judged the best, he'll win $10,000 and *Parchment* will win $2,000. The decision is slated for 2004.

An Israeli-born investment dealer living in Toronto, Mandelman learned English as a teenager and has already gathered several impressive literary prizes, including the Best American Short Stories prize and the Pushcart Prize.

Talking to the Enemy, a collection of his stories published by Oberon, was honoured several years ago by Montreal's Jewish Public Library. Oberon is currently preparing a second collection of his stories for publication.

Holding a degree in creative writing from San Francisco University, Mandelman sometimes teaches that subject to young students.

"I tell my students that there are only two purposes to write a short story," he says. "One, so when you pick it up you can't put it down, and two, so when you put it down you can't forget it. Those are the two reasons. There is nothing else."

This is the second time a *Parchment* contributor has been selected for the Journey anthology. Ottawa writer Gabriella Goliger shared the prize for a story that appeared in the literary journal in 1997. The prize was founded by the late American writer **James Michener** from the Canadian royalties from his 1988 novel *Journey*.

Parchment is available from Jewish bookstores or by mail. Send a cheque for $12 for the latest issue or $20 for a two-year subscription to Parchment, Centre for Jewish Studies, Vanier 260, York University, 4700 Keele St., Toronto M3J 1P3.

* * *

Literary Luncheon: Author-teacher **Sylvia Warsh** reviews her new mystery novel *The Stolen Princess* at the Lifelong Learning Institute of the Bernard Betel Centre. Members $12, non-members $15, includes full-course lunch. May 21 at noon. Book review only at 1 p.m. $5. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Barbara Zigler, 416-225-2112, ext 134.

* * *

Jewish Books Web Site: Josh Lambert is a 23-year-old Torontonian who went to the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), then studied English literature and Jewish studies at Harvard, graduating in 2001. Currently based in the Boston area, he is editor of Jbooks.com, a Web site run by Jewish Family and Life, a company that runs numerous sites on Jewish themes.

Jbooks.com is conceived as a sort of home for all Jewish literary matters on the Internet; Lambert puts out a new "issue" about every two weeks, he says.

In essence, this means offering about five new reviews, an author interview, some chapter excerpts and even an audio selection. The site also offers discussion boards as well as literary links to external reviews and articles of interest.

"We've been reaching out to all sorts of people in the Jewish publishing world," says Lambert, who keeps in regular touch with authors, publishers, reviewers and representatives of various literary foundations and councils.

"People have been signing up for our emailed newsletter from Europe and Australia and all over the States. It's very exciting."

The Web site is located at www.Jbooks.com.

* * *

At the Galleries

- New paintings by **Mary Pavey** are on view at gallery one, 121 Scollard St., until May 21. www.galleryone.ca.
- Toronto's newest art space exclusively devoted to sculpture opened recently. Spearheaded by the Canadian Sculpture Centre and benefactor-sculptor **Al Green**, the Sculpture Gallery at Merton is located in a Green-owned building at 64 Merton St. 416-214-0389.
- Fresh from the Garden, a multi-media exhibition continues at A Show of Hands Petroff Gallery, 1016 Eglinton Ave. W., until May 31.
- Photography in The Junction, an exhibition of works by many artists including **Natalie Schonfeld**, continues until May 31 at various locations along Dundas St. W. 416-767-9068.
- Toronto's Little Kabul, photographs by **Tobi Asmoucha**, are on view at Levity Bakery & Cafe, 1331 Danforth Ave., until June 1.
- Contact, the 7th annual Toronto Photography Festival, features a lectures series at the AGO's Jackman Hall. Until May 31. 416-539-0829.

* * *

Out of Town

- The 15th annual Vancouver Jewish Film Festival runs May 15 to 29. Ticket hotline, 604-644-1157.
- Entertainers **Jerry Seinfeld**, **Tony Bennett**, **Noa (Achinoam Nini)**, **Ben Stein**, **Tovah Feldshuh** and a 70-piece orchestra of top Israeli and American musicians are among the star-studded line-up headlining the Spirit of Israel Celebration planned for Washington D.C. on May 19. The Israel Forever Foundation is calling the event "the single largest salute to Israel this decade."

The Canadian Jewish news

invites the public to a

Town Hall Meeting

to discuss:

In times of crisis: models of leadership

Keynote Speaker will be:

Gil Troy

Professor of History, McGill University,
author of Why I Am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today

Wednesday, May 28, 2003, 7:30 p.m.

The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

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55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
67 HOUSE SITTERS WANTED
68 HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE
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75 APARTMENT FOR RENT
78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE
80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED
81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET
82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT
84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT
85 APARTMENT WANTED
87 PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT
115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE
120 COTTAGE WANTED
122 TIME SHARE FOR SALE
123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT
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130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT
135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED
143 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. AVAIL
145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. WANTED
147 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION
150 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION
155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE
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178 ISRAEL TRANSPORTATION
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185 OUT-OF-COUNTRY PROPERTIES
190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE
195 VACATION PROPERTIES WANTED
196 VACATION PROPERTIES-EXCH /SHARE
198 SPACE FOR LEASE
199 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AVAILABLE
200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
201 OFFICE SPACE WANTED
202 STORAGE SPACE WANTED
203 STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE
205 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE
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225 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
232 BUSINESS FOR SALE
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257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE
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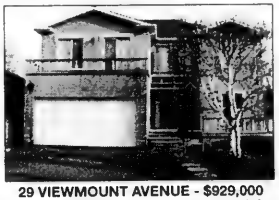

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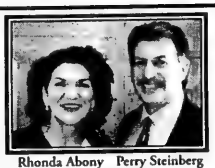

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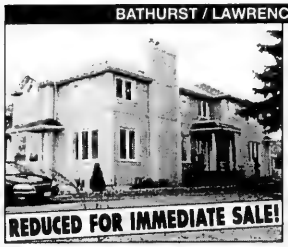

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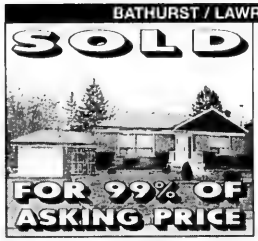

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PERFECTION IN FOREST HILL
Extensively renovated, sun-filled 4+ bedroom residence on an exceptionally beautiful, gated deep lot. 3 exquisite storeys with hardwood throughout. 2 kitchens. Finished lower level with walk-out to gardens. $2,680,000.

PARK LANE CIRCLE
Overflowing with charm and elegance, this traditional 5 bedroom Tudor estate with a circular drive is impressively set on 2 glorious acres of lush landscaping in The Bridle Path. Fireplace, rich oak paneling, French doors and antique mantels. Outdoors flagstone terraces, the lovely gardens and a tennis court. $3,850,000.

SOPHISTICATED AND ELEGANT TOWN RESIDENCE
Luxurious 3+1 bedroom Georgian ideal for elaborate entertaining. French doors from all principle rooms lead to lavish terraces and remarkable, outstanding ravine views. Lot depth is 270 feet. $1,950,000.

FOREST HILL CHARM
Much admired stone 3 Storey residence. 6+1 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, rich woods, eat-in kitchen, spacious rooms, paneled family room, leaded glass, master walk-out to balcony. $1,395,000.

LAKE SIMCOE ON THE WATER
Wonderful 2 acre year-round retreat. 4 bedroom Tudor home on a gated property. Pool/cabana, tennis, wet boathouse, 66 foot dock, 150 foot finished shoreline. $1,998,000.

FOREST HILL ELEGANCE
Restored 3 bedroom home with leaded glass, French doors, family room leads to 2-tiered deck. Hardwood, Mexican tile, crown mouldings, wood-burning fireplace in master. Cobblestone and gorgeous gardens. $1,495,000.

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10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Bath./Drewry, well-maintained bung., 3 bdrm., 2 bth. on lge. 50'x150' lot, many upgrades, hdwd flrs., nicely landscaped, spacious, dry bsmt., w/sep. ent. Great Value $364,900. Private. Call 416-221-2057.

Richmond Hill - Dream Bungalow! Almost new. 2450 sq. ft. $574,900. **No Agents!** 905-884-8164.

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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/Sheppard, 3 bdrm. bung. + 1, 5 appl. $1380+, July, 416-899-7454.

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Bathurst/Sheppard, 4 bed., 2 bth., rec. rm., CAC, close to shuls. Avail. July 1. $2,000 optional + $500 for bsmnt. apt. 416-631-7832.

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6-plex, 5x3 bd., 1x1 bd., retro-fit.

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Bathurst/Steeles, upscale, 1500 sq. ft. 2 bed., 2 bth. 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371 / 416-224-2837.

Antibes - 3 bdrm. hdwd flr, 2 full bths. Avail. June 1st. 416-821-8213.

Yonge/Clark, 2 bed. + den, 2 bath., furn., prkng., locker. Avail. June 1st. 905-889-6909.

Yonge/St. Clair, furn. condo. for rent, short-term summer rental, flex. dates, 1 bdrm., 1 bth., brand new condo, h/w flrs., 6 appls., a/c, pkg., beautifully furn., subway, n/smkr., no pets. Call 416-489-9100.

55 SKYMARK
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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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Forest Hill, beautiful 2 bdrm., fireplace, hrdwd floors, large rooms, laundry on site, $1750 inclusive parking & utils., available July 1st, non-smoker. 416-413-7979.

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82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Room avail. in townhouse in Thornhill, n/smkr, n/pets, asking $450/mo. Call 905-707-1431.

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Newly single prof. JM, 45, well est./lit, seeks female to enjoy life's luxuries. 416-229-2685.

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations! Winners of Na'amat Canada's Daily Calendar Lottery Draw, for April 2003: Jeanette Goldman, Louis Coulter, Karen Lundy, Evelyn Shecter, Muriel Natanson, Jay Richmond, Rob & Cynthia Schwartz, David Lepek, Paula Mintz, Myrna Hanet, Judith Sederoff, Ethel Schaier, Emily Leitner, Beth Suraski, Ron Balinsky, Monika Malka, Goldie Burstein, Alan Weldman, Susan Philipp, S. Gottfried, M. Weisbarth, Molly Rose, Dora Ladovsky, Bayla Goldstein, Stephanie Lerner, Tsippie Geffen, Lottie Levene, Barbara Tamir, Sylvie Wiseman, Fran Wise.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Antiques wanted: Furniture, china, silver, fine art. Call 905-764-1112.

330 OBITUARIES

HARRIS, Murray Arnold (Moishe) - A light of pure joy - On Wednesday, April 30, 2003 at Scarborough General Hospital. Moishe Harris beloved son of Brina and the late Nathan Harris. Dear brother and brother-in-law of Fred and Fran Harris, and Cynthia and Paul Nelson. Loving uncle of Tara, and Matt. If desired, memorial donations may be made to the Reena Foundation at 905-763-8254.

VENGEROV, Vera – on April 8, 2003, late of 131 Laidlaw St. S.
KAGAN, —Molly – on April 10, 2003, late of 715 Finch Ave. W.
INGBER, Benjamin – on April 10, 2003, late of 452 Melrose Ave.
SHEMAN, Janice – on April 10, 2003, late of 276 Kirby Cres.
LIPTON, Sara – on April 9, 2003, late of 2 Neptune Dr., #909.
KLINGHOFER, Gisela – on April 11, 2003, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
KIRSH, Mindy – on April 12, 2003, late of 122 Strathearn Rd.
CAPPE, Mary – on April 11, 2003, late of 355 St. Clair Ave. W.
APPLEBY, Sarah – on April 10, 2003, late of 342 Spadina Rd., #303.
KERSHNER, Ida – on April 12, 2003, late of 12 Rockford Rd., #1201.
BRAND, Bella – on April 11, 2003, late of 44 Allstar Dr.
POLLACK, Rose – on April 12, 2003, late of 65 Skymark Dr., #1202.
FINGOLD, Sidney – on April 13, 2003, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
LASMAN, Charles – on April 14, 2003, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
MILCH, Joshua – on April 14, 2003, late of 19 Bison Dr.
KARP, Ben – on April 15, 2003, late of 65 Skymark Dr., #210.
BALABAN, Michael – on April 15, 2003, late of 30 Lauraleaf Rd.
BERNSTEIN, Jean – on April 16, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
NELSON, Anne – on April 15, 2003, late of 306 Sumach St., #5.
KORZENSTEIN, Betty – on April 16, 2003, late of 268 Ridley Blvd., #1012.
ELLIS, Helen – on April 15, 2003, late of 23 Victoria Ave.
SZAMES, Mary – on April 17, 2003, late of 4 Candis Dr.
BAROOK, Myra – on April 16, 2003, late of 230 Banbury Rd.
ALTCHULER, Ben – on April 19, 2003, late of 429 Walmer Rd.

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330 OBITUARIES

LEWIS, Renee – on April 18, 2003, late of 60 Wyndham St. S.
LIPSETT, Freda – on April 19, 2003, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
BAND, Elvira – on April 17, 2003, late of 4005 Bayview Ave., #61.
SILVER, Annie – on April 18, 2003, late of 7601 Bathurst St.
ATKINS, Elsie – on April 19, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
STRASHIN, Kate – on April 19, 2003, late of 150 Caribou Rd.
ROY-ZWICKER, Lillian – on April 19, 2003, late of 46 Prue Ave.
GERSHENOVITZ, Percy – on April 20, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SILVERMAN, Faye – on April 21, 2003, late of 103 Brookview Dr.
FARB, Toby – on April 21, 2003, late of 3900 Yonge St., #708.
DESSER, Clara – on April 22, 2003, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
KLEIN, Leona – on April 22, 2003, late of 3590 Kaneff Cres. P.
SAUNDERS, Ruth – on April 22, 2003, late of 123 Spadina Rd.
MARKS, Stephen – on April 23, 2003, late of Huronia Regional Centre.
MICHAELS, Pola – on April 23, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
FINE, Nathan – on April 21, 2003, late of 225 St. George St.
KROCHMALNIK, Zvi – on April 24, 2003, late of 153 Campbell Ave.
GELLMAN, Harvey – on April 23, 2003, late of 40 Ridge Hill Dr.
HOFFMAN, Marvin – on April 23, 2003, late of 1081 Main St. E., #30.
BACK, Ruth – on April 25, 2003, late of 652 Vimy St.
DAHARY, Aharon – on April 27, 2003, late of 1121 Steeles Ave. W.
SHERMAN, Gertrude – on April 26, 2003, late of 2350 Bridle-towne Circle.
ZLOCHEVSY, Lev – on April 29, 2003, late of 668 Roselawn Ave., #612.
GOODMAN, Clara – on April 29, 2003, late of 10 Ardmore Rd.
ZIMMERMAN, Solly – on April 30, 2003, late of 595 Lawrence Ave. W.
STEINGART, Irving – on April 28, 2003, late of 75 Graydon Hall Dr.
BLACK, John – on April 30, 2003, late of 330 Cummer Ave.
GREENBERG, Fannie – on April 29, 2003, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
RYBOWSKI, Joseph – on April 30, 2003, late of 55 Kenton Dr.
GOLDMACHER, Lillian – on April 30, 2003, late of 2 Neptune Dr., #204.
MANDEL, Bobby – on May 2, 2003, late of 31 Unicorn Ave.
TEACHMAN, Jack – on April 1, 2003, late of 56 Brookview Ave.
BLUSTEIN, Murray – on May 2, 2003, late of 534 Brookdale Ave.
WAGMAN, Andrew – on April 30, 2003, late of 10 Glenoble Rd.
GROSSBERG, Shirley – on May 2, 2003, late of 1201 Steeles Ave. W.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

MANILLA, David – on April 12, 2003, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. E.
YESHIN, Leon – on April 12, 2003, late of 5490 Glen Erin Dr., #15.
WATERMAN, Sidney – on April 16, 2003, late of 34 Rondale Blvd.
SCHNEIDER, Cissie – on April 20, 2003, late of Terrace Gardens.
LEVINE, Saul – on April 21, 2003, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
MANDELL, Jerry – on April 23, 2003, late of 475 Donlands Ave.
GOLD, Margaret – on April 24, 2003, late of 7314 Aldergrove Crt.
COHEN, David – on April 28, 2003, late of 155 Cromwell Rd.
RIFF, Emanuel – on May 1, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
HULENYI, Katherine – on May 4, 2003, late of 250 Davenport Rd., #19.

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GEFFEN, Barnett – on April 28, 2003, late of 2 James Gray Dr.
STROLI, Valentine – on April 27, 2003, late of 66 Danby Ave.
ZONENBERG, Ruven – on April 28, 2003, late of 160 Chelmsford Ave.
WEIN, Samuel – on April 28, 2003, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
BANKAS, Feyge Malka – on April 28, 2003.
GROSS, Doris – on April 28, 2003.
KALNITSKY, Abraham – on April 29, 2003, late of 81 Townsgate Dr.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BECKY BASIL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 18th, 11:00 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MIKLOS (MENDO) WINKLER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
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Ivansker Society Section
Memorial service to follow at Beth David Synagogue
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ESTER SZYMKOWICZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, May 18th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst South of Steeles
Stashiver Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ALAN WAYNE ז"ל
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Holocaust emerges as recurrent theme in Italian cinema

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Although Italian cinema has always grappled with difficult, unresolved issues concerning the past and present, the Holocaust was not usually a topic to which Italy's filmmakers gravitated.

"Until the 1990s, very few films were made on the subject," said Millicent Marcus, who recently delivered a series of lectures on Italian films and the Holocaust at a special University of Toronto film festival.

"But since then, there has been a noticeable increase in such films," she observed in an interview.

Several factors account for this phenomenon, explained Marcus, director of the Center for Italian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

"The first is the passage of enough time to assuage the collective guilt associated with acquiescence to Italy's 1938 racial laws," she said, referring to the draconian legislation that rendered Italian Jews second-class citizens under Benito Mussolini's pro-German regime.

"Another was the formation of an Italian government in the 1990s that included the Allianza Nazionale."

The party was a reformed offshoot of a post-war neo-fascist movement rooted in Mussolini's Italy.

"In addition, far right fringe groups are enjoying a vogue in Italy today," said Marcus, who is currently finishing a book on Italian movies and Holocaust memory.

The dissolution of communism, and with it the end of the bitter rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States, also played a role.

"During the Cold War, Italy's historical interpretations of World War II focused on the anti-fascist resistance movement, which portrayed all Italians either as victims or as resistance heroes. This left no room for the particular plight of the Jews in Italy during the Holocaust."

For these reasons, Italians now feel the need to revisit the fascist era, "their own history of racist intolerance," she noted.

Long before these developments, however, Italian directors were making films with Holocaust themes, albeit on a sporadic basis.

One of the earliest was *The Gold of Rome* by Carlo Lizzani, released in the 1950s.

"It dealt with the Nazis' promise to save the Jews of Rome's ghetto if they could come up with a huge ransom within a few days," she said.

John Turturro in *The Truce*.

"Impoverished and depleted by the war's privations, the Jews managed to gather the requested sum. But the Nazis broke their promise and deported the entire group to Auschwitz."

In 1960 and again in 1970, Italian directors seized on the Holocaust.

Life is Beautiful

Kapo, a Franco-Italian production by Gillo Pontecorvo, is about a Jewish woman who survived the deprivations of a concentration camp by becoming a guard.

Halliwell's Film Guide calls the movie a "curious exploitation piece which turns tragedy into melodrama, and doesn't even do that with much flair."

Nevertheless, *Kapo* won the Academy Award for best foreign film.

The Garden of the Finzi-Continis, directed by Vittorio de Sica, turns on a wealthy Italian Jewish family whose cloistered world collapses with the imposition of the 1938 anti-Semitic laws.

An international box office hit, *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* was nominated for an Academy Award in the best screenplay category.

Garden of the Finzi-Continis.

In 1997, Francesco Rosi directed *The Truce*, based on Primo Levi's *The Reawakening*, a memoir about an Italian survivor's journey back to Turin after his liberation from Auschwitz.

Life is Beautiful, which won four Academy Awards in 1998 (best picture, actor, director and screenplay), was a triumph for Roberto Benigni.

A frothy comedy that gradually turns deadly serious, *Life is Beautiful* is described by Marcus as " very atypical, very courageous and ground-breaking in its use of comedy to represent the horror of the Holocaust experience."

"I love this film," added Marcus, who is also the Mariano Di Vito professor of Italian studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

Life is Beautiful left such an impression on her that she dedicated an entire chapter to it in her recent book, *After Fellini: National Cinema in the Postmodern Age*.

Two of the latest Italian films on the Holocaust, *Unfair Competition* and *Making Love*, were screened at the University of Toronto's festival, the first of its kind.

Directed by Ettore Scola, *Unfair Competition* pits two clothing retailers, Umberto Melchiorri and Leone Simeoni, against each other.

Shown at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival last week, *Unfair Competition* takes place in Italy in the late 1930s.

Constantly bickering with Melchiorri, his Jewish competitor, Simeoni escalates the feud by injecting a racially-tinged epithet into one of their quarrels.

"A Jew is always a Jew," he curses in an impulsive moment, capturing the temper of the times.

Making Love, by Ricky Tognazzi, is a tragic love story bridged together by a number of flashbacks.

Set in Czechoslovakia and Austria before, during and after the Holocaust, the film is burdened by a convoluted plot but enlivened by a rousing musical score centred around a rare violin.

Like all the previous Italian films focusing on the Holocaust, *Making Love* tries to make sense of a period that Italians are only now really beginning to internalize and understand.

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Red Sox GM aims to end Bambino's curse

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Theo Epstein recently told family friends that if God wanted him at a seder, he'd come up with a rain-out on one of the first two nights of Passover. Otherwise, the 29-year-old Boston Red Sox general manager thought it would have been difficult to take them up on the invitation.

Since becoming the youngest GM in major league baseball history five months ago, the boy-wonder has set his sights on ending Babe Ruth's "Curse of the Bambino" – a drought dating back to 1918 without a World Series championship.

Epstein, who signed a three-year contract, grew up a mile from Fenway Park in the Coolidge Corner area of Brookline and says the Red Sox have always been in his blood.

"It is in a lot of ways a dream job," he said during batting practice at SkyDome prior to the club's final contest of a season-opening 10-game road trip in which the Sox went 6-4.

"I never sat there and actually said I want to be GM of the Red Sox. I just wanted to be involved in a team in a meaningful way. I'm just really lucky that that came to pass in Boston at such a young age."

Epstein's 11-year baseball career began in 1992 as a college intern with the Baltimore Orioles where he organized a major commemoration for surviving Negro League players.

Theo Epstein

After graduating from Yale, he got a job in the San Diego Padres front office, starting in media relations before moving on to the baseball side of things. He worked his way up to head of baseball operations, while completing law school at the University of San Diego.

He says he was fortunate to learn at an early age that he wasn't cut out to be a major league ballplayer and would have to shift upstairs if he wanted to stay in the game. Epstein played on his Brookline High School team, but said his baseball skills peaked at age three.

That he has been so successful in his chosen career path should come as no surprise. Though loath to admit it, Epstein comes from a very distinguished family.

His grandfather, Philip, a famous Hollywood screenwriter, and Philip's twin brother, Julius, shared the 1942 Oscar for their screenplay *Casablanca*.

Theo's father Leslie was a Rhodes Scholar and is a famous novelist and director of the creative writing program at Boston U.

Theo's sister Anya wrote scripts for the NBC series *Homicide: Life on the Street* and now writes screenplays. She is married to Dan Futterman, who co-starred in the hit TV series *Judging Amy*.

Theo is committed to making a name for himself by bringing his beloved Red Sox a World Series title, but he'll be fiscally responsible in constructing that championship club.

"We have a plan that doesn't involve quick fixes," he said. "It involves building from within, planning for the next five to seven years, trying to create a situation where we can sustain success year-in and year-out without having to spend big money on free agents all the time.

"I think the fans understand our plan and will be patient with us. We know that whenever there's a free-spending situation and an open market, we're not going to compete with the Yankees. We certainly have a very healthy payroll, but we do have some limitations."

In the off-season, Epstein added 10 new faces to the 25-man roster, trimming payroll but keeping the team's core intact. Boston was expected to challenge New York for the American League East title and be a team with legitimate playoff hopes.

The baseball aspects of the job have been going pretty much as Epstein expected thus far, but the off-the-field stuff has caught him by surprise.

He says the lack of privacy and the notoriety he's received can be overwhelming and difficult to deal with, but he admits it's getting easier every day.

He now tries to limit interviews to Red Sox batting practice so it leaves him time to do his real job.

He and his staff know a great challenge lies ahead and he clearly recalls the feeling of just how close the franchise came to winning it all back in 1986 when he was just 12 years old.

"I was watching Game Six of the World Series at home with my twin brother," he reminisced. "We were standing on top of the couch for about half an hour ready to jump off and celebrate and when the ball went through [first baseman Bill] Buckner's legs, we kind of collapsed down to the ground. It was a pretty pathetic sight really."

Slam-dunking for Israeli terror victims

NEW YORK — Some 60 teams from across the United States recently participated in a basketball tournament in New York City for Israeli victims of terror. The three-on-three tournament raised about $1,000 (US) through private and corporate sponsorships.

Proceeds will go to the Koby Mandell Foundation – in honour of a teen killed in Israel in 2001 – and Adopt-a-Family, which links Jewish families around the world with families of terror victims in Israel. Winners of the tournament received free trips to Israel.

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Anna Pistolesi goes through to last 16

By Ha'aretz Staff

BERLIN — Israeli tennis star Anna Pistolesi advanced last week to the final 16 of the $1.2 million (US) Berlin Open after cruising past Anca Barna of Germany 6-3, 6-2. Earlier in the week, Pistolesi (whose last name used to be Smashnova) demolished Tatiana Panova of Russia 6-1, 6-1 in the first round of the tournament.

Pistolesi broke Barna's serve in the third game and again in the fifth to clinch the first set and went on to break the German's serve again in the first game of the second set.

Pistolesi, who is seeded 16th, later met fifth-seeded Amelie Mauresmo after the French player beat Jelena Kostanic of Croatia 6-1, 6-4.

Anna Pistolesi

Pistolesi was beaten by Mauresmo in the quarterfinals of the Warsaw Cup the week before. Last year Pistolesi made the semifinals of the Berlin Open, where she lost to Serena Williams.

So far in this year's tournament, Pistolesi has guaranteed herself $12,000 (US) in prize money and 38 WTA ranking points.

In other tennis action, Harel Levy lost in the opening round of the Birmingham Challenger in Alabama in a tightly fought contest against Francisco Costa of Brazil that ended 6-7, 4-6.

Zion calls

By JODI KOVITZ

As 20-something Jews living in the Diaspora, what is our role in supporting Israel? It is clear that the future of Israel depends largely on our ability to support the Jewish state – financially and politically. However, for the most part, the media portray the country as a villain, and that makes our task more difficult.

While many of us may be quick to express connectedness to Israel in some way, it is difficult for our generation to feel the need for an independent Jewish state the way our parents' generation did. We as Jews are free to live where we want in North America. We have not been banished from our homes. We have not been forced to stop going about our lives simply because we are Jewish.

Our grandparents and our parents experienced anti-Semitism in a way that most of us cannot fathom – they were hated, treated like dirt and then literally had no place to go. While it might be difficult for our generation to passionately support Israel, I think it is important for us to understand why we have to do so – and do it.

Why support Israel? Imagine that tomorrow the government orders you to leave Canada simply because you are a Jew. What would you do? Where would you go? It seems as if it could never happen, but anti-Semitism is on the rise. In fact, some scholars have recently said the level of anti-Semitism in North America today is equivalent to that in pre-Nazi Germany. This is scary. The reality is that if we had no Israel, we would be lost as a people.

Something I have realized in the past year is that part of my responsibility as a Jew is to stand up and help protect Israel. I used to think that one day I would buy State of Israel Bonds. But it is not enough for me to wait until I am "settled" as an adult to do my part, nor to let others do it for me. Hitler came to power because Jews and non-Jews of all ages were too passive to stop him. I am not suggesting that another Holocaust is imminent. But given the high level of anti-Semitism, particularly on campuses, I believe we have good reason to be frightened.

So, how can we support Israel?

I am moved by those who make aliyah. I am also inspired by people like my sister (who is about to spend the summer volunteering for Magen David Adom), who go to Israel even during difficult times because they feel it is their obligation. However, making aliyah is not for everybody. Neither is visiting when times are uncertain.

There are many other ways we can contribute. We can do so financially, by purchasing Israeli products or making donations to organizations we believe in. We can also do so politically by becoming educated, so that we can speak up against bias in the media and anti-Semitism in our community. We can participate in rallies and go to events and celebrations.

Why not create your own "shuk in the park"? In Toronto, Reviving Eden, a Kolel group for young Jewish adults is putting on a shuk festival in September to celebrate Israel and its culture. If you want to get involved in planning that event or find out how to bring the event to your own community, e-mail shukinthepark@hotmail.com.

While as 20-something's we might be busy finding ourselves, building our careers, exploring the world and fostering our relationships, there is reason too for us to make it a priority to support Israel. With Independence Day just past, we have the perfect opportunity to re-charge our collective commitment to supporting Israel. We cannot afford to be passive as a generation – Israel is depending on us.

KAREN'S HEARTY BEEF STEW IN WINE

1 cup flour	1/4 cup oil	1 tsp. steak sauce
1 tsp. salt	1/2 cup red wine	4 potatoes
1/4 tsp. pepper	1 1/4 cup chicken soup	4 stalks celery
1/4 tsp. paprika	or beef consommé	2 onions
2-3 lbs. stewing beef	1 tblsp. soy sauce	4-5 carrots

Cube stewing beef into bite-size pieces. Combine flour & spices in bowl. Coat beef a few pieces at a time with flour mixture. Brown meat in small batches in large pot in oil. Remove as ready.

Deglaze pan by adding wine and scraping up browned bits from the bottom, using a wooden spoon. Add all ingredients except vegetables to pot. Cover and cook 3 hrs. on low, stirring occasionally.

Cut vegetables in chunks and add to meat. Cook 1 hr. longer. Serve over fluffy rice with a tossed salad. Makes 6-8 servings.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

Here we are at Lag b'Omer, reflecting on the fact that Rabbi Akiva's 24,000 students suffered from a plague that killed almost all of them. In Toronto, it is easy enough to relate to plagues, given SARS and the threat of the West Nile virus. But the legend of 12,000 pairs of students is an image I have often wondered about. How did Rabbi Akiva teach? What was the pedagogic mechanism that ensured his saintly teachings would reach us generations later?

All of this is a pause in the counting of the Omer, which takes us from Pesach to Shavuot through some momentous days. Can our young students of today appreciate that the ancient festivals of Pesach and Shavuot and the custom of counting the Omer have been significantly complemented in the past five decades by 20th-century events that required calendar recognition?

The addition to our calendar of Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut on the 27th of Nisan, the 4th of Iyar and the 5th of Iyar respectively has changed the face of the Omer period. This is another example of our calendar as our teacher, when the actual passing of days takes us through both the tears and the joy of recent Jewish history.

On Nisan 27 we suffer the memory of the Shoah, albeit on a date connected to a moment of great resistance. On the eve of Yom Ha'atzmaut, we mourn the loss of thousands of men and women who gave their lives in defence of our new state. And on the fifth of Iyar we celebrate the great return to our land, the success of the Zionist revolution, the rebirth of our language, and all the blessings of the State of Israel.

It is fitting that our calendar has been altered to include these 20th-century events between Pesach and Shavuot, the holidays that eternally connect us to the joy of liberation and the heavy responsibility of sovereignty and law. As we count our way through the 21st-century version of the Omer, we learn the happiness of freedom, the tragedy of monumental loss, the terror of sacrifice, the pride of ownership, the burden of authority, the responsibility of the landlord and the guidance of law and custom – all from 49 special days in our calendar.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

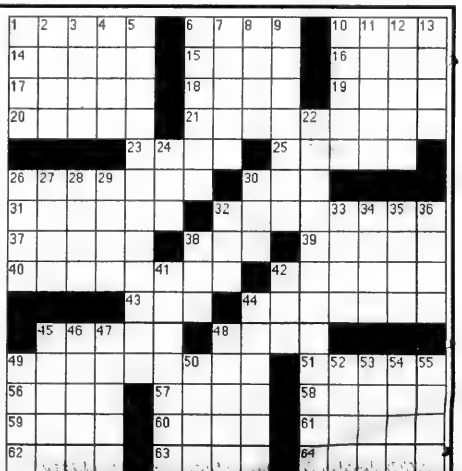
(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

The Canadian Jewish news

More Stars of Laughter (& composer & lyricist)
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Stras____, French river city
6. Mostel
10. Sharp jibe, or smack
14. Schoenberg, to pals
15. A son of Shem
16. Employ
17. One of the brothers
18. 53, in ancient Ostia
19. Monster
20. Modified bull
21. Kaye / Silvers
23. ___ Carlo Menotti
25. Hop kilns
26. Bette and family
30. Plenti follower
31. Microbe
32. Clinched, as a task or language
37. ____ Beach, resort locale on Queensland's Noosa River
38. Crag
39. Computer, video game maker
40. Certain aquarium fish eggs
42. The way out
43. Spelling or honey
44. Police actions
45. Nabatean city of Jordan
48. Florence's river
49. Rickles / Matthau
51. Conan Doyle's House of _____
56. Jerusalem gallery, sells Chagalls
57. Ventilates, at Versailles
58. One of the brothers
59. Old Boston Post Road
60. The ___ Hypothesis (earth unity)
61. Mother of Samuel
62. Merit
63. Ten, in Tiberias
64. Kinkier

Down
1. Derisive expletives
2. Near ___ zero (approximation)
3. ____-pentant
4. Mature
5. Burns / Streisand
6. Fitzgerald's painter-writer wife et al
7. ___ Gonzales, Cuban youngster
8. Prince's Purple ____
9. Baleful
10. Goes to the market
11. "between the Sons of _____ and ..."
12. Broadband telewire maker
13. Lemon or orange
22. Where FDR, Stalin met / one of the brothers
24. Gershwin
26. Extinct Hawaiian honeycreeper
27. Radio talk-show host
28. Therefore, in France
29. Siberian river
30. ___ away
32. One of the Stooges
33. To be, in Toulon
34. The ____, 1970s disco band
35. Former
36. Bump off, disparage (slang, var.)
38. Digit
41. Something a woman over 39 would rather not reveal
42. Sea eagle
44. Plural of this is what a debtor gets in
45. Gateway, in Grenada
46. Go into
47. Author, in 1899, of line, "All things are mortal but the Jew... Amen."
48. Eagle's nest
49. Be emboldened
50. Oolong and jasmine
52. Anadromous fish
53. Deer
54. Greek god of knowledge
55. Leonine expression



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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

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Centennial students produce Holocaust Web site. *Page 28*

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Exhibit reveals podiatrist's celebrity foot fetish. *Page 41*

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Jews up 3.7%, census shows

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Community officials caution not to put too much stock in figures released last week from the 2001 census that show Canada's Jewish population grew by a modest 3.7 per cent over the previous decade.

Planners say the numbers reflect Jews "by religion" only, and need to be blended with census figures on ethnic origins released in January. They say the net result will yield a higher number that paints a clearer picture of Canadian Jewry.

However, some experts have a gloomier outlook, noting the latest figures, although reflecting an increase, are disappointing and portend a shrinking and polarized community.

The census showed there are 329,995 Jews by religion in Canada, up from 318,185 in 1991. However the proportion of Jews as a percentage of the general population dropped from 1.2 per cent to 1.1 per cent.

The overall increase – 3.7 per cent – is the smallest rise among all major non-Christian faiths. By contrast, Muslims increased by 121 per cent to nearly 580,000, eclipsing Jews as the country's largest non-Christian group. As well, for the first time, Muslims now outnumber Jews in both Toronto and Montreal.

Continued on page 30

CANADIAN POLITICIANS VISIT: Municipal leaders from across Ontario took part last week in a "mayors' mission" to Israel organized by the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region. The 19-member delegation spent five days touring the country and meeting Israelis. Here, the group visits Hadassah Hospital. *Please see related story on page 33.* *[Bruce Kurta photo]*

Sephardi conference planned for Montreal

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Concordia University will be the site of an international symposium on Sephardi culture this month, but organizers say they will steer clear of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The symposium, called Sephardic Identities and Modernity, will be held at the Sir George Williams campus May 25 and 26 by the new Sephardic Cultural Institute of Canada, in collaboration with the Concordia-UQAM chair in ethnic studies. Though the chair is a joint program with the Université du Québec à Montréal, it operates with two autonomous divisions, and UQAM is not participating in this event.

About 50 scholars and community leaders from Canada, the United States, Israel, Spain and France will participate, including Nissim Gaon of the Swiss-based World Sephardi Federation.

Concordia to host symposium

Judah Castiel, the institute's founder and president, said he chose Concordia as the venue because he believes the university must be given an opportunity to provide a platform for intercultural dialogue after having gained notoriety over the past year for discord.

"When we asked Concordia to join us in this important project, we were warmly received," Castiel said.

Daniel Salée, acting director of Concordia's chair in ethnic studies, said the conference fits in with the chair's mission to reach out to ethnic groups and promote research on identity issues.

"The study of inter-community relationships and cross-cultural dialogue are at the heart of the chair's activities," he said.

Salée added that Concordia rector Frederick Lowy is also interested in initiatives that promote dialogue, given the tense atmosphere on issues related to the Middle East on his campus.

"The goal of our first international symposium is to provide a forum for reflection on the historical, social, cultural and religious dimensions of contemporary Sephardism," Castiel said.

Among the scheduled topics are: Marranos, Jewish Memories in Spain; the Contribution of Sephardic Women; Sephardic Music: from the Sacred to the Profane; as well as sessions on Sephardi thought, literature and contemporary art. Controversial issues, such as the troubled history of Jews in Arab lands, will be avoided.

Continued on page 30

Shabbat: Bechukotai
Candlelighting: 8:25
Havdallah: 9:30

Greater Toronto Area

Arafat strengthens his grip on PA — please see page 34

The News in Brief

Canada

Webcaster Cautioned

TORONTO — B'nai Brith Canada has cautioned JumpTV that it will hold the Internet broadcaster responsible for any broadcasts of hate material on Al Jazeera, the Qatar-based independent TV network. JumpTV recently added Al Jazeera to the international channels it offers subscribers. The network has been accused of broadcasting virulently anti-Semitic and racist stories likely to contravene Canadian law.

Israel

A-G Backs Chief Rabbi

JERUSALEM — The High Court of Justice last week heard a petition challenging the recent appointment of Israel's new Ashkenazi chief rabbi, Yona Metzger, despite pleas by Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein to reject it. Rubinstein said no police complaints had been filed regarding the sexual harassment allegations in the petition, so there was no need for legal intervention. He had, however, reportedly planned to ask Rabbi Metzger not to sit as head of the Supreme Rabbinical Court because he had not completed his rabbinic judicial studies. The court will issue its ruling at a later date.

Bible Quiz Winner

JERUSALEM — Moran Gomeri, 16, won the annual World Jewish Bible Quiz for youth earlier this month, defeating 15 other teens from eight countries in the finals. Gomeri, the daughter of a Bible teacher, is in Grade 11 at a girls' yeshiva in Be'er Sheva. She won a scholarship to Tel Aviv University.

No. 2 for Skin Cancer

JERUSALEM — Israel has the world's second highest skin cancer rate, behind Australia. The high rate is believed to be due to ignorance of the risks of suntanning, as well as genetic defects among Sephardi Jews. According to the Israel Cancer Association, some 200 Israelis die every year from the disease. This week is skin cancer awareness week in Israel.

U.S. Muslims Deported

JERUSALEM — Israel has deported at least two U.S. Muslims who were staying in the West Bank and Gaza. The deportations were part of measures adopted after an April 30 suicide bombing in Tel Aviv by terrorists with U.K. passports. Deportation orders were also issued against foreign activists arrested in the West Bank earlier this month on suspicion of involvement in terror.

World

Concert Postponed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A May 19 concert here to mark Israel's 55th birthday has been postponed until Dec. 18. Organizers denied speculation poor ticket sales were the cause, saying it was postponed due to the sensitive nature of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to Washington the following day. The event was to have featured comedian Jerry Seinfeld and singer Tony Bennett. Organizers had hinted U.S. President George W. Bush and Sharon might attend, but the White House said the event was never on Bush's calendar.

Israel Boycott Fails

LONDON — A British teachers union rejected a motion to boycott Israeli academics. By a 2-1 vote, the Association of University Teachers rejected a motion by Sue Blackwell, a pro-Palestinian activist from Birmingham University, for AUT members to "review immediately, with a view to severing, any academic links they may have with official Israeli institutions, including universities." Andy Marks of the International Academic Friends of Israel, said the AUT came to the "right conclusion," but he was concerned "such a motion ever made it on their agenda."

Iranian Jew Arrested

LOS ANGELES — A not guilty plea was entered on behalf of an Iranian Jew who was charged with a series of arsons on religious buildings in Los Angeles. Farshid Tehrani was charged last week with 12 counts of arson, terrorism and vandalism for attacks on three synagogues, a Baha'i centre and a Presbyterian church over a recent two-week period. He is being held on $750,000 bail. If convicted on all counts, he could face 22 years in prison. Tehrani, 40, came to the United States from Iran 16 years ago.

Internet Service Provider Drops Zundelsite

TORONTO — QWest Communications, the Denver-based Internet company that hosted Ernst Zundel's neo-Nazi "Zundelsite," announced last week it was removing the site from its servers. However, the Web site, which has been condemned by the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) for inciting contempt of Jews, quickly switched to another Internet service provider and is still available on the Web.

A spokesperson for QWest said the site was removed after QWest was informed by the CHRC that Zundel was using it to publish hate materials. QWest policy prohibits distribution of hateful, obscene, abusive or excessively violent material.

The Web site, meanwhile, denounced the move, saying QWest "caved in" to pressure from "the fanatic censors in the Canadian Government." In a "ZGram" ostensibly written by Ingrid Rimland, Zundel's wife, the CHRC is described as "that obscene Marxist-flavoured outfit."

Rimland claimed the CHRC "served QWest with a 75-page order to 'cease and desist' [hosting the site] within 48 hours – or have QWest employees face arrest for contempt of court, should they ever travel to Canada!"

QWest denied the allegation.

Zundel, meanwhile, remains in custody pending conclusion of a Federal Court review of a government certificate alleging he is a security threat. Should the court uphold the finding, Zundel could be removed to his native Germany.

The Canadian Jewish news

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$600,000 gift puts Yiddish program on firm ground

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The University of Toronto's faculty of arts and science recently honoured Al and Malka Green for a $600,000 gift that will help fund the school's Yiddish studies program in perpetuity.

U of T program renamed for Greens

When combined with $400,000 in endowment funds and donations raised by UJA Federation's committee for Yiddish studies, the Greens' 2002 donation will create a $1-million endowment to support Yiddish language and literature courses at U of T.

As well, the endowment will allow the program to bring distinguished visiting lecturers to campus, increase U of T's library holdings in the field, and support lectures, colloquia and other forms of public outreach.

Although the Yiddish progam has been a fixture at U of T for three decades, the uncertainties of funding have made it difficult to ensure its quality and continuity from year to year, said Marvin Schiff, chair of the committee for Yiddish studies.

"Now, the gift from Al and Malka Green not only gives the program permanency, but gives it a firm foundation on which to grow and improve and it allows it to claim a permanent place among the major universities of the world that offer courses in Yiddish, including Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Oxford, the Sorbonne and Harvard," he said.

Green is the principal partner in Greenwin Property Management and an acclaimed sculptor.

In recognition of their generosity, the program has been renamed the Al and Malka Green Program in Yiddish Studies, Schiff said.

Rose Wolfe, chancellor emerita of U of T and Prof. Carl Amrhein, dean of arts and science, co-hosted the reception and dinner in the Greens' honour at Massey College.

Continued on page 28

Al & Malka Green with Anna Shternshis, (centre), assistant professor of Yiddish and Yiddish literature at the University of Toronto. [Steve Frost photo]

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The rabbi's trauma

From the editor's desk

One of the various stresses tugging at the multi-coloured, multi-textured fabric of Israeli society is the struggle between the observant and the non-observant.

In lieu of the terms "observant" and "non-observant," some people substitute "religious" and "secular," "practising" and "non-practising," "believing" or "non-believing," or "fervent" and "epicurean."

In truth, however, these terms are woefully inadequate because there are so many gradations of differences within each group.

As a result, the use of the terminology is worse than meaningless. It is harmful. It further stresses an already highly stressed Israeli public. And it creates more categories into which individuals are pigeonholed like marker pins in a pinochle board, thus further setting apart one person from the other.

But there is no gainsaying the existence of this particular stress within Israeli society, whatever it is called. Nor is there any denying the profound importance of ameliorating it (and of course, all of the other stresses) to help reduce the growing distance between some Jews.

A book recently published in Israel may help, in some small measure at least, to reduce those distances.

The book, a memoir written by a "religious" Israeli, recalling his service in the tank corps on the Golan Heights in the Yom Kippur War, was acclaimed by critics and lay readers alike when it was first published in Hebrew in 2002 as *Tiyum Kavanot*. It has now been published in English by Toby Press, under the title *Adjusting Sights*, to equally high praise.

A recent review in the *Jerusalem Post* noted the opinion of Israeli television and theatre actor Ili Gorlizky, "a self-described secularist": "Without thinking twice, I can say this is the best Israeli book I have read in recent years. [The author] has so much power with the Hebrew language that comes from a place of Jewish education and tradition. But he also reaches every man. I relate to him because he thinks deeply; he relates common experiences and his words took on a philosophical dimension for me."

The same review noted a letter written to the author by one of hundreds of readers. The letter writer, a young Israeli woman travelling in India, "in search of meaning to her life," said she was so moved by the book that she decided to return to Israel after she read it.

The memoir's author is Rabbi Haim Sabato, the rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat Birkat Moshe in Ma'aleh Adumim. Last week, I visited Rav Sabato at his school.

Born in Cairo, he and his family, along with most of Egyptian Jewry, immigrated to Israel in 1957. Though his family came from Egypt, they are, in fact, Syrian Jews from Aleppo. Rav Sabato is the latest in a long line of rabbis.

The rabbi appeared much younger than his 50 years. Warm brown eyes extended greetings of welcome to the older contemporary visiting from Canada. And then, he immediately provided his visitor with a bottle of cold water to slake a 35-degree, *chamsin*-induced thirst.

We sat down in his office and our 40-minute conversation sped by in what seemed to be three or four. We discussed many subjects. He agreed with my observation that he was one of the few "religious" Israelis to write about their wartime experiences. The following is a partial excerpt of his response.

"Not out of a sense of pride, but merely as a statement of fact, I wish to say that the book appears to be causing somewhat of a change in the country.

"There has been a gap here between the world of Torah and the literary world… When an Israeli writer writes about faith, about prayer, or about God, he does so as an observer from outside, sometimes even as a caricature, ironically, or politically, sometimes even sincerely but naively, and generally without any depth and certainly not out of any sense of profound personal experience.

"On the other hand, the world of the yeshivot has mostly scoffed at the world of modern literature…

"But after the book was published, I received many letters from renowned scholars of the yeshiva world who congratulated me for the work. I also received a great many letters from individuals on the extreme left of the political spectrum commending the book.

"I must also confess that I was surprised the book seems to have generated a positive reaction from some parts of the haredi world as well. I received a letter from the rosh [yeshiva] of a small haredi yeshiva who said he read the book during the afternoon break on Yom Kippur before the Ne'ilah service."

I asked Rav Sabato if he believed his book could actually help to close the gap between the worlds. He answered openly but not naively.

"There are generally two processes at play when one considers the matter of change in society," he said. "One is political and public relations; the other is educational and humanitarian. I think we pay far too much attention to the first process, the political one, and not enough to the other, the educational one. In my view, a meaningful line of prose from sincere writers can influence individuals far more than political argumentation and gimmickry. But it takes time, a great deal of time."

Throughout our conversation, Rav Sabato was polite, friendly, thoughtful and generous in his responses. Next week I shall review his book.

— MBD

SeeJN

MONTREALERS REUNITE: Members of the one-time Barclay Street Gang are all smiles at last week's Montrealers' reunion at Beth Emeth Synagogue. Sponsored by Jewish National Fund of Toronto, the event drew over 500 people who reminisced while noshing on local delicacies. Guest speaker was Joe King, author of *From the Ghetto to the Main*, a history of Montreal Jews. From left, are Judy Arlin Zwirsky, Rosalie Sprecher Dinkin, Enid Weiner, Claire Sprecher Horowitz, Ruth "Cookie" Arlin and Marcia Maislin Herbert. [Ron Csillag photo]

Associated reps face parents over tuition increase

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

More than 300 Associated Hebrew Schools parents met with representatives of the school's administration in a town hall meeting last week to discuss next year's 12.5 per cent increase in tuition.

Presentations were given by Associated executive director Arthur Landa, president Sheldon Carr, past president and board member Sheldon Goodman, incoming president of the parent-teacher council Joanne Perlmutter, co-chair of the education committee Sally Zigler and the chair of admissions and tuition committee Jim Klein.

In a sometimes heated question-and-answer period, parents were told there is no chance tuition will be reduced for next year. In addition, they were encouraged to take their concerns to UJA Federation and urge it to reconsider its funding formula for day schools, which has been affected by federation's allocation of emergency aid for Israel.

Panel members told parents that Associated's enrolment for next year is down by 150 students – 100 elementary and 50 preschool.

While this was not the only reason for the tuition increase, the school representatives said it accounts for $870,000 in reduced income next year.

Associated's tuition for the 2003/04 will be $9,000, up from $7,950 this year. Tuition at other Jewish day schools in the city ranges from about $9,500 to $11,550.

Landa has said that without the increase, Associated would have faced a $1.3-million deficit next year.

Dropping enrolment is a problem facing many Jewish day schools in the city, Goodman said, adding that "Jewish education in North America has been declining for the past 10 years and is now considered to be in an emergency situation."

Goodman suggested the enrolment drop isn't necessarily driven only by higher tuition, noting that over the past few years there has been an increase in the number of Jewish students at non-religious private schools.

However, many of the parents at the meeting voiced concern about the rising costs of tuition and wondered about their ability to continue paying for Jewish education.

In a phone interview, Landa said the ratio of financially assisted students (37.5 per cent) to full fee students (62.5 per cent) at Associated has remained stable for the past four years.

In addition, Landa noted that $450 of each child's tuition next year will go toward a shortfall in community funding for subsidized students. This year the school absorbed the shortfall, which formed part of its deficit.

While it's generally acknowledged that UJA Federation spends more in Jewish education per capita per child in Toronto than any other city in North America, problems in school funding have emerged over the past few years that need to be addressed, Landa said.

In 1999, a strategic planning report from the Associated's Va'ad Hachinuch (education committee) indicated that investments were needed to improve the programs available at the school, Carr told the meeting.

However, at this point, it's clear the school needs to work with parents to develop new strategic plans, Landa said.

Seymour Epstein, executive director of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education, said studies are underway to investigate the causes behind declining enrolment, especially in the number of subsidized students.

The BJE is currently reviewing the subsidy guidelines that form the basis of the applications used by most schools.

"The guidelines are antiquated," he said, adding that the forms are based on salaries from 12 years ago and are not necessarily sensitive to the needs of today's parents.

"The rising cost of being Jewish is a universal problem. We have complete empathy for both sides," he said.

BEIT RAYIM IN BLUE AND WHITE: Kindergarten students at Beit Rayim Hebrew School perform at the school's recent Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration, holding paper doves they made in class.

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Government distances itself from IRB decision

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Denis Coderre last week distanced the federal government from a ministry lawyer who had argued in a refugee case that Israel committed war crimes in southern Lebanon.

The lawyer's position "surely doesn't reflect... the policy of Canada towards Israel," he said.

The minister was responding to reporters' questions about a decision of an immigration adjudicator who rejected the refugee claim of a Lebanese businessman, saying the claimant served as an informant to Israeli forces that were involved in war crimes and crimes against humanity in southern Lebanon.

The adjudicator made his ruling after a lawyer representing the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration joined the case and argued there were serious reasons for believing the claimant, who was not identified, committed war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Relying on evidence that consisted primarily of press reports, internal Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) documents and studies by Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, adjudicator Stéphane Handfield ruled the claimant "is complicit by reason of his personal and knowing participation in crimes against humanity committed by Israel [the Israeli intelligence service] and its militia, the SLA [South Lebanese Army]."

The adjudicator's decision angered Jewish organizations, while the Israeli embassy denied Israeli involvement in war crimes or crimes against humanity.

"The gratuitous accusations against Israel are baseless," said Joseph Wilder, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee. "In their operations in Lebanon, first against PLO terrorist bases in the 1970s and early 1980s and then against Hezbollah, Israeli soldiers always abided by the highest moral and ethical standards."

A statement issued by the Israeli embassy said, "Israel did not and has not been involved in any war crimes or crimes against humanity in southern Lebanon or any other place. On the contrary, it is continuing to give humane treatment even under the most difficult conditions as a result of violence directed against it by terrorist organizations."

Canadian Jewish Congress spokesman Eric Vernon said while CJC hopes the adjudicator's decision will not serve as a precedent for future cases, it will seek a meeting with the IRB president to voice its concerns.

"Our view is that if you're going to make claims of war crimes or crimes against humanity you have to have legitimate evidence that would stand up in an international court and that would support those references," Vernon said. "Under international law, there is a threshold of evidence that has to be met and it hasn't been made in this case."

But Canada-Israel Committee executive-director Shimon Fogel said the CIC is satisfied with Coderre's comments. He said he had been in touch with government officials and was told the lawyer's position is "absolutely no reflection whatsoever of Canada's view of Israel. The minister in effect repudiated the lawyer's comments."

Still, he said, "We'd like to understand what latitude a lawyer has when representing the government to take a position like that."

The IRB decision, which was dated Nov. 8, 2002 but was released only recently, found that the claimant was recruited in 1998 to provide information about Hezbollah to the Mossad. An opponent of the Islamic terrorist organization, he readily agreed and for about one year, was paid $800 (US) a month to do so.

The adjudicator found the claimant's information about Hezbollah was passed to the Mossad and then on to the SLA, which he said was controlled by Israel. "The documentary evidence paints a picture of crimes committed by the SLA and Israel, including the displacement of civilians, hostage taking, the destruction of houses, arrests, detention without trial, forced recruitment, homicide, torture and atrocious crimes committed at the Khiam prison in south Lebanon."

Ben Forer, press and economic affairs officer for the embassy of Israel, said despite the involvement of a government lawyer in the case, "I do not believe it is official Canadian policy to accuse us of war crimes."

What's New Omission

A What's New item in the May 15 edition omitted the date for the Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood's presentation of a talk by chiropractor Dr. Paul Goldbach at the 12:30 lunch. The event is on May 27.

UJA Federation

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NAVIGATING A NEW WORLD

ISRAEL BONDS

Heschel pioneers new approach to assessing kids

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Over the past few weeks, the Toronto Heschel School's senior kindergarten classroom has been immersed in old computer parts, screwdrivers and wrenches.

This is Project Spectrum time and the kids are taking part in a two-way learning process.

While the children are busy taking apart old keyboards and hard-drives to understand the relationship of the smaller parts to the larger machine, Toby Franklin, a learning specialist and the co-ordinator of Heschel's Spectrum team, walks around and observes each student's strengths and weaknesses in relation to the child as a whole.

Project Spectrum was developed at Harvard and Tufts universities in the 1980s to provide an innovative approach to assessing and understanding the learning styles of children.

It builds on the theory of multiple intelligence developed by psychologist Howard Gardner, a professor of cognition and education at Harvard's Graduate School of Education (GSE). The theory suggests that all children possess seven or eight different "intelligences" – from musical to linguistic to social – and that learning can occur through any of these pathways.

According to Gardner, every child can be directed toward achieving their potential with an education plan that takes into account their various intelligences.

Spectrum brings together teams of educators to develop classroom projects that can help assess children along various "intelligence" domains, including science, music, movement, math, social understanding, language, visual arts and mechanics and construction.

"It's an approach to learning that fits in with our school philosophy and environment," said Gail Baker, the principal of Heschel, an arts-based day school established in 1995 and the only Jewish school in the city to have a Spectrum program.

Franklin learned about Spectrum while attending a workshop last summer at Harvard's GSE. A UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education grant helped Heschel start the program this year.

Franklin and Ellen Kessler, the school's science co-ordinator, meet once a week to plan the activities. The regular contact allows them to change the projects to meet the demands of the curriculum and to account for the strengths and weaknesses of the children in each class.

Teachers then apply the different projects in the classroom while a trained observer watches how each student interacts with the task at hand, Franklin explained.

The activities, which take place in the junior and senior kindergarten and Grade 1 classes, help teachers understand the whole child because they focus on process and not solely on end results, like other IQ tests, Franklin said. She added that the training involved in implementing the program helps educators expand their vocabulary so children can be seen in different ways.

Toby Franklin helps senior kindergarten students. Inset: Noah Benson participates in Spectrum project.

"Many of the activities allow the children to experience new things and build self confidence in areas they might not otherwise attempt," said senior kindergarten teacher Marlee Pinsker.

For example, taking apart machinery opens the door to three-dimensional learning, a skill needed in geometry and architecture. Watching young children as they work in that domain allows educators to identify whether they need help developing that ability or if strengths in that skill can assist them in other areas, Pinsker said.

"Kinesthetic learners [who excel at physical activities] often have a hard time with cognitive learning," said Lori Shapero-Press, Heschel's movement co-ordinator.

Shapero-Press said that by using Spectrum, teachers can assess the tools a child uses in a particular activity and develop a program to help them build on their strengths.

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No chance if Arafat remains

This editorial was written before the scheduled meeting last Saturday night between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. The meeting was to be the first public contact between the two men as prime ministers.

It was seen by many commentators in Israel as a goodwill gesture by both Israel and the PA to U.S. President George W. Bush, an effort to maintain the modicum of momentum garnered last week by Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to Israel.

But less than a week after Powell's departure, that momentum seems to be dissipating.

Abbas has been determined to consult with Palestinian factions in the Gaza Strip, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, about a ceasefire in the ongoing violence against Israelis.

But Israel has rejected the idea of a ceasefire. The very notion presupposes the possible resumption of violence at a later date. It maintains the status quo of the terrorist infrastructure, and worse, it confers a kind of legitimacy upon the resumption of violence in the minds of those who are its bloodthirsty proponents. Israel, therefore, correctly rejects the notion of a ceasefire.

The West should encourage Abbas to abandon the idea. More to the point, he should be encouraged by western governments, including that of Canada, to actively root out terrorist groups within Palestinian society.

There is also another factor contributing to the sense of dissipating momentum toward positive results in the quest for peace between Israelis and Palestinians: the persistence of PA President Yasser Arafat's grip on the PA apparatus. As long as the corrupt leader is involved in PA decision-making, there will be no chance for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The daily newspaper *Ha'aretz* reported last week that not only is Arafat still involved in PA decision-making, he is believed by Israeli security officials to be "strengthening his hold on the Palestinian Authority." Israeli officials also believe that 27-year-old Gideon Lichterman of the West Bank community Ahiya was killed two weeks ago by a terror cell that actually departed for its murderous assignment from the Muqata, Arafat's compound in Ramallah. That the murderers received their orders from inside the Muqata is thus highly likely. That those orders were issued with Arafat's prior knowledge is also highly likely.

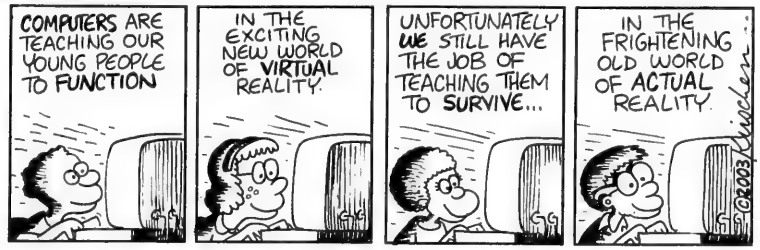
Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz last week told a CJC-sponsored delegation of Ontario municipal politicians and officials that Arafat is one of the main obstacles to the fulfillment of Palestinian aspirations for independence.

That should worry western governments and Palestinians as much as it does Israel.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones


COMPUTERS ARE TEACHING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO FUNCTION
IN THE EXCITING NEW WORLD OF VIRTUAL REALITY.
UNFORTUNATELY WE STILL HAVE THE JOB OF TEACHING THEM TO SURVIVE...
IN THE FRIGHTENING OLD WORLD OF ACTUAL REALITY.
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In defence of Human Rights Watch

In his column, "Well-intentioned support for Israel-bashers" (*CJN*, May 8), Gerald Steinberg accuses Human Rights Watch in its reporting on Israel of repeating partisan information that is "rarely subject to independent confirmation."

But in fact, Human Rights Watch researchers personally investigate allegations of human rights abuse by all parties to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Human Rights Watch would never be so naive as to repeat charges brought by one side or the other without its own independent inquiry.

Take, for example, Human Rights Watch's investigation of the fighting that occurred a year ago in the Jenin refugee camp. If Steinberg were right, Human Rights Watch would have simply repeated the widely disseminated claims that Israeli forces had committed a "massacre."

Instead, Human Rights Watch sent a team of researchers into the camp and, based on a detailed, first-hand, cross-checked investigation, concluded that there had been no massacre, although Israeli forces did violate the Geneva Conventions in other respects.

That finding put an end to the unfounded massacre allegations.

Such detailed, on-the-ground investigations are typical of Human Rights Watch's work around the world, and certainly of its work on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Even the slightest effort by Steinberg at "independent confirmation" of his own allegations would have demonstrated that fact.

Kenneth Roth
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch
New York

* * *

Holocaust Centre ignored

Every week I go through the pages of *The CJN*, and rarely find a mention of the Holocaust Centre of Toronto. Tens of thousands visitors, mostly students, come here. They see the exhibits, watch a video of the horrible experiments conducted on prisoners in the death camps and listen to the survivors' testimonies.

It is very important to reach these young people before they attend universities, colleges and other places of higher learning, and maybe show them how to withstand the indoctrination of the left and anti-Semitic groups that are so active in their hate-filled campaigns.

One group I spoke to recently came from Barrie, and the following are some remarks I heard.

One lady said that until now, all she knew about the Holocaust was from what she read, but she found it completely different to hear about it from the personal experience of a survivor. Another said she had a Jewish grandfather. A young man proudly said the Jewish residents of Barrie are building a synagogue.

On the way out, a young man approached me, saying he was sad and he feels sorry that I lost my entire family to the Nazis. Dear James, you don't know how much it meant to me to hear this. This remark and others restored my faith in younger people. It also makes my contact with them meaningful.

Ann Szedlecki
Toronto

* * *

Praise for staff

This letter is dedicated to the amazing nurses and the entire staff at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

Because of the SARS virus, this has been a very trying time for the residents, but much more stressful for our exceptionally caring CEO, Stephen Herbert, and his executive staff. The job they have been doing is most commendable!

The nurses and staff have come through for us and performed above and beyond the call of duty. Residents' needs were still met, such as personal grooming, feedings when necessary and spending time with the lonely.

Staff saw to it that anyone coming into Baycrest was properly screened to protect our frailest residents.

We, the grateful residents of Baycrest, want to say thank you so very much to our incredible staff for leading us this far. It looks like we made it. We are "SARS free" at Baycrest!

Fran Mann
President
Baycrest Residents' Council

* * *

It's despots versus democracy

The terrorists who, for years, have been waging war against the United States are being financed and abetted by those who most fear encroaching democracy – the despots of the world.

President George W. Bush instinctively understands that terrorists have been carefully nurtured by wealthy despots intent on warding off the march of democracy.

Clamping down on worldwide terrorist funding and making an example of Saddam Hussein were essential steps in his campaign against evil. America's plan to democratize Iraq will, hopefully, compel the despotic leaders of Iran, Syria and Saudi Arabia to move, for their own survival, towards eradicating the terrorists and the training camps dotting their landscapes. If they don't heed the warnings, democracy will continue its progressive march, ensuring their eradication and the emancipation of their peoples.

Melvin Hassan
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

On campus, who else will speak up for us?

By LINDSAY SOBERANO

It was a May day and the Passover Massacre in Netanya had just occurred. There was a feeling of unease among the international Jewish community, and I could hear the familiar cliché, "They all hate us, they always have and they always will" being repeated over and over again in my mind.

I was sitting in a graduate English literature class. The course was "Modernism and Internationalism," and we had spent the year discussing globalization, cultural flows, World War I, World War II and universal individualism. We read texts such as Virginia Woolf's *Voyage Out*, E.M. Forster's *A Passage to India*, Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Gertrude Stein's *Paris France*.

But that day, we began with a discussion on censorship, a topic that evolved out of reading D.N. Rodowick's essay "Introduction: Mobile Citizens, Media States."

Rodowick suggests the Internet is responsible for fostering international relationships. But it also raises a question: what do you about the fact it also produces international relationships that jeopardize our democratic principles? What do you do with the people who use the Internet to foster hate?

The night before, I let my curiosity get the best of me and I entered derogatory words along with the word "Jew" into an Internet search engine. After scanning the results, I became enraged. How is this garbage allowed on the Internet? Surely something has to be done.

But my classmates didn't really think so. In fact, that day, several issues came up and whenever the topic turned to Israel or Jewishness, I felt as though it was "me" – as the only Jew in class – against "them."

Most of my classmates supported freedom of speech over censorship. The topic of censorship led to a debate about whether or not *Mein Kampf* or Holocaust denial should be censored. One student shared her disapproval about how Chapters does not sell *Mein Kampf*. She thought it was inappropriate and that anyone should be able to access it.

When it came to Holocaust denial, we spoke briefly about David Irving. One student believed there was nothing wrong with Holocaust denial. It should not be taught in schools, but it also should not be censored, the student said. And someone else threw in his two cents by suggesting people are able to discern between fact and fiction, so why hide the fiction?

As for me, I said Holocaust denial is dangerous and that it has no place in the world. What will the story be years from now if Holocaust denial keeps circulating? I picture a sort of broken telephone effect.

But that was not all for that class. The issue of Afghanistan was on the table and Barbara Walters had just aired a documentary in which she interviewed three young Afghan men. Two students in my class criticized Walters. One felt the documentary made Afghans look bad and that Walters had exoticized the country. One scene in particular that offended her was when Walters pointed out that anti-Semitism can be found in Afghani textbooks.

My classmate did not understand why Walters had to raise the issue. I did not raise my voice in class, because by that time, I felt like crawling into a hole, and I was wishing I had gone to university in Israel.

For the next few days, something was brewing inside me. I was uneasy and I knew that I had to give voice to my concerns. So I sent out a mass e-mail to my class explaining why I thought Holocaust denial was dangerous and how a lot of the propaganda the Nazis used in World War II was now being recycled in the Arab and Muslim worlds, and that, therefore, anti-Semitism was definitely worth being addressed by Walters.

What happened next really made me fly off my seat.

One student wrote that propaganda such as Holocaust denial is harmless, because propaganda did not even play a major role in World War II. I wondered how much these people really knew about the Holocaust? I wrote back explaining how propaganda had everything to do with the Nazis' efficiency and mass support. I began that e-mail with: "From some of the things that some of you are saying, I wonder just how much some of you know about the Holocaust."

I thought my comment was called for, but evidently one student did not, because she addressed a class e-mail to me that asked me who I thought I was and what made me such an expert and how dare I insult her intelligence.

I thought to myself, "I'm not an expert, but this is just something I feel inside of me." Maybe it's the fact my grandparents were Holocaust survivors and that I had just been to Dachau the previous summer. Maybe that was what made me identify so strongly with the issue that I could not stand for any ignorance.

In my e-mail, I apologized for unintentionally offending anyone, which caused my insulted classmate to send me a personal e-mail message about how her best friend when she was growing up was Jewish – yadda, yadda, yadda.

Finally, a classmate stood up for me and seemed to understand where I was coming from. She told my classmates to back off and not to be so offended, that I was only trying to help, and that it is natural that someone like me, from a family that contains Holocaust survivors, would take the issue to heart.

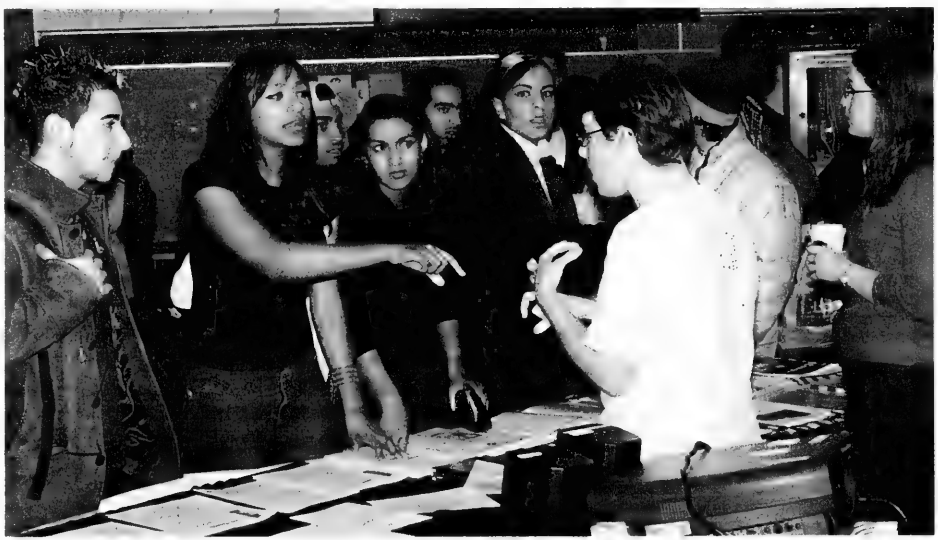
I then spoke to my independent studies professor, who was supervising my class in Canadian Jewish literature. He explained that anti-Israel and anti-American sentiment went together and that some students were just hopping on the bandwagon. He also said that leftist ideology is far too common on campus nowadays. And it is. Only this was the first time my eyes became open to it.

One year later, I look back on my experience with no guilt and no regrets. I did what every student should be doing on campus: I voiced my opinion.

Even though I now know that what I did was right, I remember how wrong I was made to feel at the time. No one should have to feel that way. No one should be forced to question whether or not he or she is right for speaking up. That's why it's so important to teach Jewish student activism and leadership skills at this time. It's obvious that it is not uncommon to be the only Jew in class and have to contend with opposing points of views.

If we do not help to educate our peers, who will? Who else will speak up for us? Who else can give our side of the story?

Lindsay Soberano is a graduate student in English at the University of Toronto.



The wall art (top) and student discussion (bottom), both from this past year at Carleton University, reflect the tension felt by students on many Canadian campuses.

Elie Wiesel's message in Washington

Elie Wiesel is the world's best known survivor of the Holocaust, for he has become the most eloquent interpreter of that horrible period in Jewish history.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

He and I have been friends for many years, but our all-too-rare, in-person meetings are special events for us.

The most recent came when we met briefly at the final session of the Central Conference of American Rabbis in Washington, D.C., where he was the concluding speaker.

Wiesel, the winner of the 1986 Nobel Peace Prize and the author of such acclaimed books as *Night* and *Dawn*, speaks in soft tones. Yet, in his quiet way, he manages to give his words a special force.

He began his Washington address by describing the negative features of our time that affect the Jewish condition.

But while his analysis seemed to be based on a profound pessimism, his final conclusion was surprisingly positive. He summed it up in his final words: "There is hope."

It was a declaration that stood quite in contrast to his description of present reality, which he described in worrisome detail, and it most certainly was not the logical conclusion of a closely argued speech.

Instead, it was a statement of faith, and one with which I could thoroughly identify.

For him, as for me, Jewish history is unique: there is nothing in human history quite like it. It gives us plenty of reasons to be pessimists, yet we have not embraced that state of mind.

Instead, we are in tune with a well-known Hebrew expression: "*Im kol kach*," which means "despite all this," or, put more briefly, "even so."

Someone thus once described us as "im-kol-kachniks," which is an awkward term, but one that's not altogether inaccurate.

We Jews have often gone against the stream and have said "yes" when most others have said "no," and vice versa.

It has, in a way, become a Jewish characteristic, and Wiesel, in his thoughtful address, gave voice to it.

But he had another, related message to impart that day.

In his view, all Jews are, so to speak, survivors, and it behooves us to be aware of it. We are the recipients of a precious heritage, one that our predecessors all too frequently had to give their very lives to preserve.

They left us with the challenge to make our modern-day Judaism vibrant and meaningful.

Nothing less will do.

Lessons you can't learn in school

Over the last few weeks, I have found myself taking trips down memory lane a little more than usual.

As a graduating university student, I think that if I could do it all over again, there are so many things I would do differently.

When my classmates and I first made our entrance into university, many of us were still teenagers and very naïve about many things. We thought we would still stay friends with all of our high school buddies and that whatever relationships we were in at the time would last forever.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

We thought that, one day, we would go off to New York to work for some glamorous law firm or to become an investment banker. But at some point – hopefully – we realized there's more to life than just making money, and that there are some ways of going about it that are more honourable than others.

Really, there's just so much out there that awaits us that they don't teach you about at school. Things you have to find out for yourself.

For me, some of the greatest lessons I've ever learned have been in the workplace.

One summer, I worked for the *Edmonton Journal* as a news reporter. During my first week there, my editor came running up to me with news of a huge fire that had engulfed a family-owned stable, and he instructed me to find out what happened.

I hopped into a cab that took me as close to the fire as possible, but the driver had to stop before reaching it because the smoke was so thick. I got out and thought to myself that if I couldn't walk straight to the stable, I would just walk around it.

So there I was, in my three-inch heels, stumbling over the rocky ground, trying not to step on horse manure, when I came to a barbed wire fence.

Could I turn around? No. I had to get a story, and my editor would be absolutely livid if I came back without it. So I took off my bag, my cellphone, my notebook, my tape recorder and my pen and threw them over the fence. Then, I climbed it – in my three-inch heels and short skirt, with 70-km/h winds whipping the hair around my face, clinging on for dear life, thinking, "When did I sign up for this?"

I had heard about risk management, but no one ever taught me about this in Business 101.

I eventually made it over the fence – without being electrocuted or impaled – and I found the family and got my story.

And I learned that where there is a will, there really is a way.

For those readers who may be graduating this year, if there is one pointer I could give you that might help you succeed later on in life, it would be to never accept the status quo. Question the rules. Break the rules.

A powerful story I once read left a similar impression on me. It's about the way the elephants you see in circuses and zoos are trained to stay in one place, so that they won't take off for the hills at the first opportunity.

The very first thing an elephant trainer teaches a young elephant is not to escape. When the elephant is just an infant, the trainer chains its leg to a huge log so that all attempts to flee prove to be futile and it gives up.

Eventually the elephant becomes so used to captivity that even when it grows big and strong, all the trainer has to do is tie the chain around its leg to a tiny twig. He knows it won't try to escape anymore.

The moral of the story is clear – don't be an elephant.

But the lesson is a little more profound than that.

At school, they always tell you to think outside the box, but you must remember that the box is only as big as the roof you choose to put on it. I truly believe there is so much out there awaiting all of us, and there is never a reason to put limits on ourselves or our dreams.

Barbara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

Reclaiming home

I am sitting down to write this column on the eve of my departure to Israel. It's funny, because even as I sit here with my bags packed, I cannot believe that I am leaving on a two-month journey that started off as a dreamlike idea in my head. While I articulated my desire and intent to travel to Israel many months ago, it is not without some surprise that I find myself actually ready to leave.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

Many times over the past few weeks, since my arrival home in Toronto after a year of school in Halifax, I have been asked the popular question, "What are you doing this summer?"

My response – travelling and studying in Israel – has been met with everything from enthusiasm to many furrow-browed faces that seem to ask, "What are you thinking?" – a thought that is often accompanied by a sweet "Have a safe trip."

While I was originally secure in my conviction to go, the chorus of questions and doubts forced me to re-evaluate my intentions. Nevertheless, my decision remains firm.

The analysts of my choice fall into two categories. There are those who, having little knowledge of Israel beyond what they see in the news media, are shocked that anyone, let alone a rational and practical young woman, would decide to travel to a country ravaged by unpredictable terrorism.

Then there are those who have a more intimate relationship with the country – those who have lived or frequently travelled there, those who understand that the political climate of any given day, month or year should not preclude a journey home.

It is always hard to balance reason with emotion, to consider your desires and weigh their merits with some objectivity. In the past few weeks, as I have answered questions from family and friends, I have felt the burden of trying to find such a balance. There are times when "objectivity" loses meaning, when verbal arguments fail to help you understand something that is so inherently personal.

At an orientation meeting for participants on my Birthright Israel trip, a small exercise provided me with a bit of clarity. Groups of us were given cards, each with facets of Jewish life on them, and we were told to pick five aspects of Jewish life that we saw as essential to Jewish survival. Amid such things tradition, synagogue, Holocaust education and Jewish family, each group selected Israel as primary for Jewish survival.

Granted, this sentiment emerged from a group of students awaiting travel to Israel, but among this group of individuals, with different backgrounds and connections to Judaism, Israel was the common denominator. For these modern Jewish youth who had some knowledge of our long and arduous history, Israel is understood as the basis of Jewish survival.

At a recent family Shabbat dinner, my young cousin, a student at Bialik Hebrew Day School in Toronto, excitedly asked if I was going to Israel and said she wanted to go there too. That night, she and her sister collected pledges for the Yom Ha'atzmaut Walkathon.

The irony, though, didn't seem to register. We recognize the importance of supporting Israel, but for many, that support only extends so far. We look on with surprise as people persist in travelling to Israel, as Israel missions and programs such as Birthright continue, wondering why kids don't opt to backpack around Europe instead.

We seem to want to understand our irrevocable bond with Israel, but we aren't quite prepared to leave the safety of our own borders. We take for granted our own security and thus cannot fathom entering a situation that is anything but secure. We know that Israel's economy is depressed, that a lack of tourism is leaving people without food or basic necessities of life, but we rarely pay close attention to such problems, focusing on the "big picture" of political conflict.

Yet, I am not going to Israel to prove a point. I am going because it's what I want to do.

I do, however, think it is time that we refuse to allow our view of our homeland to be defined by politics and propaganda. When we see Israel solely as the site of political conflict, we forget what it means to us and our future.

The Kirshner File

Mitzna was the victim of a Labor party revolt

After less than six months at the helm of Israel's ailing Labor party, Amram Mitzna resigned abruptly on May 5, leaving it rudderless and in a state of disarray. No one was really surprised by his decision to step down.

Mitzna, the 58-year-old former mayor of Haifa, was hounded out of his position, politically henpecked to death by senior figures in the party who never accepted his leadership and cast grave doubts on his policies.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

In a bitter parting shot, Mitzna alluded to the infighting and intrigue that had tormented him and driven him out. He claimed that his enemies had "put their own personal interests before those of the party, and continuously harmed and sabotaged" him.

Elected party leader at a primary last November, following the resignation of his lacklustre predecessor, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, Mitzna was a rank newcomer to national politics. Straightforward, solemn and forthright, much like the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mitzna gave the appearance of being a withdrawn person who lacked the back-slapping, flesh-pressing bonhomie and common touch of the typical politician. In the rough and tumble of Israeli politics, Mitzna's finest qualities – his honesty, integrity and guilelessness – were arrogantly equated with arch naivete.

But Mitzna, the fifth Labor party leader in eight years and the son of German immigrants who grew up in the Haifa suburb of Kiryat Haim, might have weathered these barbs had the party fared better in the last general election, held Jan. 28.

On that dismal day, Labor went down to ignominious defeat, having been crushed by the incumbent, Ariel Sharon, who pandered to the public's disillusionment with the Oslo peace process and its anger over the eruption of the second Palestinian uprising.

Mitzna's party, which dominated Israeli politics for almost the first 30 years of Israel's statehood, lost a quarter of its support, winning a meagre 19 seats in its worst-ever performance. Only a decade before, Rabin had trounced the Likud's stodgy candidate, former prime minister Yitzchak Shamir, as Labor coasted to an impressive victory.

A former army officer who rose to the rank of major general in a distinguished military career, Mitzna ran on a left-of-centre platform, calling for a renewal of bilateral negotiations with the Palestinian Authority.

Those talks broke off in January 2001, after Ehud Barak, the Labor prime minister, announced new elections. In the face of daily Palestinian violence, Sharon, the victor, did not resume negotiations.

By contrast, Mitzna offered the electorate a "bright and clear alternative" and the Palestinians a "political horizon." Mitzna's overriding goal was the immediate resumption of negotiations without preconditions. Echoing Rabin's catchy slogan, Mitzna declared that Israel "must fight terrorism as if there are no negotiations and negotiate as if there is no terrorism."

Promising to end the conflict with or without a formal agreement, Mitzna harped on the theme that peace is the key to Israel's wellbeing. "Despite the terror attacks," he said, "the only choice either side has is to return to the negotiating table."

Mitzna, who accused Sharon of leading Israel to disaster with his militaristic policies, was an admirer of the Oslo model. This did not necessarily please his colleagues. Barak, whose overtures were spurned by PA President Yasser Arafat at the Camp David summit in July 2000, cautioned Mitzna that he had drifted too far to the left and should draw the party closer to the centre. That advice was seconded by Ben-Eliezer.

Mitzna, however, was convinced that he could succeed where Barak had failed. And he believed that the Labor party had served as a fig leaf for Sharon's hawkish policies during the period of the unity government.

In outlining his views, Mitzna said he was prepared to resume talks at the point at which they had ended in Taba in 2001. Sharon vehemently opposed this strategy. Within this framework, Mitzna advocated separation – a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and much of the West Bank if talks with the Palestinians floundered. Mitzna argued that Israel's re-occupation of the Palestinian autonomous areas, undertaken last spring after a spate of suicide bombings, was basically counterproductive.

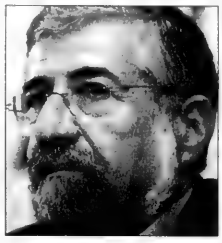
Like Rabin, but unlike Sharon, Mitzna thought that Jewish settlements in the territories were not in Israel's interests. As prime minister, he often said, he would immediately evacuate all settlements in Gaza and, eventually, a great many in the West Bank, resettling their residents inside Israel.

As for Jerusalem, Mitzna said he would keep only Jewish neighbourhoods.

Condemning Arafat as a "terrorist," Mitzna said he was "irrelevant." But in a sharp departure from Sharon's wholesale dismissal of Arafat, Mitzna concluded that Israel had no alternative but to regard him as an interlocutor. As he put it, "We must speak with whatever leadership the Palestinians choose."

But Mitzna's acceptance of Arafat as a partner was greeted with outright skepticism, if not hostility, in certain Labor circles. Shimon Peres, the foreign minister in Sharon's unity government, countered that Arafat was not reliable and that Israel should bypass him. Barak, who supported Ben-Eliezer in last November's party primary, warned that negotiations could not be resumed as long as Arafat played an executive role.

Mitzna predicted that his policies, which were endorsed by Palestinian leaders, would attract voters from the left and the centre. But he was dead wrong, having misjudged the public mood, which had shifted rightward since the dissolution of the Camp David summit and the eruption of the second intifadah.



Amram Mitzna

Yet Mitzna's abysmal showing in last January's election was not entirely his fault. Labor's participation in Sharon's government had, for all intents and purposes, blurred its identity, compromised its principles and alienated supporters, some of whom defected to Meretz, a party to the left of Labor.

It was not hard to understand why they were disappointed. Over Labor misgivings, Sharon gutted what was left of Oslo, Labor's baby. Sharon abandoned talks with the Palestinians, tolerated rogue settlements and re-occupied Palestinian towns.

Nevertheless, after the last election, Ben-Eliezer and others urged Mitzna to renew the alliance with Likud. Mitzna agreed to discuss the matter, but before his meeting with Sharon, he set out conditions: Israel would have to pull out of Gaza, relocate isolated settlements and disband illegal ones, channel funds away from settlements and finish the security fence along the length of the West Bank.

By all accounts, Mitzna emerged from the meeting in shock. Sharon – who has portrayed himself as a moderate, at least in comparison to his Likud rival Benjamin Netanyahu – subjected Mitzna to a didactic lecture on the strategic importance of settlements, such as Nitzarim and Hebron, that Mitzna considered expendable.

Apart from this disagreement, the chemistry between them left much to be desired. During the 1982 war in Lebanon, Mitzna temporarily resigned his commission after hearing that Sharon, the then-defence minister, had allowed Israel's Christian Lebanese allies into the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps, where they inflicted a massacre on their Palestinian occupants.

The abject failure of Mitzna's talks with Sharon had severe consequences. The Labor party was thereafter torn by mounting dissension over Mitzna's policies and leadership style. The acrimonious situation was exacerbated by newspaper stories suggesting that Mitzna was reconsidering his future and that the majority of Labor Knesset members were disenchanted with him.

Tensions reached newer heights in mid-March when Ben-Eliezer released a plan, adopted by the party, ruling out unilateral measures, from a withdrawal from Gaza to the dismantlement of outlying settlements.

Mitzna's increasingly precarious hold on power was loosened still more when Barak again accused Mitzna of "dragging" the party too far to the left.

In the days prior to Mitzna's resignation, the rhetoric escalated as two former cabinet ministers cast aspersions on him. Excoriating him with faint praise, Haim Ramon said that, while Mitzna was "a serious, good and responsible person," he was essentially unfit to lead the party. Matan Vilnai disclosed he would challenge Mitzna for the leadership.

Mindful of the brewing revolt, Mitzna preempted his critics by resigning. But in a show of defiance, he defended his policies.

Peres, who has the dubious distinction of never having won an election and who has never hesitated to pursue the perks of office, lobbied strenuously to succeed Mitzna. But this was not to be.

Dalia Itzik, the former minister of trade and industry, was chosen last week to replace Mitzna on an interim basis. A new leader will be elected in July.

But it is doubtful whether even a relatively fresh face can reinvigorate the creaking and decrepit Labor party.

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Job Requirements and a Few Details:

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2) Candidate must have a University degree
3) Candidate should have advocacy, policy, and research experience in the area of social justice issues
4) Candidate needs to have good managerial/organizational skills, excellent communication (both oral and written) skills
5) The position is a 2-day/week position (approx. 12-14 hours/week) and reports directly to the Executive Director of the CCRJ

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Jewish Life

Jerusalem chief rabbi mourned

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

The election of the two new chief rabbis of Israel on the days prior to Pesach did not overshadow the news of the passing of the chief Sephardi rabbi of Jerusalem.

Rabbi Chalom Messas passed away on Shabbat Hagadol. Rabbi Messas had held this post for the last 25 years. Prior to that, he was the chief rabbi of Morocco, and prior to that, the chief rabbi of Casablanca, a posting he had at the relatively young age of 36.

Rabbi Messas was a child prodigy, a student of the fabled Rebbi Yeshua Berdugo and a prolific author. In his many books, Rabbi Messas expressed staunch support for North African customs (minhag Magreb).

When I was received at his home in Jerusalem, I remember his admonishment to me: never veer from the rulings of the Shulchan Aruch. Rabbi Messas would nevertheless defend the prevalent customs even if they did not reflect the precise meaning of the Shulchan Aruch. He considered one of his life's most important tasks the publishing of manuscripts and out-of-print works of Moroccan interest.

There are in the world today over half a million Jews of Moroccan descent, making them the single largest sub-group of Jewry worldwide. In the past 50 years, the Moroccan community has made a major migration. Rabbi Messas presided during the glorious days of the community, watched its numbers dwindle and eventually rejoined them in Jerusalem.

In 1978, Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef invited Rabbi Messas to head the newly vacant position of Jerusalem's Chief Rabbinate. Not wanting to desert a sinking ship, Rabbi Messas deferred his decision to the Lubavitcher Rebbe of blessed memory. The Rebbe responded by congratulating Rabbi Messas on this new posting.

His departure, however was not that simple. Rabbi Messas, as an employee of the monarch, tactfully requested the king's permission to "retire" in Israel. The king acquiesced, saying he understood his wishes to be the rabbi of Al Quds.

On the last days before his departure, the Messas home was busy with many a courtesy call from all levels of government, community, mosque and church.

On the actual day of his departure, a large contingent gathered to sadly bid him farewell. In the midst of this event, the royal motorcade, with motorcycles, national flags and the king's personal insignia, pulled up to Rabbi Messas's home. A touching honour, everyone thought. The king was sending his personal vehicles to take the Messas family to the airport. And then silence spread as his royal majesty, King Hassan, himself came out of the sedan. The king rode with Rabbi Messas to the airport, and there asked him for his blessing for that last time on Moroccan soil.

This was a moment of historical proportions, for it captured the conclusion of the Jewish Moroccan Diaspora. Here was a king allowing a people to go, not only with his blessings, but indeed requesting theirs. A people whose presence on this land preceded that of the king's own Alaouite dynasty.

The history of the Jews in Morocco, with a few exceptions, was by and large tranquil. Today, the Jews of Morocco, unlike most other Jews of Arab lands, bear their Moroccan heritage with pride and speak warmly of their monarch. When we choose to recall the blessings of the memory of Rabbi Chalom Messas, his gentleness, his piety, scholarship and leadership, part of that memory encompasses the realization that a glorious era has ended.

A triple-decker family history

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

What does it take to produce a three-volume family history that extends to nearly 900 pages?

In the case of Mildred Wyman, who recently self-published a triple-decker family history titled *A Forest of Trees*, it has taken eight years of intensive research and writing, dozens of taped interviews with relatives, and the editorial discipline to trim many extraneous stories from the finished project to prevent it from filling four, five or even six volumes.

"I cut out an awful lot because I was afraid it was impeding the flow," admits Wyman, a Torontonian who was born here 85 years ago this month and who has always had a strong interest in family history.

"I have a very great need to know. I was always listening when my relatives told stories. I was a source of irritation to them because I always asked questions. My children and grandchildren didn't want to hear these stories any more, but I felt they had to hear them to know who they are. I wanted them to have the feeling that they came from somewhere."

She began the project after her husband Max Wyman, a leather-goods manufacturer, died in 1994. With the intrepid instincts of a novice, she began embellishing the plain facts in ways that historians aren't supposed to do, inventing scenes, dialogue and novelistic crescendos of feeling for many of her long-dead ancestors and relatives. The results seemed to resemble fiction as much as non-fiction.

Her writing hand was guided by the stories she'd heard countless times from her mother and uncles, she says, adding that she replayed tapes of interviews with relatives until their voices and tales became as familiar to her as her own.

"I have to say in all honesty that I had to twist scenes and dialogue, but what I said happened really happened," she explains, the way a novelist will admit to telling little lies in order to convey a bigger truth.

A professional writer who saw her manuscript told her she was writing social history, not a novel, and encouraged her to continue. If so, she had also unwittingly stumbled upon "creative non-fiction," an emerging genre that authors such as Elaine Kalman Naves and Nomi Eve have employed to such good effect in *Journey to Vaja* and *The Family Orchard*, respectively.

But Wyman wisely recognized the limited commercial appeal of her own opus and published only 100 sets, mostly for family members.

Roughly speaking, Volume I tells the story of her family, the Zabazinskys, from their experiences in 19th-century Vitebsk to their arrival in Canada in 1907; Volume II traces her husband's family, the Sachs, from southern Russia to New York's Lower East Side and then to Toronto; and Volume III begins after the two families come together after her marriage in 1950.

The book's appeal is broadened with its accounts of local Jewish history, such as the Christie Pits riot and the pro-Nazi gangs in the Beaches. Wyman also tells of her Cabbagetown upbringing and her experiences as proprietor of Wyman's Variety Store, opposite Harbord Collegiate. But it's clear that *A Forest of Trees*, which lacks even an index of surnames to guide strangers through its sometimes dense undergrowth, is intended primarily as a family keepsake.

Now that the work is published – Wyman is scheduled to read from it at Israel's Judaica on June 11 and at the Toronto Jewish Book Fair in November – does she have any other writing projects planned?

"I used to say 'Not on your life,'" she laughs. "But now I'm beginning to feel an itch."

Jewish Life

Jewish commitment in different worlds

Books
Bernard Baskin

***Saving the Lost Tribe: The Rescue and Redemption of the Ethiopian Jews*, by Asher Naim, Random House, $39.95.**

Jews have lived in Ethiopia for nearly 3,000 years. They were called by others Falashas ("strangers or outsiders" in Ge'ez, a Semitic language once spoken in ancient Abyssinia), and by themselves Beta Israel (in Ge'ez, "House of Israel"). They were cut off from mainstream Judaism for many centuries but maintained their faith despite drought, famine and tribal war.

Their religion is based on the Torah in Ge'ez translation. They do not, however, possess the Oral Law and know nothing of talmudic teachings.

Before 1948, about 8,000 Ethiopian Jews immigrated to Israel. In 1984, an additional 8,000 of them, mainly from the Gondar area, were airlifted to Israel from the Sudan.

In May 1991, with their country exploding around them in a brutal civil war, some 14,000 of these black Jews were safely airlifted to Jerusalem by the Israeli Air force over the course of 25 hours. This astonishing rescue operation is here related in all of its exciting and vivid detail by the then-Israeli ambassador to Ethiopia. This is the first English language book on Operation Solomon by an insider. The complex rescue involved the co-operation of the Israeli government, negotiations with Ethiopia's savage dictator and the frantic raising of millions of dollars from American sources.

This account is more a personal memoir than a detailed history, and it is infused with compassion and affection for a long-suffering but courageous and devoted people.

When the United Nations passed its infamous resolution that equated Zionism with racism, the author pointed out to a UN committee that for "centuries, black Africans had been taken from the continent in shackles on slave ships. Now, for the first time in African history, black Africans left Africa for freedom. In Israel, they were received as a lost tribe that had returned home."

He continued, "Therefore, Mr. Chairman, UN Resolution 3374 that equates Zionism with racism is a lie, preposterous and unjustified, and I call on it to be repealed for the sake of the United Nations' honour, and for truth and justice."

A vote of 111 countries for and 25 against repealed Resolution 3374. It was the first – and the only – UN resolution ever to be repealed.

This is an absorbing and inspiring work that chronicles hope and redemption in the face of chaos and despair.

* * *

***Different Horizons*, by Joseph L. Applebaum, $14.95 (paperbound).**

Born in 1933 to the only Jewish family in the village of Lancaster, Ont., amiable Joseph Applebaum had no difficulty in making and keeping friends.

He became a bar mitzvah in nearby Montreal, and left school in Grade 10 (years later he graduated from Concordia University) in order to enlist in the Canadian army. After a brief training course in Japan, he saw action in Korea. Broadened and matured by his three years of army service, he remained dedicated, through the years, to the military ideal.

In this unpretentious memoir the author comes across as optimistic, devoted to his family, hard-working, patriotic and a proud and committed Jew. Especially noteworthy are his strongly held opinions on a variety of topics: Canadian politics and politicians, Swiss anti-Semitism, Quebec separation and Jewish-Christian relations.

On the question of Quebec language laws he writes, "To penalize a group of people in Quebec that have lived there for over 200 years by telling them where their language is to be used and where not, seems to be worse than dictatorial indiscretion since it is outright evil and will eventually return to haunt those that brought these laws about."

The author awaits the time when the "transition from preaching religion as it is, to teaching religion as a means of understanding life, its rewards, its benefits and its downside will be the real turning point for mankind."

This honest and many-sided life story is available in Jewish book stores in Toronto, Montreal and western Canada.

Summer camps & the Net

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

May is here, and in a few short weeks students will close their schoolbooks and transform into campers piling into Jewish camps across North America. For parents (and kids) gearing up for summer camp, the Internet is a marvelous resource for facts and tips. But even for families whose camping days are long gone, the World Wide Web is also the repository of wonderful summertime recollections. Today, Jewish camp facts and memories.

How do you know if the camp you are considering will be right for your child? The Association of Jewish Sponsored Camps has surveyed its 26 affiliated camps. You can check its Web site for information about such matters as Jewish ritual observance, emphasis on sports and arts and staffing ratios. **[http://www.jewishcamps.org/y_camp.asp]**

Check out *Moment* magazine for more camp listings. **[http://www.momentmag.com/resources/campguide.html]** There are plenty of "Jewish camps" out there and the differences between them can be quite significant. Steve Eller, director of Maryland's Beth Tfiloh Camps says there are seven key aspects to look out for when choosing a Jewish camp:

- general programming
- special programming
- staffing
- dietary considerations
- Hebrew language
- Israeli culture
- campers themselves

As for the Beth Tfiloh camps, while they hold Shabbat services and are "kosher-style," executive director Ed Cohen says parents who want their children to have a strong Jewish camping experience should send their kids elsewhere. **[http://www.jewz.com/alef/whats_jewish_camp.phtml]**

The *Cleveland Jewish News* has a wonderful summer camp resource. Its Web site has articles about choosing the right camp, countering cliques at camp, bully-proofing your child at camp and a counsellor's ten commandments for creating a safe and fun environment at camp. **[http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/special/camp]**

For kids lucky enough to get away for the summer, it's not unusual to find summer camps that specialize in waterfront activities or drama or even computers. But this summer, a new Jewish camp is focusing on Jewish genealogy. Forty 11th- and 12th-graders will participate in two two-week sessions run by the Center for Jewish History and the American Jewish Historical Society. They'll learn about Jewish immigration to America, how to conduct genealogical research and create a project about their own family history. **[http://www.cjh.org/family/samberg.cfm]**

When Rob Dixter went off to Jewish camp at the age of 11, he wasn't preoccupied with genealogy or swimming or even baseball. Rob set his sights much higher. He wanted to meet his future wife while at camp – just like dad did. So for Rob, it became the summer of Mindy. "Mindy Vanksberg, I said. Mindy Vanksberg. Mindy Vanksberg. I thought if I said her name three times it might help me to get over the shock that a nice Jewish girl thought I was cute." To find out if Mindy was Rob's bashert, read his article at GenerationJ.com. **[http://www.generationj.com/archive/relationships/camp.html]**

For other camp reminiscences, look at the entries at the Camp Kewanee Memories Web site. Camp Kewanee was located in Parksville in New York's Catskill mountains. The camp may no longer exist, but it has left a wonderful impression on a generation of campers. **[http://www.geocities.com/campkewanee/memories.html]**

Camp is not only a time for kids to build memories, it's also a time for parents to let loose. But as Pearl Salkin found out, parents usually end up downgrading your dreams. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?A32822C54]** "I did get the chance to do some daring deeds – I added two easy-listening stations to my car radio's presets, and I served chopped liver as an appetizer one night, acts that would have elicited condemnation from the kids. And I went into my recipe file and put together some grown-up menus. But after investing all those hours preparing a special dinner for my husband and then watching him wolf it down in record time, I decided we'd eat out or order in pizza until the kids came home.

"The three weeks Will was away flew by. When he returned home from camp, he seemed older; while he was away, my husband and I seemed younger. You can't put a price on that."

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Guest Voice

Working for the rights of all Israelis

In response to Gerald Steinberg's May 8 CJN column, in which he criticized the New Israel Fund for its involvement with groups that he says support human and civil rights but also promote the delegitimization of Israel, the NIF submitted the following article.

By YORAM PERI

The past 2½ years have been a challenging time for Israel and for all of us who care deeply about the country, its security and its democracy. It is a time when Jews all around the world – in Israel, and abroad in Canada, Europe, the United States and elsewhere – are united in our deep concern for the future and fate of our families, friends and the State of Israel itself.

In my role with the NIF, and together with my Israeli colleagues on the board, I have worked hard to ensure that, even at this difficult moment, we focus on the immediate issue of Israel's security and on the more difficult question of what kind of Israel will survive when this current crisis has passed.

The New Israel Fund's mission is to strengthen Israel's democracy and to ensure that it is a state based on values fundamental to Judaism and democracy: justice, freedom and equality. We take our inspiration directly from Israel's Declaration of Independence, which says, "The State of Israel… will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex."

We believe deeply in a strong Israel, but we also believe that Israel's strength derives not only from its ability to defend itself militarily but also from its commitment to democratic values. To us, even at a time when Israel is fighting for its security, it must maintain its fundamental commitment to democratic principles if it is to fulfil the vision of its founders and its prophets.

Israel can be neither a democracy nor a true Jewish homeland if it denies a minority of its citizens their rights on the basis of their ethnicity. For centuries, that was the fate of the Jewish people themselves as they faced laws banning land ownership in Europe or under Czarist regimes in Russia. It was precisely to escape such racism and discrimination that Jews began to return to Palestine in the late 19th century.

Unfortunately, for 54 years, this country has done at best a poor job of providing those minority citizens with equal or remotely equal services and benefits. To better understand, one simply has to visit an Arab Israeli school that receives one-third of the funding of a Jewish school, or the unrecognized Bedouin villages in the Negev that function without sewers or electricity, let alone schools and health clinics. Or review the national development budget, which consistently allocates to Arab citizens four per cent of each shekel spent on a Jewish citizen.

For 24 years, NIF has been the premier philanthropic organization promoting equality, fairness and justice for all of Israel's citizens, especially those populations that have traditionally been at a disadvantage: Arabs, women, children, Mizrachim, new immigrants and non-Orthodox Jews. With our help, a thriving non-profit sector advocates today for the rights of many facing discrimination in Israel, from new immigrants to the disabled to the underprivileged seeking a road out of poverty to communities in need, such as battered women and rape victims.

NIF is dedicated to reversing years of discrimination and mistreatment of the Arab minority in Israel. Our work is always positive and directed toward the realization of shared aspirations of justice, and motivated by the belief that not only is it the morally right thing to do, it is in our self-interest. A healthy democracy that treats all its citizens fairly and equally is the surest way to ensure the long-run strength of the Jewish homeland in Israel. And that is a goal I know we all share as Jews – here in Israel and in North America as well.

Yoram Peri is immediate past president of the New Israel Fund and chair of its international council. He also heads the Herzog Institute for Media, Politics and Society at Tel Aviv University.

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Author Coloroso to speak about what bullying is

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

At what point does schoolyard teasing turn into taunting? When do bullied kids become victims? And why do innocent bystanders become willing accomplices?

Barbara Coloroso, educator and author of the bestseller *Kids Are Worth It*, argues that when bullying is ignored by parents and teachers, a cycle of violence is tolerated that can have long-term effects on an entire school population.

Barbara Coloroso

Coloroso, who writes a monthly column for the *Globe and Mail* titled Family Matters, has recently published a book called *The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander*. She will discuss teenage bullying – what it is and what it isn't, as well as issues relating to her latest book, at a community wide non-denominational event on Wednesday, June 4, at Beth Tzedec Congregation at 8 p.m.

Bullying in schoolyards occurs once every seven minutes and can be physical, verbal or psychological, varying from direct and face to face to indirect in the form of gossip, according to a York University research project conducted by the LaMarsh Centre for Research on Violence and Conflict Resolution.

Children who learn "to acquire power through aggression on the playground," can transfer those skills into their lives as adults. In extreme cases, it can lead to cases of "sexual harassment, date violence, gang attacks, as well as marital, child and elder abuse," write Canadian professors Debra Pepler and Wendy Craig.

"Jewish day schools are not immune from the cycle of violence that affects other communities," Coloroso said in a phone interview.

"Any school that supports a sense of entitlement, the liberty to exclude and an intolerance to differences is fertile soil for bullying," she said.

Last year, a 13-year-old student at an American Jewish day school was severely beaten by five children at a sleepover party. When the bullying continued in the school, the parents of the bullied child filed charges against the bullies.

Coloroso said that eventually one child was expelled and one left the school. However, "the problem was never dealt with in an effective manner and longterm changes never took place.

"Private schools have an illusion that these things don't happen to them because their children are different," the noted parenting expert said.

> *'Any school that supports a sense of entitlement, the liberty to exclude and an intolerance to differences is fertile soil for bullying'*

However, her research indicates that children in private schools experience the same types of issues as do those in the public sector. The only difference is that "private schools feel they have a reputation to maintain and usually ask a targeted child to leave."

That doesn't solve anything because the cycle of violence continues and no one changes, Coloroso said.

Zero tolerance rules currently in place in schools are "zero thinking policies," Coloroso said.

"Such policies are about efficiency and finding fault, not about effective solutions for breaking the cycle of violence. What needs to be found is a social solution to this antisocial activity," she writes in her book.

Coloroso told *The CJN* that she believes in the importance of giving students, teachers and parents a common language to understand the difference between very strong assertive behaviour as opposed to aggressive conduct.

Teachers need to be aware of what bullying is and what it isn't and they need to learn to "never look away," she said.

When bullying occurs, schools need to implement anti-bullying procedures that allow the bullies and the bullied to meet, when they are ready, to resolve the problem together, Coloroso said. In addition, education programs need to be implemented that deal effectively with those children who simply stand by and watch.

"The benefits of teaching witnesses and bystanders to act with integrity when the burden is heavy" is clear. Giving the silent majority the tools to stand up to bullies teaches children to implement leadership skills they already have. In the end, schools raise caring, decent human beings, she said.

The event at Beth Tzedec is being hosted by the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. Tickets are $25. Book signings will take place before and after the event. For further information call 416-636-5984, ext. 350.

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Adath Israel Synagogue celebrates its centennial

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The Romanian immigrants who founded the small community of worshippers that would become Adath Israel Congregation probably never envisioned that membership would some day grow to 1,800 families, let alone that the synagogue would make its home in what was then countryside or that members would give up their Orthodox services and join the Conservative movement.

On June 22, Adath Israel will wrap up its centennial year with a gala boat cruise dinner. Other celebratory events over the past year included a lecture series that will conclude June 9 with *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wente, a cantorial concert attended by more than 1,200 people in November, youth programs and holiday events. Shabbat services May 31 will feature a children's choir reunion.

Among the artifacts collected and sorted by John Zeiler, centennial chair and a past congregational president, was a souvenir program from the First Roumanian Hebrew Congregation Adath Israel of Toronto's sixth annual bazaar in 1930.

"This is priceless," he said. "I just think that all of this is fascinating stuff." Even minute books recording the congregation's pre-World War I meetings survived, written in tidy Yiddish script.

Lifelong member Bea Solomon, secretarial assistant to Rabbi Erwin Schild, the synagogue's rabbi emeritus, has a family connection with Adath Israel dating back to her father's arrival in Canada almost exactly 100 years ago.

Max Wainberg, Solomon's father, "made sure as soon as he came that he met the few immigrants who were Romanian," she told *The CJN*.

"They used to meet [for services] in a room over a Turkish bath. He was very proud that he was part of it, and of course the most important thing was to establish a synagogue, so that whoever was here would be able to worship together and that the families stay together."

Over the years, said Solomon, the social aspect, along with worship, has meant a great deal to her close and extended family.

Zeiler said members rented their own premises for the first time in 1903 "after a painful process of collecting nickels and dimes."

After a few moves, they were able to buy two "cottages" on Centre Avenue, moving in 1911 to south Bathurst Street, home of the "Roumanishe shul," as it was commonly known, until the 1950s. Its first full-time spiritual leader was Rabbi Abraham Kelman, the congregation's first full-time spiritual leader and the older brother of Rabbi Joseph Kelman, rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

Solomon recalls childhood walks to the synagogue with her father, a merchant, and her participation in the congregation's first youth group in the 1930s.

She and her late husband Sam – whose father Abe was a life trustee of the synagogue – were married there in 1939. They met at a Ladies' Auxiliary bazaar when Bea was 12.

"I remember my mother baking, crocheting and selling items at the bazaars, and we as kids would help her. I would say the women played a tremendous role in raising money in order to build a beautiful synagogue. The biggest challenge then was the number of people. There were just a handful."

Even in 1956, when the congregation moved to its present location on Southbourne Avenue near Bathurst Street and Wilson Avenue, there were only 180 member families.

The following year, the synagogue became Conservative. "There was no opposition to that at all," recalled Rabbi Schild, "although there was some opposition to changing the name to just Adath Israel."

The move to Conservative Judaism reflected members' lack of adherence to Orthodox observance. In fact, when Rabbi Schild became spiritual leader in 1947, succeeding Rabbi Kelman, the congregation paid people to make up the daily minyan.

According to Rabbi Schild, the biggest change over the years has been from an "inward-looking" congregation to a community-minded one, with members who have become local Jewish community leaders.

Rabbi Steven Saltzman, who took over as spiritual leader in 1989 when Rabbi Schild retired, said Adath Israel is a "traditional Conservative congregation committed to bringing our membership an authentic experience of Judaism based on the laws and teachings of our people.

"We do a full traditional service…We really do try and care for our membership and forge a community based on that caring, without compromising what we believe in."

Adath Israel's president, Mark E. Alter, 51, served as organizer of the shul's Sunday morning tfillin club for post-bar mitzvah boys as a teenager in the 1960s, and became involved again after he was married in the '70s.

The synagogue "seems to have carved out a niche" in the traditional Conservative community, he said. "We have a number of arms of the synagogue which are very active in keeping our programming at a very high level, and in keeping our services inspiring. I hope that it continues for another 100 years."

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Honouring the legacy of Rabbi Kirshenblatt

By RABBI AARON FLANZRAICH

Guest Voice

We have many common expressions that try to capture the essence of life. We say, "Life's a journey, travel light" and "Life is a journey, enjoy the ride." These phrases are ingrained in our culture and thought because we see and hear them frequently in newspapers and on television.

I agree that life is a journey. But in order to enjoy it, you don't have to travel light, and it's okay if the ride is a bit bumpy.

As spiritual leader of Beth Sholom Synagogue, it is my good fortune to be here because of the remarkable people who preceded me. One such man, Rabbi Jacob Mendel Kirshenblatt, died last year. The ember of his legacy is still very much felt here, in the chambers of our wonderful building and in the hearts and minds of many Canadians, because few who met this special man were left untouched.

Rabbi Kirshenblatt was born April 27, 1903, in the Polish town of Driltsh, the son of Golda and Zalman. His childhood had all of the markings of a traditional Polish Jewish life, but at age 16 it took a remarkable turn. He entered the Yeshiva of Lomza and continued his studies with the renowned European rabbinic great the "Chofetz Chaim" – Rabbi Meir Israel Kagan – at his yeshiva in Radun, Poland.

Wishing to complete his rabbinic studies, a young Mendel Kirshenblatt left for what was then Palestine and the newly established branch of the Lomza Yeshiva in Petach Tikvah. With little money, inadequate documents and faked identity cards, but with complete faith that God would bring him to where he wished to go, Mendel Kirshenblatt did indeed arrive. In 1929, 4 years after he left his native Poland, he became, at 26, Rabbi Jacob Mendel Kirshenblatt, and the world would soon become richer for it.

After contacting a brother in Toronto, he received a position in Welland, Ont. The following year, he met and married his wife Annie and became the rabbi of Glace Bay and Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia, where he served for nine years. During World War II, he served as a volunteer chaplain and met Rabbi David Monson, the founding rabbi of Beth Sholom.

After the war, and a small stint in Peterborough, Ont., Rabbi Kirshenblatt joined Rabbi Monson in the task of building a great Conservative shul in Toronto, what became Beth Sholom Synagogue. Their partnership was extraordinary. It was also uniquely Canadian – each of them had travelled throughout the country and abroad, and they both understood the remarkable diversity and needs of small and large Canadian communities.

This is the timeline of Rabbi Kirshenblatt's life, but it's not the reality of his life.

Raised and educated in Europe, ordained in Israel and having served his people with distinction in Canada, Rabbi Kirshenblatt's life story is the story of our people. He overcame immense obstacles and became a success because he never wandered from life's truest values.

How many were touched by him? How many were taught by him?

How many children who were considered "unreachable" arrived at his door, only to be reached at and taught? How did he do this? Not through divination. He did it with love.

Indeed, Rabbi Kirshenblatt had a well-earned reputation for being able to teach children their bar and bat mitzvah portions. In fact, he had taught many generations of the same families and he continued to teach children until shortly before his death. But he showed his real genius with children who were termed "problems" or "rebels." Armed with love, humility, scholarship, respect and care, Rabbi Kirshenblatt, or "Kirshy" as his many former students today still lovingly refer to him, won them all over. Few, if any, could stand up to an assault from this man's humanity.

Rabbi Kirshenblatt was trained in an old world rabbinic way, which was very uncommon in the realm of the "modern" North American rabbinate. He was a shochet (ritual slaughterer), a mohel, a ba'al koreh (Torah reader), a teacher and a bit of a chazzan to boot. He was also a legitimate scholar in his own right, having studied at the feet of some of the giants of European Jewry.

Beth Sholom to hold special ceremony on June 1

In a colloquial way, we might have referred to Rabbi Kirshenblatt as a "kol bo," meaning "all within." Such a moniker denotes a man of letters and experience, a man who can speak the word and law, and at the same time act on it. Need a brit milah? He could do it. Short of kosher meat? Not to worry, he could look after that, too. No one to read the Torah this Shabbat? He would do it. And on it went, as his skills and heart were able to match whatever demands were placed on them.

Luckily for us all, no matter how long Rabbi Kirshenblatt lived in our contemporary world, the real world of his faith, traditions, and scholarship kept him firmly where he was needed most.

June 1 at noon, we at Beth Sholom will honour his memory with an unveiling ceremony at his monument. The community is invited to attend to honour a future strengthened by his legacy.

Rabbi Flanzraich is spiritual leader of Beth Sholom Synagogue in Toronto.

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Jewish Toronto

Toronto couple reflects on Pesach in Israel

The Herczegs are Toronto residents who have long been active in Toronto's Jewish community. They are passionate about spending Pesach in Israel and wanted to share their experience with Jewish Toronto.
By Agnes and George Herczeg

We travel to Israel yearly, usually in April or May, because it is the nicest time of the year to enjoy the beauty of the country, the weather is most pleasant, and we are still able to leave the last bit of Canadian winter behind.

We think of Israel as the greatest achievement of the Jewish people in modern times. Coming from Europe, we understand the extraordinary meaning of the existence of a Jewish state, where people are first-class citizens in their own country and not simply a tolerated minority.

So, in spite of quiet disapproval from our friends, once again we left for Israel this year, as is the norm, during Hol Hamoed Pesach.

To our surprise, the plane was about 80% full. We found the arrival hall at Ben Gurion airport busy and bustling. We weren't exactly sure where everyone was coming from, but it made us feel good to see there were others who did not want to abandon this special country.

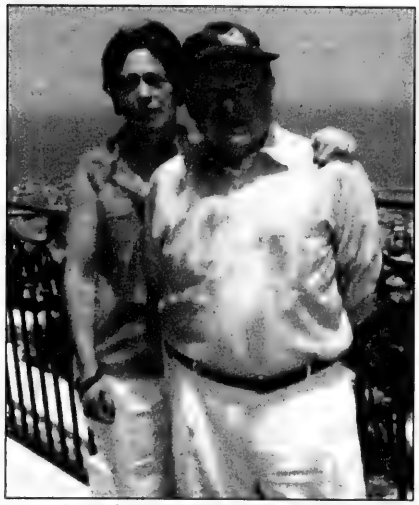
Our pre-arranged taxi driver was waiting for us outside with a nice smile and a big *baruch haba.*

It was late afternoon, the sun was shining gently and there was a lovely fresh breeze. The road was lined with beautiful palm trees, colourful spring flowers and plenty of traffic. As we exited the airport grounds, we noticed a shiny stone building under construction and were informed that it was the new terminal being built to connect train transportation from the city (and the rest of the country) to the airport. With all the difficulties facing this country, and with all that they are coping with here, there is still foresight for such growth. Amazing.

On our familiar ride north to Haifa, we noticed housing which wasn't there last year, complete with cheerful white stucco and red roof tiles surrounded by new trees.

Our taxi driver – an Iraqi Jew, asked us where we were from and when we said we said we were from Toronto, he asked how many Jews lived in Toronto When we answered: 'nearly 200,000' he seemed quite shocked. "Why don't they come here?" he asked. Whether he meant to visit or to immigrate, we weren't really sure, but he said it with a sincere naivete. All we could answer was: 'It's really hard to explain.'

Looking out of the taxi again on the left, the sun over the Mediterranean was just hitting the water and everything started to glow. What a beautiful sight.



Agnes and George Herczeg enjoying Pesach in Haifa.

Four generations of Chilean family make aliyah together

Maria Argushi, a 71-year-old native of Chile, moved to Israel recently with 28 other members of her family, including her seven children, 14 grandchildren, and four-month old great-grandson. All are currently in the good hands of the Jewish Agency for Israel's (JAFI) Tapuz Absorption Centre in Nahariya. A son and a daughter remained behind, but the family hopes that the stories from Israel will convince them to join the kinfolk.

The Argushi family pose in front of Israel's Tapuz Absorption Centre after making aliyah.

"Our large family from the city of Conception in Southern Chile was always very careful to lead a strict Jewish life," says Maria. "We have dreamed of coming to Israel our entire lives." For many years Maria's dream was put on the back burner after several of her brothers tried to get to Israel through Argentina, but a few succumbed to the hardships of the trek and died trying to cross the Andes Mountains. The others reached Buenos Aires, but never managed to get to Israel.

The newcomers are now beginning to explore Israel; last week they strolled along the beach in Nahariya. "The most amazing thing about Israel is the security," says Maria's son, Javier Torres. "In Chile everyone speaks about the war with Iraq that was threatening Israel and here everyone is so relaxed."

The Argushi family's journey to Israel, like others making aliyah - was funded by JAFI, through donations from the worldwide Jewish Federation network including UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Calling all Past Members of the 59th Boy Scout Troop

The Boy Scout movement began in Canada in 1914, with the formation of the first Jewish troop coming about seven years later. Now, the UJA Federation Ontario Jewish Archives is - as was the case with the Scouts' themselves - "prepared" to document and showcase their long and storied history.

The idea came about thanks to the suggestion of a volunteer at the Archives, Dr. Sid Wise, after he inquired about whether the Archives would be interested in records documenting the Jewish Boy Scouts.

"I told him that we'd be thrilled," says Ellen Scheinberg, director of the Ontario Jewish Archives. "Sid contacted Ada Greenwood, whose husband was one of the original members of the Boy Scouts. She donated over 30 photographs which document her husband Saul's experiences with the 59th Troop in the early 1920s."

In fact, the 59th Troop was the first Jewish boy scout troup in Ontario, established in 1921 in Toronto under the direction of Edgar Reason. During the early years, the troop met at the Orde Street School. In 1922, a summer camp was opened for the Jewish scouts from this troop.

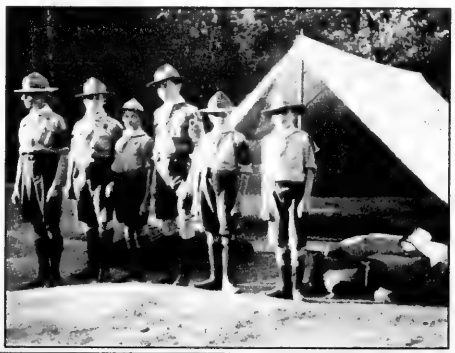
Camp Tamarack, as it was called, provided the boys with an opportunity to leave the city and learn new outdoor skills. The camp operated until 1972.

"After Mr. Reason passed away in 1956, leadership of the troop was transferred to Stanley G. Wilde," says Scheinberg. "As the Jewish community moved westward and north, a new site for cubs and scouts was needed. While the troop had met at the Clinton Street School, during the 1930s to 1950s, the Hillcrest School became another meeting spot after the community began to move north. Over the years, Jewish scout troops as well as wolf cub packs emerged, serving hundreds and later thousands of Jewish youth in Toronto."

Shortly after Dr. Wise got the ball rolling, the idea took on a life of its own as another volunteer, Dr. Martin Wolfish (who had been a member of the 59th Troop) became interested in finding more documentation relating to the Troop. Dr. Wolfish, in fact, donated a videotape showing scenes of the 59th Troop's camp, Camp Tamarack, during the summer of 1943. Through his involvement, more people came forward with material documenting the early days of the Jewish Scouts.

"These archival treasures provide a rare and limited glimpse at Jewish scouting life during the 1920s and 1940s," says Scheinberg. "The Ontario Jewish Archives is asking readers of the Canadian Jewish News, who were members of the 59th Troop, to consider donating any records that they have to us in order to create a more comprehensive and complete picture of the Jewish scouting movement in Toronto."

For more information, or to donate archival material, please contact Ellen Scheinberg at 416.635.2883 ext. 187 or e-mail Dr. Martin Wolfish at mgwolfish@aol.com.



Pictured left: The 59th Troop was the first Jewish boy scout troop in Ontario, established in 1921 in Toronto.

Jewish Toronto

Bregman takes the reins of UJA Federation's WC&A

Barbara Bregman

When listening to Barbara Bregman - the newly installed Chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy (WC&A) - speak about her goals for WC&A, her passion is easy to detect.

"It is a privilege for me to lead Women's Campaign and Advocacy in its life-saving, life-enriching work," she says. "The women's campaign gives us (women) a powerful and independent voice in the community. It also enables each of us to take responsibility for doing her share to promote Jewish life. I share UJA Federation's commitment to preserving sacred Jewish values."

The installation ceremony, at which outgoing chair Hinda Silber stepped down, featured past WC&A chair Lesley Binstock Offman as emcee and Holy Blossom Temple's Rabbi John Moscowitz as keynote speaker.

Bregman addressed her new Vice Chair, Fran Sonshine, as well as the new Executive and Board of WC&A.

"I am so fortunate to have a wonderful and impressive executive and board comprised of women of vision, and passion, each with their own unique and valuable talents. Fran Sonshine, my Vice Chair, is so talented, creative, and committed, and I sincerely thank her for coming on this incredible journey with me."

A long-time self-confessed "fan" of Women's Campaign & Advocacy, emphasis on "women," Bregman makes it clear that her goals as Chair of Women's Campaign are the same as those of Allan Silber and Richard Venn, Chairs of this year's UJA Federation Campaign 2004.

"We all have our own priorities, but who can argue that Israel is facing the most critical times of its history?" asks Bregman. "This is no longer just a war against terror, it's a war for survival and it's testing Israelis' resilience. The country's resources are being stretched to the limit. The economy is now worse than it's ever been before. We must show strength and flexibility in our support of Israel."

Bregman's appointment comes at a particularly troublesome time for Judaism, as anti-Semitism, often disguised as anti-Zionism, has reemerged.

"We must combat the rising tide of anti-Semitism, especially on college and university campuses," says Bregman. "This new wave of anti-Semitism is particularly alarming in that it is not only coming from right-wing lunatics, but from mainstream forums."

Bregman is quick to credit husband Michael's role as Chair, along with David Koschitzky, of UJA Federation's Campaign 2002, as one of her inspirations.

"Michael is my mentor, my role model, and sounding board," says Bregman. "His involvement in UJA Federation has resulted in my involvement in UJA as I witnessed first-hand the growth, satisfaction and rewards he reaped, as Chair of that campaign, that told me this was the right decision for me. This coming year should indeed be the best year of my life."

The newly installed executive of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy.
Absent from photo are: Tobie Bekhor; Ruth Ekstein; Helen Finder-Guttman; Carole Grafstein, C.M.; Sabrina Kerbel; Malka Lewittes; Judy Nyman; Robyn Ptasznik and Carole Sterling.

(l-r) Fran Sonshine, Vice Chair WC&A; Barbara Bregman, Chair and Hinda Silber, Immediate Past Chair WC&A.

Lesley Binstock Offman, WC&A Nominating Chair and emcee for the recent Installation, presents the evening's keynote speaker, Rabbi John Moscowitz of Holy Blossom Temple, with a token of appreciation.

UJA mission visits devasted community

Since the 1994 bombing of AMIA, Argentina's central Jewish community building, and the collapse of five Jewish-owned banks, life has not been the same for Argentina's Jews. The situation has become so precarious that since last year almost 5,000 families have contacted The Jewish Agency For Israel (JAFI) – UJA Federation's overseas partner – to inquire about making aliyah.

Twenty prominent members of Toronto's Jewish community recently participated in a fact-finding trip to Argentina, sponsored by UIA Federations Canada, to see how JAFI's efforts have helped Argentina's Jews, and to determine what other steps need to be taken.

"The mission was extremely educational and enlightening," says Wendy Eisen, Chair of the mission which began in Buenos Aires. "We felt quite fortunate to meet Jewish leaders halfway around the world, but it was also very hard to meet Argentinean Jews whose lives have been so dramatically altered by their country's corrupt political and dismal economic situation."

Halfway through the trip, the group made an unscheduled stop in nearby Uruguay, a country of 3 million, 20,000 of whom are Jews.

"The most gratifying part of this trip was seeing the look on the faces of the Jewish people of Argentina," says participant Harry Gorman. "They were happy to see us there. We met many of the people who are suffering so terribly under these horrific conditions. We spoke to those who had lost their jobs, some of whom had as many as five children and are struggling to survive."

"The trip was really two-fold," says Maxyne Finklestein, Executive V.P. of UIA Federations Canada. "We wanted to provide some of our leading donors with an overview of Jewish Argentina and the role JAFI has played in terms of assistance, as well as deciding where else we can help down the road. We decided to go to Uruguay because its economy is so dependent on Argentina, and with the hardships there, they've been suffering badly as well."

Yossi Tanuri, UJA Federation's Israeli Emissary (bottom centre), joins participants of the recent UIA Federations Canada fact-finding trip to Argentina at the AMIA building in Buenos Aires.

Some of the highlights of the fact-finding mission included a visit to Argentina's first Jewish congregation, as well as AMIA. Before returning home, participants attended a special briefing on Argentinean aliyah where they met with olim and students, followed by a special ceremony for Yom Hazikaron, Israel's memorial day.

Greater Toronto Area

IT'S A MITZVAH: Toronto Heschel School held its first-ever Mitzvah Day earlier this month. Among the 400 participants were Michelle Friedlich-Pollock and her daughter Sarah Pollock, left, planting a "mitzvah garden;" and Jake Rotman with mom Michelle, preparing gift bags for patients at the Hospital for Sick Children. Other projects designed to "help repair the world" included hauling garbage out of Westgate Ravine and packing food at the North York Harvest Food Bank.

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Monday, June 16, 2003

7:30 p.m. Beth Tzedec Synagogue
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Guest Speaker: Solly Kaplinski
International Relations - Yad Vashem, Jerusalem

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Funky fundraiser celebrates life

Raising money to support research and patient care at The Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Tumour Centre is the focus of this year's fundraiser, Bell Bottom Bash, taking place on May 29 at Toronto's Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex, Exhibition Place.

Bell Bottom Bash is a '70s-themed party featuring disco dancing at a Studio 54-style disco lounge recreated by designer Nicholas Pinney; '70s entertainment including a live band and a retro-DJ; '70s impersonators; go-go dancers; roller skaters, and dance coaches to get the party rockin'.

Classic '70s fashions, from funky platforms and frayed jeans, to vintage '70s couture, and groovy hairstyles, will be featured.

Event organizers aim to exceed last year's 600-plus guest list and net more than $500,000 through the support of corporate sponsorships, including Cott Corporation, and David and Stacey Cynamon.

Money will also be raised from the over 100 silent auction items, the live auction, and ticket sales that begin at $150 per ticket.

"Bell Bottom Bash is a celebration of life," said Nancy Pencer, president of The Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Trust.

"People will be coming together to enjoy a fabulous party, while at the same time, raising greatly needed funds for The Brain Tumour Centre."

Establishing The Gerry & Nancy Pencer Brain Tumour Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital was the idea of Gerry Pencer, former CEO of Cott Corporation.

Today, The Pencer Centre is Canada's most comprehensive brain tumour facility, revolutionizing the way patients are diagnosed, treated, educated, and supported throughout their illness.

"These efforts will keep my husband's dream alive, and make a difference in the quality of life of people living with brain tumors," said Nancy Pencer.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, call the Bell Bottom Bash hotline at 416-923-2999.

Israel Cancer Research Fund holds annual gala

The annual gala of the Israel Cancer Research Fund (ICRF) will honour physician and cancer researcher Robert Bell and travel agent Sara Pachter.

At the event, which will take place at the Sheraton Centre on May 29, Bell will receive the ICRF scientific award for his contribution to the medical community and for his work in cancer research. Pachter will receive the ICRF humanitarian award for her contributions to the Toronto Jewish community and for her contribution to tourism and travel to Israel.

Dr. Robert Bell

The evening will be dedicated to Carol Rose, who lost her battle with cancer last year.

Entertainment will be provided by jazz musicians Cleo Laine and John Dankworth.

Bell, 52, was born in Wales and earned his medical degree at McGill University. He is professor of surgery, division of orthopedics, at University of Toronto; co-director of the university musculoskeletal oncology unit at Mount Sinai Hospital; and an honorary lecturer at the University of Western Ontario. Since July 2000, he has been vice-president and chief operating officer of Princess Margaret Hospital.

His own research has been in the field of bone and soft tissue tumours, the class of tumour that afflicted Terry Fox. He has published many papers relating to orthopedic oncology, as well as a book, *A Clinical Guide to Primary Bone Tumours*.

Bell and his team of investigators have recently won a grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for their interdisciplinary health research team project in musculoskeletal neoplasia.

Edmonton-born Pachter, 87, began leading tours to Israel in 1959, after watching an impromptu performance by the Israeli Imbal dancers. She has led more than 8,000 people, on 154 trips to the Jewish state. She has worked for the Fisher-Fremont Travel Agency since 1962.

Sara Pachter

Pachter and her late husband Harry volunteered for the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, Boys Town Jerusalem, the Navy League Society, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Hamilton, UNICEF, State of Israel Bonds and B'nai Brith. She has been honoured by El Al, Air Canada, the Israel Government Tourist Office, B'nai Brith Women International, and State of Israel Bonds.

The ICRF is the largest private funder of cancer research in Israel, supporting projects in some 22 hospitals and institutions. It is one of the few organizations that offers grants to junior scientists who often have no access to research monies.

For more information, call 416-487-5246.

STUDENTS REMEMBER: Middle school students at Leo Baeck Day School led a moving commemoration service for Yom Hashoah with poetry readings, poetry and candlelighting concluding with Hatikvah to remember the six million whose lives were taken in the Shoah and all victims of war and terrorism in Israel and elsewhere. Seen here (from left) Daniella Porat, Jaclyn Small and Samantha Chait.

Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, Congregation Beth Torah, the Danforth Jewish Circle and Congregation Darchei Noam invite you to an all-night study and celebration of Torah.

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The Sacred of the "In-Between"	*Rabbi Tina Grimberg, Congregation Darchei Noam*
Jewish Stories from Sinai to Eglinton	*Debbie Gilbert, Congregation Darchei Noam*
The Relevancy of Revelation	*Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Kolel*
Ruth: Messege In the Bibliodrama	*Paula Baruch, Congregation Beth Torah*
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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, May 26 , is deadline for June 5 issue and Monday, June 2, is deadline for June 12. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829, or e-mail, rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, May 22

YIDDISH LOVE SONGS

Naomi Bell continues her series on Yiddish folksongs with a musical lecture describing the many faces of love, 11 a.m., Holy Blossom Temple. Call 416-789-3291, ext. 238 for more information.

COLORECTAL CANCER

The Living with Colorectal Cancer support group for patients and caregivers meets at the Canadian Cancer Society, 333 Wilson Ave., west of Bathurst St., 7-9 p.m. Call 416-638-0771.

WOMEN IN ISRAEL

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am continuing education spring lecture series continues with Women's role in Israeli Society, with **Maya Goldenberg**, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. No charge. Call 416-633-5500.

Friday, May 23

GLICK MUSIC II

Musical tribute to **Srul Irving Glick**, Erev Shabbat service, 8 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El. Featuring the Temple Emanu-El Choir and Cantor Anna Trubashnik.

Sunday, May 25

GLICK MUSIC II

An evening of chamber music dedicated to the memory of **Srul Irving Glick**, featuring eight musicians, takes place at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 8 p.m. Tickets are $25, with proceeds going to perpetuate the performance of Glick's works. For tickets and information, call 416-221-3433, ext. 0.

JEWISH FOLK CHOIR

Jewish Folk Choir's 77th annual spring concert conducted by **Alexander Veprinsky**, features *Dos Nay Lid*, a klezmer work by composer **Milton Barnes**. 3 p.m., Lawrence Park Collegiate. Tickets $20; seniors, students $16; unwaged $10; children under 12 free. For details, 416-489-7681 or www.winchevskycentre.org/choir.html.

LET'S CELEBRATE

Beit Rayim Synagogue and Hebrew School presents Let's Celebrate L'Chaim, a fashion show fundraiser for the synagogue, 7 p.m. Tickets $15 adults, $10 children, $25 for family of 4 or more. Call 905-770-7639, ext. 31 or **Carlie** 647-296-0491 to purchase tickets.

TRUTH ABOUT DATING

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel in conjunction with the intersynagogue Singles presents **Anne Balaban**, who will speak on The Truth About Dating, for singles 35+. Brunch, 11:30 a.m., $10 if prepaid by noon May 23 or $15 at the door. Call **Nilly**, 416-635-5340.

Monday, May 26

JEWISH WISDOM

Rabbi Alexander Seinfeld, presents The Art of Amazement: Discover Judaism's Forgotten Spirituality, Sharei Tefillah Congregation, $5 admission at the door.

Tuesday, May 27

RIVERDALE SHUL

The Spirituality and Jewish Identity series at the Riverdale Shul continues with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, 7:30 p.m. Call 416-826-4539.

JEWISH CHAMBER CHOIR

Annual concert of Lachan, the Toronto Jewish Chamber Choir, directed by **Cantor Benjamin Maisner,** features works by Canadian, Israeli, American and Japanese composers. Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles W., 8 p.m. Tickets $20 available at door and in advance. Call 416-782-3214.

Continued on page 23

OPEN HOUSE DATE
Sunday, June 1
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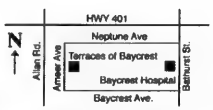

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Continued from page 22

ADULT CLASSES
Information evening at Beth Tzedec Congregation for the Florence Melton Adult Mini School, 7:30 p.m. Meet teachers and hear a model lesson.

Wednesday, May 28

PIRKEI AVOT
Beth Tzedec Congregation continues its series of lectures on the Ethics of the Fathers. **Jim Diamond** will speak on David and Jonathan: The Consummate Love, 7:30 p.m. Call 416-781-3511.

FIRST KINGS OF ISRAEL
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue continuing education lecture series about the first kings of Israel, with **Prof. Rachael Turkienicz**, discusses David, the Beloved. 8 p.m., free. Call 416-633-3838.

FUTURE OF JUDAISM
Adath Israel Congregation's adult study committee presents **Rabbi David Hartman**, who will talk on the Significance of Israel for the Future of Judaism, 7:45 p.m.

ADULT GET-TOGETHER
Mature Adult Get-Together Group of Kehillat Shaarei Torah Synagogue presents **Dr. Morris Moscovitch**, who will speak on Memory Across the Lifespan for Faces, Words and Events, 8 p.m. No charge. Call 416-229-2600.

GENEALOGY SOCIETY
The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) holds its monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayin Synagogue. Speaker is **Lisa Foucault**, senior conservator, Archives of Ontario. $3 non-members.

Thursday, May 29

FORGET HRT
Learn about balancing your body the natural way. Herbalist **Angela Harris** speaks about natural treatments for PMS, menopause, infertility and other women's health issues, at an evening presented by Davida Chapter, Toronto Hadassah-WIZO. To reserve, call **Michelle**, 416-441-1463 or **Estelle**, 416-445-5237.

More News

JF&CS GROUPS
Groups on High Conflict Divorce, at the Lipa Green Building, and Developing a Successful Parenting Plan, at the Promenade office both start June 3. Call 416-638-7800.

ISRAEL DAY VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers needed for Israel Day Festival, June 8 at Mel Lastman Square. Call **Barbara Peters**, Canadian Zionist Federation, 416-633-3988 or czf@bellnet.ca.

FEMININE VOICES
Feminine Voices, a five-part series with **Chana Weisberg**, author, columnist. JRCC, 18 Rockford Rd., $18 for series. To register, call 416-222-7105, ext. 230.

ATLANTIC CITY TRIP
Adath Sholom Synagogue's Sisterhood invites everyone on a trip to Atlantic City, May 26-29. $389 per person. Kosher meals available. Call **Bunnie**, 416-633-9691.

SHAVUOT CELEBRATION
Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres., is holding a Shavuot dinner, followed by a Learn-a-Thon. Treats for kids and a Speaker's Program for adults on June 5. RSVP by June 1, 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

HEBREW SCHOOL
Ateret Shalom Hebrew School runs classes from kindergarten to Grade 7 and has a bar/bat mitzvah program that includes individual tutoring. Classes once or twice weekly at York Hill Elementary School. Affiliated with Board of Jewish Education. Principal **Joseph Klinger**; administrator, **Sadie Domb**. Carpool help available. Call 905-886-1457.

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch & Learn in Retirement presents **Morley Wolfe**, Wednesday, May 28, noon, who will speak on Ghettos and Hate. Bring your own dairy lunch; $1 fee for the program. Coffee, tea, cookies are served.

The Alliance of Jewish Seniors presents a forum examining causes of Canada's urban crisis, highlighting special problems in Toronto. May 22 at St. Lawrence Centre. Call AJS office 416-635-2860 for transportation and call **Derrell Dular**, 416-260-3429 for more information.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club is holding a Sunday dance on June 1, and Saturday dances May 24, June 7 and June 28. Casino Rama trips are planned for May 28, June 11, June 25; Dixie Mall Outlet, Sunday, June 8; Mary Kay make-up demonstration, June 12. Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open.

LZA Senior's theatre outing includes Stage West Dinner Theatre on June 12 to see *Sound of Music*. For more information call **Libby** 416-782-2059 or the office at 416-630-9444.

Miles Nadal JCC Good Age Club will hear a talk by naturopath, **Zorana Rose**, who will speak on naturopathic approaches to aging.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. May 27 will be a sing-a-long with **Yitzchak Argamon**.

Current events with **Joe Black**, Mondays, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. $1, all welcome.

Diabetes education and counselling provided by registered nurse and dietitian, Tuesdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. in the clinic room. Call **Alia**.

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Hashomer Hatzair and the Miles Nadal JCC present a new downtown Jewish teen group for students in Grade 7 and up. Sunday afternoons between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. The program is designed for youth and run by youth. Develop lifelong friendships. Discover Israel and Zionism. Learn about yourself and your roots. For details contact **Frances Enchin** or **Ora Merin**, 416-736-1339.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Lunch N'Learn, first Friday of each month, led by **Rabbi Moishe Stern** of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. Free. Bring your own lunch.

Cooking classes at the BJCC starting soon. Interested chefs, volunteers and participants please call. For details, call **Janet**, ext. 259.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR: Shirley Anne Haber was the honoree at Jewish Women International Toronto's annual Woman of the Year luncheon. Pictured, from left, are Woman of the Year chair Ethy Lebow, Haber, and JWI Toronto president Charlotte Lefler.

EL AL TRIP: After making tickets and passports, the junior kindergarten class of PlayLearn Preschool in Richmond Hill boarded on an "El Al plane" for a week-long "visit" in Israel, just in time for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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בס"ד

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May 31, 2003 Parshat Bamidbar

LOCATION	GUEST SPEAKER	TIME
B.A.Y.T.	Naomi Arram	5:00 p.m.
Congregation B'Nai Torah	Freida Woznica	6:15 p.m.
Yeshivat Or Chaim	Janice Rotman Goldstein	5:30 p.m.
Shaarei Tefillah	Hilda Weil	5:45 p.m.
Shaarei Shomayim	Dr. Steven Jackson	5:15 p.m.

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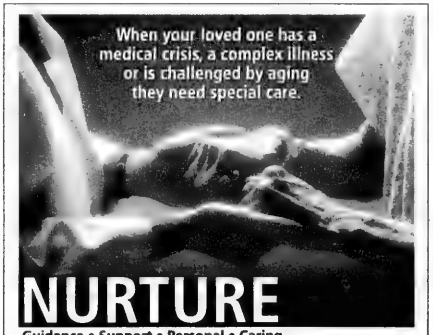

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SINGLES EVENTS

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

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Shaarei Shomayim concert celebrates 75 years

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

On June 10 at 7:30 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim will open a year of celebrations with a gala concert featuring renowned cantors Benjamin Warschawski of Baltimore, Moshe Haschel of St. John's Wood Synagogue in London, England, and Yaakov Motzen and Shlomo Simcha Sufrin of Shaarei Shomayim.

Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple will conduct the Shaarei Shomayim Choir and Cantor Daniel Gildar will accompany on the piano in a concert featuring a wide-ranging repertoire of cantorial, Hebrew, chassidic and operatic compositions.

"We are very excited about the kick-off concert and the activities that will take place throughout the year," said event co-chair Joyce Eklove. "We will be looking back through our history and recognize the people and events that contributed to the growth of our modern Orthodox synagogue, where we have four generations of members,"

Several of the shul's former rabbis will attend the concert, including Rabbi Emanuel Forman and Rabbi Henry Hoschander.

The growth and development of Shaarei Shomayim mirrors the economic, geographic and social developments of Toronto's Jewish community from the mid 1920s to the present day.

In the 1920s, wealthier Jews were flocking to the Forest Hill area off Spadina Road north of St. Clair Avenue. At the same time, a new group of businessmen and professionals were moving along St. Clair toward Christie and Dufferin streets and Lansdowne Avenue. These new residential areas were served by an increasing number of retail shops.

For Shaarei Shomayim's 50th anniversary, historian Stephen Speisman wrote about a minyan that had been organized in the McKay Avenue home of a shochet named Louis (Leib) Rasky. In 1928, Rasky urged some young residents to take over the fledgling shul, which was by then called Brothers of Jacob (B'nai Jacob) Congregation. Membership was $5 a year, including two seats for the High Holy Days.

The synagogue was later renamed Shaarei Shomayim.

Throughout the Depression, the congregation rented quarters at 563 Christie St. in a large house owned by the Toronto Hebrew Free School, now called the Associate Hebrew Schools of Toronto.

Despite difficulty making rent payments, the congregation hired its first rabbi, Rabbi Israel Halevy Hurwitz, and it attempted – without success – to raise funds to buy its deteriorating Christie Street building.

In 1936, members found out that a block of land was for sale on the north side of St. Clair west of Atlas Avenue. They raised a deposit, and after many stumbling blocks, they were able to construct the basement portion of the building.

During the 1940s, many things changed. Rabbi David Monson, the shul's spiritual leader, joined the armed forces and was succeeded by Rabbi Judah Washer in 1944.

In 1947 the shul's upper floor was completed and Shaarei Shomayim, retaining its modern Orthodox philosophy and dramatically increasing its membership to 400, became a hub of activity for members of all ages and for the wider Jewish community.

In 1948, three women from the sisterhood were invited to sit on the board of directors, a first for the shul.

The formal dedication of the building was held in November 1949. Cantor Leibele Waldman conducted the services and numerous government dignitaries participated. Meyer Gasner chaired the banquet, which included a major speech by Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University.

In the shul's 25th year, Rabbi Washer left to take a position in the United States and Rabbi Walter Wurzburger became the new rabbi.

Before long, it became evident that the St. Clair district was changing, and that the Jewish population was moving northward. The synagogue searched in earnest for a new location.

In 1962, Shaarei Shomayim acquired land at its present site on Glencairn Avenue, just east of Bathurst Street between Eglinton and Lawrence avenues.

Just two years later, the synagogue's current building was begun.

"Today, we have more than 1,000 members and we are one of the largest Orthodox congregations in North America," said shul president Paul Herbert.

"We have many minyanim, including a Pray and Learn service, classes, youth groups, interest groups, a brotherhood and a sisterhood, and many special events."

For tickets to the 75th anniversary concert, call 416-789-3213.

Seen planning Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue's Gala 75th Anniversary Concert are, from left, shul president Paul Herbert and concert co-chairs, Joyce Eklove and David Freudmann.

Apple Charlie brings back childhood memories

By LISA SOLOMON
Special to The CJN

"I feel so unwelcome!" my sister Wendy said in mock horror about the standard-size pie in the standard-size pie plate my mother placed before her.

For even as a full-grown adult with three children of her own, she still wanted – no, expected, no, yearned for – the traditional Friday night 11x14 inch glass baking dish she remembered from our childhood, brimming with fresh, warm, tart, thick-crusted Apple Charlie.

In a family with five brothers and sisters, the dessert was just enough for one meal, and for the one lucky person who snuck downstairs early enough the next morning to claim the last square corner piece, straight from the refrigerator, with a cold glass of milk.

Of course, we all laughed at my sister's small-pie crisis, but it really wasn't funny.

Because even as full grown adults, with lives and apples of our own, Apple Charlie, or to use its proper German name, "Apfel Charlotte," remains serious business in our family.

It is our family's most prized dessert, a recipe passed down from my German Grandmother (Oma), to my mom, to us. Although none of us bake it regularly – yet.

One time, many years ago, with my brother just out of college and me on my way, I called my mom in Atlanta, Ga., from his apartment in Cape Canaveral, Fla., and asked for the recipe. He seemed lonely in his new town, so far away from home, and I wanted to surprise him.

So I walked to the grocery store, bought the apples, the Crisco, the flour, and in between looking at the beautiful view of the Banana River, and sipping sun tea, I made my first Apple Charlie.

When he walked up the sunny metal staircase after work, the window was open, and the fresh-baked Apple Charlie filled the air. And when I saw the look on my big brother's face, I understood my mother just a bit better.

For me, for all of us, as my sister's reaction indicated, Apple Charlie means home.

We had it every other Friday night after dinner, alternating with the chocolate chip yeast cake and the glazed rum bundt cake, which belong in another story. It was a request for many early birthday parties, and my mother made sure she had one baking in the oven when her growing children began leaving and returning from camp, college, far away new homes and ones more close by.

She even went so far as to send a frozen Apple Charlie to my sister when she was living in Israel. That one rotted.

But the image of my mother, sitting at the kitchen table, peeling pound after pound of Granny Smith apples, long spirals of green in one bowl, white fresh slices in another, will never fade.

She used a gliding motion, filled with precision, firmness, and love, while on her face, she held a quiet calm, knowing how warm and happy her efforts made her family.

My grandmother made Apple Charlie too. Hers was a lighter dough, and prepared in more delicate portions, but equally delicious.

Over the years, my mother experimented with the thick double crust – Crisco, not Crisco, margarine, butter, all white flour, some whole wheat flour, back to all white, and now a southern flour, White Lilly.

Still, I can't remember one that wasn't cozy in just the right way, piled high with not-too-sweet soft, warm apples, sometimes mixed with raisins, sometimes not, all protected in a thick, rustic crust, and always, always a reminder that – with my very first, fat, steaming forkful – no matter what, I have a home.

APPLE CHARLIE

Pie Crust: (For 9 inch pie plate)
1 cup vegetable shortening
2 cups all purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
2-3 tbsp. sugar (to taste)
pinch of salt
2 large eggs
1 tsp. almond extract

Filling:
3 lbs. Granny Smith apples (7-8 medium)
1 tbsp. fresh squeezed lemon juice
½ cup dark raisins
¼ tsp. cinnamon
⅛ tsp. nutmeg
pinch of cloves (optional)
1 tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. butter

Topping:
1 egg yolk
1 tbsp. water
¼ cup slivered or whole almonds (optional)

Filling: Peel and core apples. Slice into fine slices (about 12 per apple) and place in a large bowl, tossing with lemon juice to hold colour. The width of the slices is personal preference, but thicker takes longer to bake. Add raisins, cinnamon, nutmeg, and cloves, if desired. Toss to mix. Cover and refrigerate.

Pie Crust: In a large bowl of electric mixer, mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. With mixer on lowest speed, slowly mix vegetable shortening into flour mixture. Add eggs and almond extract, mixing just until dough comes together and is soft and light to touch. Don't over mix. Separate dough into two equal parts.

Preheat oven to 350. With lightly floured rolling pin on lightly floured surface, working from the centre out, roll dough half into round pie shape large enough to cover complete bottom and side surfaces. Lift into bottom of dish and shape pressing into edges and up the sides, and over the edge. Fill with apple mixture. Sprinkle sugar over apples and dot with butter.

Roll out second half of dough larger then pie plate to completely cover apple filling. Lay on top of apples, bringing edges together by pinching overhang to top. Beat egg yolk and water together and brush egg mixture onto top crust. Arrange almonds, if desired. Cut six slits, in pairs, for steam to escape.

Bake at 350 at least 45 minutes. Check. Top should be a golden brown, apple softened completely. If not, turn oven to 200 and bake 5-15 minutes more, to fully cook apples. Serves 10.

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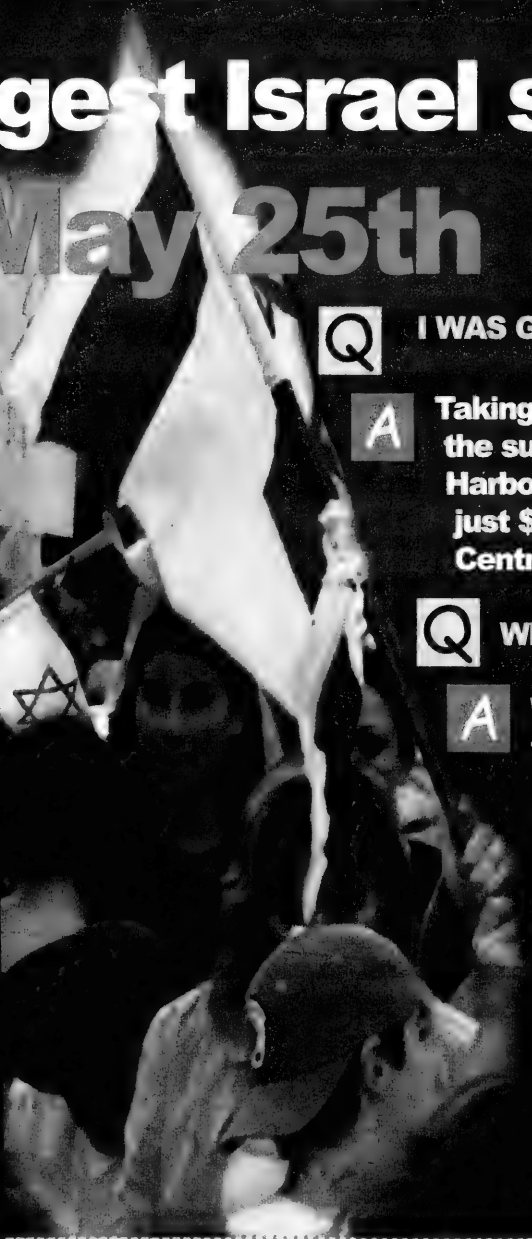

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On Campus

Centennial students produce Holocaust web site

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

When Israeli-born Shahaff Idan began working on a Holocaust Web site with four non-Jewish students at Centennial College, he felt that he was the only one with a connection to the project. That feeling dissipated quickly, he said. "We're all people, and it affected all of us the same way."

Team leader Merewyn Hines, 26, a native of British Columbia, said the nature of the material they were working with made the task difficult emotionally. It's one thing to read books or see Hollywood movies, she said. "It's another thing to be sitting there with the propaganda in your hands and realize how calculated everything was that the Nazis did. It was shocking."

Hines, Idan and fellow new media design students Yvette Farkas, Victor Stan and Haruyo Asada (originally from Hungary, Romania and Japan respectively) took on the task of creating a Web site (www.centennialcollege.ca/holocaust_pollock) for Centennial's John and Molly Pollock Holocaust Collection for the 138-hour internship required by their program, but ended up putting in even more hours, said Hines.

The 1,000-item collection of Holocaust literature and propaganda from Nazi Germany was donated to the culturally diverse community college in Scarborough two years ago as a learning resource for students and the greater community.

The site provides excerpts from publications, and audio and video interviews with survivors and with the Pollocks. There are also links to the college curriculum that has grown from the collection.

Idan – a 31-year-old who spent his formative years in Israel and England and has a master's degree in psychology from the University of Haifa – has been hired to continue the project the students began in early 2003, expanding the Web site by scanning pre-war German Jewish newspapers.

Although he studied the Holocaust from Grade 2 to Grade 11 in Israel and his grandmother lost 10 of her 12 siblings in the Shoah, Idan, who served as the team's videographer and programmer, said he never knew "how severe and how brutal and how cruel" the Nazis were until this year.

"They tried to protect us," he recalls. "Nobody ever spoke about medical experiments."

Despite the warning about shocking and visually upsetting material on the Web site, the sometimes teary meetings and bad dreams suffered by Idan, the two students who spoke to *The CJN* had no regrets about working on it.

"I knew it was a worthwhile project. I never would have wanted anything else," said Hines, who has a master's degree in museum studies. "Not that other internships weren't important, but we feel we were part of something that's more than just our grades."

"I'm leaving something behind that actually matters," said Idan. "I got to learn a lot, meet interesting people, and to appreciate my life and the time I was born."

Centennial College students display the Web site they created. Standing, from left, are Shahaff Idan, Yvette Farkas and Victor Stan. Team leader Merewyn Hines is seated at left, with Haruyo Asada.

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U of T Yiddish program renamed for Green family

Continued from page 3

Amrhein said that "by electing to fund Yiddish studies at the University of Toronto, Al and Malka Green will have an immeasurable impact on scholars eager to learn about this vibrant 1,000-year-old language and its fascinating culture and history."

He added that in gaining a receptive academic milieu where Yiddish can be studied and taught, the Greens "are preserving – for the enrichment of the whole world – a culture that was in danger of vanishing. Their act of conserving the past and bringing it forward into the future makes the very existence of this program, unique in Canada, a tangible testament to the will of people to remember and to do honour."

U of T president Robert Birgeneau also thanked the Greens for their gift and acknowledged the work of the Yiddish studies committee and donors who have supported the Yiddish program over the years.

Jewish population drops eight per cent in Quebec

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The number of Jews by religion in Quebec dropped by eight per cent over the past decade to 89,915 and they are aging. If good news can be drawn from the 2001 census data released last week by Statistics Canada, it is that the figure for Quebecers who identify themselves as Jews by religious affiliation is notably higher than that for those who cite Jewish as an ethnic/cultural origin.

Until now, FEDERATION CJA and Canadian Jewish Congress have spoken of a 101,000-member community.

Executive vice-president Danyael Cantor said FEDERATION CJA's demographer Charles Shahar will crunch the religious and ethnic data, according to a formula used in the past, to come up with a "definite" Jewish population, which he expects will be ready by the end of this month.

"For sure, it will be down from 101,000, but I think it will be a little higher than 89,000," he said.

The vast majority of Jews by religion live in Montreal: 88,765.

According to the 1991 census, the province had 97,730 Jews by religion, who represented 1.4 per cent of the total population. Now, this group's standing has slipped slightly to 1.3 per cent of Quebecers. In Montreal, Jews represent three per cent of the population.

Jews are no longer the largest non-Christian religious group. That description now belongs to Muslims, whose number increased dramatically in Quebec between 1991 and 2001, from 44,930 to 108,620.

"In the space of 10 years, we have seen the situation change from more than twice as many Jews as Muslims to 20,000 fewer Jews than Muslims," said Jack Jedwab, executive director of the Association for Canadian Studies.

The median age of Jews is 42.5 years, while among Muslims it is 28.2. Only mainline Protestant denominations have a higher median age than Jews. The median age for the total population is 38.4.

Quebec's Jews are unique among Canadian Jewish communities for having a higher number of people identifying themselves as Jewish by religion than ethnicity, said Jedwab.

Nationally, just under 330,000 Jews by religion were recorded, while the ethnic figure was over 348,000. That seems logical given that the latter figure includes those who name Jewish as part of a multiple response to who their ancestors were and may not be Jewish in any meaningful sense themselves.

(The census question on religion asked about affiliation only; respondents need not actually practise that religion.)

The ethnic data released in January showed 82,450 persons in Quebec identifying Jewish as either the sole ethnicity of their ancestors or one of up to four. (In Montreal, there were 80,390.)

Jedwab, who has conducted a number of demographic studies of Jews and other minorities, said he expected the religion figure to be higher in Quebec, because that has been the case historically, but by about 3,000 to 4,000 only.

While there were more religious than ethnic Jews in Quebec in 1991, the gap was much narrower, he said. "It requires further examination."

Part of the explanation may be that Russian immigrant Jews, who probably number a few thousand, identified themselves as Russians only ethnically, he said. That, however, might have been the case in other parts of Canada.

"There's a strong sense of religious Jewish identity in Quebec, more so than ethnic," Jedwab said. "There is less mixing with other people here. Traditionally, Quebec society has been more segmented, with Catholic and Protestant institutions. Language is also a barrier."

Cantor was not surprised that the religion figure was higher. "That's in keeping with our sense of ourselves. This is a traditional community with Old World values."

Jedwab does not think any appreciable number of Jews identified themselves as having "no religion," a growing trend in the country generally.

While Quebec Jews are thought of as an older community, their median age (42.5) is not much higher than the national figure of 41.5. Jedwab thinks that can be attributed to the large number of children among Orthodox Jews in Montreal.

Montreal does have the second highest percentage of Jews by religion over age 65 of any major Jewish community – 22.2 per cent . Only Winnipeg has a higher figure at slightly over 23 per cent. By comparison, 15.9 per cent of Toronto Jews are over 65 and the national figure is 17.7 per cent.

At the other end of the spectrum, 19.2 per cent of Montreal Jews are 15 and under.

Although the religion data is more encouraging than the ethnic number for the Quebec Jewish community, Jedwab thinks there is a "psychological" impact in falling below the 90,000. "And the trend will probably continue downward," he said.

Cantor does not agree. He believes the initiatives that FEDERATION CJA launched through the 1990s to retain Jews in Quebec, like ProMontreal, which helps young Jews start careers, and the expansion of the Jewish Community Campus, as well as more active recruitment of Jewish immigrants, will begin to have an impact this decade. The number of inquiries from Jews about immigrating to Quebec has "increased exponentially" in the past couple of years, he said.

"I think we may have begun to turn the corner in the late '90s... We are better prepared for the future."

The Canadian Jewish news

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The Barbara Frum Library Auditorium, 20 Covington Road

Coast to Coast

Immigration seen as key to reverse Jewish decline

Continued from page 1

Other faith groups also boosted their numbers far in excess of the increase among Jews. The number of Buddhists rose by 84 per cent and the proportion of Sikhs and Hindus each increased by 89 per cent.

The Jewish increase also seems low compared to the seven per cent rise in Jews by religion between 1981 and 1991.

"I don't think you can get a clear picture based just on the religion numbers," said Charles Shahar, head of the National Jewish Demographic Study for UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC). "They really don't give an accurate reading. Both the numbers on religion and ethnicity need to be taken into account."

The 2001 census asked about Canadians' religion as well as ethnic origin. Jews were the only group to fit both categories.

The census tallied 348,605 Canadians with Jewish ethnic origins, a drop of about one per cent from the 1996 mini-census, and more than five per cent compared to 1991.

When the ethnic numbers were released earlier this year, some experts said they reflect a decline in the Jewish population, while others were confident the figures on religion would show Canada's Jews have grown by at least 10 per cent.

Traditionally, planners blend the two figures, and exclude from the total only those who say they have Jewish ethnocultural roots but profess another religion. Those who consider themselves ethnically Jewish but list "no religion" on the census are counted in the Jewish total.

The official tally community planners have relied on since 1991 is 356,315 Jews in Canada. They believe the real number today is higher than what the 2001 census produced.

Nevertheless, officials agree that what helped boost numbers among other religious groups – immigration – only marginally affected the Jewish community.

Traditional sources of Jewish immigration – the former Soviet Union and South Africa – are pretty much spent, says Shahar. Individual federations, such as Montreal and Winnipeg, are now actively recruiting Jews from South America, notably Argentina.

Jewish immigration to Canada continues, however. Perry Romberg of UIAFC says 22,000 Jewish immigrants came to Canada from 1991 to 2001, and an average 2,500 Jewish immigrants arrive in this country annually, half of them from the former Soviet Union.

By contrast, seven per cent of all immigrants over the past 10 years were Hindu and five per cent were Sikh. More than 275,000 newcomers were Muslim.

"We need to understand that if the Jewish community wants to stay viable, the focus has to be on immigration and to make sure immigrants are properly absorbed," said Shahar, who plans to produce a dozen studies in the coming months on Jewish communities across the country, incorporating such variables as education, family structure, mobility, poverty, intermarriage and the Sephardi/Ashkenazi breakdown.

	2001		1991		Percentage change 1991-2001
	Number	%	Number	%	
CANADA	329,995	1.1	318,185	1.2	+3.7
Nfld.	140	0.0	130	0.0	+7.7
Nova Scotia	2,120	0.2	1,950	0.2	+8.7
N.B.	670	0.1	880	0.1	-23.9
P.E.I.	55	0.0	85	0.1	-35.3
Quebec	89,915	1.3	97,730	1.4	-8.0
Ontario	190,800	1.7	175,650	1.8	+8.6
Manitoba	13,035	1.2	13,670	1.3	-4.6
Alberta	11,090	0.4	9,975	0.4	+11.2
Sask.	865	0.1	1,375	0.1	-37.1
B.C.	21,230	0.5	16,640	0.5	+27.6
N.W.T.	30	0.1	50	0.1	-40.0
Yukon	35	0.1	45	0.2	-22.2
Nunavut	10	0.0	10	0.0	0.0

Shahar notes another straw in the wind: the age of the average Muslim in Canada is 28, compared to a national average of 37 and a mean age in the Jewish community of 45.

The census figures tell a different story in virtually every region of the country. In Quebec, wary officials tried to put the best face on figures showing an aging community that has shrunk by eight per cent to below 90,000 (see story on the census results in Quebec, p. 29).

Nearly half of Canada's Jews live in Ontario, where the number of Jews rose by 8.6 per cent over the previous decade. Toronto remains Canada's major Jewish centre. The city's population grew from 151,000 Jews by religion to 164,510, a nine per cent increase. Ottawa's Jewish population remained stable at just over 11,000.

The big winner seems to be British Columbia, where Jews by religion increased by about 27 per cent, to more than 21,000. Over 17,000 of them are in Vancouver.

Alberta also saw an increase in Jews by religion, by 11 per cent.

Manitoba, though, saw a decline of 4.6 per cent, and Winnipeg's Jewish population dropped from 15,000 to 12,765.

Robert Brym, a University of Toronto sociologist and a long-time observer of Jewish population trends, feels the numbers point to increasing polarization in the community.

"There are fewer 'ethnic' Jews, which on some level shows assimilation and integration, and more 'religious' Jews, which shows more intensification of beliefs," he said.

As well, he said Jews by religion have moved to B.C., Alberta and Ontario – Canada's three richest provinces. "Religious Jews are moving away, and enriching the already well-off regions, leaving behind places that are less well-off."

Leo Davids, a sociologist at York University, says the community "is potentially in trouble" if immigration is not substantially increased.

One of the problems, he said, is that there seems to be no national Jewish strategy.

"To what extent can Canada act nationally? Is Canadian Jewry 'mobilizable,' the way it is in Britain? Canada doesn't seem to have the mechanisms in place. Canadian Jewish Congress has fallen into a slump, and it's individual cities that are acting," Davids said.

He called the Jewish increase in Toronto "disappointing," saying community officials expected the population to be about 175,000.

Davids said the Jewish exodus from Quebec, particularly among the young, did not seem to have been stemmed in the decade covered, despite the community's best efforts.

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Sephardi conference

Continued from page 1

Most of the proceedings will be in French, with some English and Spanish presentations. One plenary will be presented entirely in Spanish by Jacob Hassan of the Instituto de Filologia in Madrid.

The event's sponsors include Heritage Canada and various ministries of the provincial government, such as Quebec's Ministry of Culture, as well as Spain's ambassador to Canada, José Cuenca, Castiel said.

The conference will close with a showing of Montrealer Eyal Bitton's film, *King David: The Musical* May 26 at 8 p.m. at the Oscar Peterson Hall on Concordia's Loyola campus. For tickets, call 733-4998.

Following the conference, on May 27 at 8 p.m., the Sephardic Cultural Institute will present a musical evening at the Théâtre Outremont with Samy Elmaghribi, a composer and performer of traditional North African music. For tickets to this event, call 735-5565 ext. 100.

Montreal is home to approximately 25,000 Sephardi Jews of North African and Middle Eastern origin who began settling here in the late 1950s.

For registration or information, visit the institute's Web site at www.culturesephardie.org, or call 733-4998, ext. 3441.

The biggest obstacle on the road to peace

Paul Koring's ever-so-brief remark in the national edition of the *Globe and Mail* (May 13) that the Palestinian claim of a "right of return" is "internationally recognized" may seem innocuous to many readers. After all, the claim to a "right of return" has been repeated so often by Palestinians and their supporters around the world that it is easy to assume its legitimacy in international law. But there is controversy about whether this "right" is "internationally recognized," making such an assumption wrong. No amount of repetition about its legitimacy will change that.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The cardinal tenet of journalism is the search for truth. And here is a truth journalists should remember: there is no universally accepted "right of return" in international law. And in the case of the Palestinians, there is definitely no "right of return" to someone else's land – Israel – against which the Palestinian leadership and Arab states committed aggression in 1947-48.

First, the Palestinians and the Arabs violently rejected the November 1947 UN partition resolution that would have resulted in both a Jewish and a Palestinian state. Then when Israel was established in May 1948, they attacked, hoping to destroy the Jewish state in its infancy. This war caused the Palestinian refugee problem that has been allowed to fester to this day.

Approximately 700,000 Palestinians fled the 1948 fighting (and in some isolated areas, such as Ramle and Lod, they were evicted by Israeli forces in the course of combat). They and their descendants, consigned to refugee camps, have been used by the Arab states as political pawns ever since in an ongoing propaganda war against Israel, aided by a UN bureaucracy, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA), which was specifically established to "look after" the Palestinians, who were accorded a status that is unique among all refugees in the world. Consider the fact that an equal number of Jews were forced to flee the Arab world after Israel's creation but were immediately absorbed into the tiny State of Israel, and the contrast becomes stark.

For decades, Palestinians have maintained that UN General Assembly Resolution 194 (of December 1948) enshrines their "right of return" and so accords it international legitimacy.

Journalists who accept this ought to look up the resolution. Most of it is directed to the issue of Jerusalem. One small section deals with refugees, but it never mentions the word "right." It says only that refugees should be "permitted" to return to their homes if they're prepared to live in peace with Israel, or they can accept compensation. The permission was Israel's to grant or reject. While the Arabs now embrace Resolution 194, it should be noted that in 1948 the Arab states at the UN uniformly voted against it, because they were waging a war to eliminate Israel. That same rejectionist attitude, unfortunately, prevails for many Arabs today.

Currently, Israel is expected to accept a "road map" leading to eventual Palestinian statehood. But the Palestinians, even under the "moderate" leadership of PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, are insistent on their "right of return" to Israel. This means the Palestinians want two Palestinian states – their own and Israel – because if the Palestinian refugees are allowed to settle in Israel, it would cease to exist as a Jewish state.

Is it any wonder that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has objections to the road map, which leaves the "right of return" to the final stage of discussion?

This is the issue that caused the Camp David talks in the summer of 2000 to collapse and that threatens, more than any other factor, to eventually derail this plan, too.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

Argentine Jewish population in Winnipeg growing rapidly

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Robby and Roxie Ader, who first visited Canada in 1984, were the first in a growing number of Argentine Jewish families to become part of Winnipeg's Jewish community in the last few years.

The Aders, who had family in Montreal and Ottawa and wanted to immigrate to Canada, chose to come to Winnipeg after hearing Larry Hurtig, Jewish Community Council president, talk about the city and its Jewish community on his first trip to Buenos Aires in 1995.

Hurtig, at the time, was following up on an initiative suggested by former Manitoba premier Gary Filmon.

According to figures provided by Winnipeg Jewish Federation/CJA planning director Faye Rosenberg-Cohen and Federation/CJA senior immigration officer Evelyn Hecht at the end of last year, 26 families from Buenos Aires – 47 adults and 31 children – had followed the Aders' lead.

So far this year, 13 more families – 25 adults and 17 children – have arrived from Argentina, 21 more families – 39 adults, 21 children – are expected in May and June, and as many as 40 more may arrive by the end of the year.

The new immigrants are boosting the population of Winnipeg's Jewish community, which has been struggling for years with a steady decline in numbers.

In 1960 it numbered about 19,000 Jews, and currently it has between 13,000 and 14,000, many of whom are part of the older generation.

The Argentine immigration has been facilitated by the provincial government through its provincial nominee program, which allows Manitoba to fast-track skilled immigrants who want to come.

Winnipeg, and Manitoba in general, are faced with slow population growth and an aging population, and the Argentinians are the type of educated, professional people the province is trying to attract.

Robby Ader is an architect while Roxie operates a day care out of their home.

The Argentinians are making their presence felt in their new home. For Passover this year, 120 of them – with the support of B'nai Brith – celebrated Winnipeg's first Latin American seder.

There is also a new Spanish-speaking B'nai Brith chapter and a relatively new, 150-member Spanish-speaking club consisting of Jewish and non-Jewish South American immigrants to Winnipeg.

As well, most of the children attend the Jewish day schools here.

"It is easier to become involved in the Jewish community here than in Buenos Aires," says Gustavo Rymberg, an award-winning graphic designer who brought his family here in 1998.

"The community was too big and too dispersed there. Coming here, I learned the concepts of donating money and time to the community. I really enjoy it."

Rymberg says his "new community is amazing. I work at the Rose and Max Rady Jewish Community Centre and deal with the community every day. I find the people here very welcoming and supportive."

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את השיר הזה של אמיר גלבוע הלחנתי עם שלמה ארצי בדיוק לפני שלושים שנה. והינה עכשיו באָרל בֶּיילס, אני מרגיש כמו עם. יום העצמאות החמישים וחמש למדינת ישראל, מאות דגלים, אלפי אנשים, פנים שמחות, אנשים מברכים חברים זרים כאחת, אתה מרגיש כחלק ממשהו גדול, אתה מרגיש שיק. שעות קודם לכן, אני באקדמיה העברית של טורונטו שם לומד בני, ואני מתרגש מהאוירה, אני מרגיש בבית. הילדים כולם נראים מקרים גם אם לא פנשתָ אותם מימיך. עיניהם בוהקות ומלאות חיים, הם מרגישים את יום העצמאות. אני מרגיש כמו עם ומתחיל ללכת.

יום עצמאות חמישים וחמש, ממש הגיל שלי, תמיד יהיה הגיל שלי. גם בעוד מאתיים שנה יהיה קל להגיד מתי נולדתי: לפני חמישים וחמש שנה, עמדה אימי בת חתשע עשרה על גג הבית בתל אביב, אני בזרועותיה, והביטה בחרדה איך מטוסים מצרים מטילים פצצות לכוון תחנת הכוח רידינג, שם עבד אבא. הרבה פעמים סופָּר לי הסיפור הזה, עד שנדמה לי עכשיו שאני זוכר שהייתי שם על הגג בעצמי.

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Ontario municipal leaders join Israel mission

By MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
Editor

TEL AVIV — Two of Israel's most senior cabinet ministers met last Wednesday with a delegation of Ontario municipal officials that included regional mayors and Ontario's associate minister of municipal affairs to convey the Israel government's gratitude for the group's visit to the Jewish state.

Dubbed the "mayors' mission" by the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, which organized the trip, the 19-member delegation spent five days in Israel touring the country and meeting Israelis. The mission was led jointly by Thornhill MPP Tina Molinari, associate minister of municipal affairs, and by Ed Morgan, chair of CJC's Ontario region.

Despite a major operation the night before by the Israeli army in Gaza in response to a rocket attack on the Negev town of Sderot that wounded 13 Israelis, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz received the Canadian visitors at his Tel Aviv headquarters.

Mofaz gave them an overview of Israel's strategic situation after the recent appointment of Mahmoud Abbas as prime minister of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the overthrow of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Mofaz expressed concern that Israel would now have to deal with a "bifocal leadership" of the PA, which he said would complicate rather than simplify matters for Israel. He also lamented Abbas' suggestion that Israel agree to a ceasefire.

"Israel is against any approach that included a ceasefire of terrorist operations against Israel," Mofaz said. "During a ceasefire, the terrorist infrastructure would grow, only to be used at a later date against Israel."

The minister commended the United States for its "impressive military campaign" in Iraq and for "sending a clear message to Syria and Iran."

Mofaz expressed Israel's concern with Iran's Russian-supported efforts to become a nuclear power, which he said would be "very dangerous for Israel and for the region" if successful.

The minister's remarks to the group took a more poignant turn when he expressed, on three separate occasions, his deep appreciation for their visit.

"It is very, very important to us these days that you are here showing solidarity and support for Israel and for its people," he said at the end of the meeting.

Later that evening, at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took time away from tense, ongoing talks to settle a renewed general strike by the Histadrut, Israel's umbrella labour union organization, to brief the Canadian visitors on his government's economic plan to overhaul the public sector.

Earlier in the day, a group of the CJC's national executive joined the mayors' mission to have lunch with Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Huldai.

The mission's five-day, whirlwind itinerary included visits with Israeli municipal officials, including Huldai, as well as visits to Metulla, the Golan Heights and the Galilee in the north, and the Jordan River. Morgan said the purpose of the trip "was to increase Canadian awareness of the challenges faced and overcome by Israel. We wanted the mayors to see how the challenges of immigrant absorption, rapid development and security concerns have been handled by their Israeli counterparts."

Except for Toronto Councillor Mike Feldman and York Region Chair Bill Fisch, the mission's participants were seeing Israel for the first time.

The CJN joined the group midway through their trip on Wednesday and found them to be moved by their experiences in the Jewish state.

"This trip has been absolutely amazing," said Molinari. "Having spent time in Israel has given me a real understanding of what the people here feel. You can't get that feeling merely by reading about it."

The mayors visit a kindergarten for Ethiopian Jewish children at Rehovot. [Bruce Kurta photo]

Ken Boshcoff, mayor of Thunder Bay and president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, said he had always wanted to visit Israel, and the mission offered him "a perfect learning opportunity to do so." He indicated his special interest in joint Canadian-Israeli projects, such as the Canada Centre in Metulla and the twinning of Vaughan with Ramle.

In his thanks to Netanyahu for his presentation to the group, Boshcoff said, "We will certainly have a message to bring back to our fellow Canadians that Israel is a wonderful nation and is a great place to visit. We will be deeply supportive and you can count on us."

Also taking part in the mission were Vaughan mayor Michael Di Biase; Bracebridge mayor Scott Northmore; Sudbury mayor James Gordon; Vaughan councillor Susan Kadis; Frank Miele, Vaughan's commissioner of economic technology, development and community; and Ottawa Councillor Alex Munter.

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Arafat strengthens his grip on the PA

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspapers Limited

JERUSALEM — Just a few days ahead of last Saturday's scheduled meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Israeli security sources said they believe Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is strengthening his hold on the PA.

Recently, Arafat received an urgent request for $20,000 (US) to buy 6,000 metres of cloth to make uniforms for the Palestinian police. Arafat approved and signed it and instructed Finance Minister Salam Fayyad to transfer the money.

Why is the chairman allocating funds, and why is he still involved with the security organizations, which should have been transferred to the supervision of the new prime minister, Abbas? The Israel Defence Forces would also like to know.

But Arafat's business is hardly restricted to fashion.

The sums he has been giving out lately, for various purposes, are described as an avalanche.

In addition to the many terrorist alerts, military intelligence and the Shin Bet are in rare accord that Abbas is showing weakness in the face of Arafat's manoeuvres.

Abbas is having difficulty gaining public support, without which he will not be able to declare war on the terror organizations. At present, he appears to prefer talks with Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Abbas is already in touch with Hamas leadership abroad in an effort to launch a new round of Cairo talks this week. Sources believe Abbas' painful journey to the prime minister's office has considerably damaged his status.

He conducted negotiations fraught with mistakes, alienated the Fatah, and was forced to give in to Arafat repeatedly. "[Abbas] won no victory over Arafat," an Israeli security source says. "He formed a cabinet only under Egyptian and American pressure.

"The cabinet's legitimacy is shaky, it acts in Arafat's shadow and is burdened by huge expectations. Abbas is starting out bruised and bleeding and must navigate his way among three minefields – Americans, Israelis and Palestinians."

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.
[RNS/Reuters photo]

Part of the problem is money. In the past weeks, Arafat is re-emerging as the one holding the purse strings. His bureau is allocating funds to various entities, from Fatah activists in Bethlehem to PA ministers to security groups in Jenin.

Can Fayyad decide not to approve the allocations, a senior Palestinian was asked by an Israeli officer? "Woe betide Fayyad if he fails to implement an order Arafat signed," was the response.

Israel may be disappointed with Fayyad, but is still pinning hopes on Mohamed Dahlan, the minister of state for security affairs.

Many of the concessions Abbas made to Arafat were intended to preserve Dahlan's status in the new cabinet. Now Abbas and Dahlan are negotiating with Jibril Rajoub, the former PA head of preventive security in the West Bank, whom they need especially to rehabilitate the infrastructure of the security apparatus there. They can either appoint Rajoub police inspector general or reinstate him in his previous post.

Rajoub, who recently returned from medical treatment overseas, has yet to recover from the blow he received from the Shin Bet on one hand and Arafat on the other at the beginning of Operation Defensive Shield, when the IDF besieged his headquarters in Bitouniyah. Rajoub will now have to consider whether to reconcile with Dahlan, whom he accused of aiding in his downfall and whether to accept his authority.

Dahlan, for his part, is expected to make peace with his old adversary Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, whom he will probably meet this week. At the beginning of the Oslo days, when Mofaz headed the Central Command and Dahlan the West Bank's strong man, the two regarded each other as friends. But when the second intifadah began, Dahlan called Mofaz a "war criminal" and severed ties with him.

Despite the difficulties, some Fatah activists expect Abbas and his men to confront Hamas. But to do so, the Palestinian security organizations will have to rebuild at least some confidence with their Israeli colleagues. Meanwhile, this seems nearly impossible.

The Week in Israel

May 12

• Police arrested 15 leaders of the Islamic Movement for allegedly aiding Hamas. They are suspected of illegally channelling millions of dollars to terrorist organizations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including money that went to the families of suicide bombers. Thirteen of the suspects were detained in overnight raids, and the final two were arrested Tuesday.

May 13

• Public sector workers renewed a general strike after talks between government and union leaders on an emergency economic plan broke down. Ports, trains and government offices were closed, schools opened late and there were delays at Ben-Gurion Airport.

• Dismantling communities in the West Bank and Gaza is "not an issue on the horizon," Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the *Jerusalem Post*. He also said his recent comments suggesting the West Bank towns of Beit El and Shilo will be dismantled were misinterpreted and repeated his acceptance of a Palestinian state.

May 14

• In a sharp about-face, Israel's gross domestic product grew in the first quarter of the year by 2.5 per cent per annum, after a small rise of 0.1 per cent in the last quarter of 2002, and a contraction of 0.2 per cent in the third quarter.

May 15

• Responding to Public Security Minister Tzachi Hanegbi's comment Wednesday that the Temple Mount would soon be opened to Jews for visits and prayers, the director of the Muslim Waqf said non-Muslims are not welcome there.

May 16

• On a visit to London, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said Israel was unlikely to accept the "road map" to peace without amendments. He told reporters Israel has 14 suggested changes to the plan.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Respected health professionals and specialists in disease control are all coming to the same conclusion: Canada has turned the corner on SARS. To put things in perspective, Health Canada believes it is important to remember the following points:

- **The number of people who have recovered from SARS is going up.**
- **The total number of people in quarantine is going down.**

"**Canada has provided such enormous leadership** to all of us in the global community."

Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta – Global News 6:30 p.m., Friday, May 2, 2003

"**Canada was doing everything right**, including screening passengers as they left."

Dr. David Heymann, World Health Organization, Executive Director of Communicable Diseases – Closing news conference, Special international meeting on SARS – Toronto, Thursday, May 1, 2003

"**It's safe** to travel to Toronto."

Dr. Paul Gully, Health Canada – Toronto Star, Thursday, April 24, 2003

"**Toronto continues to be a safe place.** Anyone who's travelling to Toronto, either for business or pleasure, should be reassured that it is safe to do so."

Dr. Colin D'Cunha, Commissioner of Public Health and Chief Medical Officer of Health – Toronto Star, Thursday, April 24, 2003

Thanks to the ceaseless efforts and hard work of health care workers, the threat of SARS is being dealt with across the country. As for Toronto, all the facts indicate that it is safe to work, live and travel there.

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Bush offers vision of Mideast trade

By MATTHEW E. BERGER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The White House's proposed Middle East free trade zone is meant to help Arab and Muslim nations develop economically, while improving the U.S. image in the region.

But many experts say it's a hollow gesture that actually will bring little benefit to the countries involved. U.S. President George W. Bush introduced the plan last week, calling for a free trade zone – which would include Israel – within a decade, and offering tools for Arab countries to modernize and benefit from international trade.

"The Arab world has a great cultural tradition, but is largely missing out on the economic progress of our time," Bush said in a May 9 commencement address at the University of South Carolina. "Across the globe, free markets and trade have helped defeat poverty and taught men and women the habits of liberty."

Many say it will bring little benefit to region

Bush proposes helping Middle Eastern nations join the World Trade Organization, create bilateral treaties and trade agreements and generate capital and jobs.

As part of the plan, the United States would work with countries in the region to improve the transparency of their finances, improve education and reform their judicial systems. To that end, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is helping to organize a forum on judicial reform, to be held in Bahrain.

Bush's announcement is seen as another gesture to rehabilitate the image of the United States in the Arab world, which has been damaged by U.S. support for Israel and the U.S.-led war against Iraq.

It follows on the heels of the Middle East Partnership Initiative, announced late last year, which uses American funds to expand economic, political and educational opportunities in Arab states as a means of promoting democracy.

Some believe that a free trade zone could help make the Middle East, which lags behind other regions of the world in most economic criteria, more competitive.

For example, companies might be interested in transferring their textile and apparel operations from Asia to the Middle East if the regions were comparable in terms of skill level and stability, said Harold Luks, an international trade consultant in Washington, D.C.

The plan "has the opportunity to strengthen relations with the United States and help expose these countries to greater American investment and trade," Luks said. But he cautioned that the program should have modest objectives.

While the vision seems promising – and conforms to the U.S. perception that the region needs structural reforms far broader than a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict – analysts say it suffers from political and logistical problems.

Politically, they say, it's too small a gesture, with a goal too far in the future, to win the United States much support in the Middle East.

As well, analysts say, eliminating trade barriers for Middle Eastern countries will do little if there isn't much in those countries to trade.

Jon Alterman, director of the Middle East program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, described the free trade zone plan as a "Trojan carrot."

"It's a useful component in a much broader and active plan" to revitalize the Middle East economically and politically, he said, "but we don't see the active plan."

Two of the countries expected to benefit from the proposal – Egypt and Jordan – already have trade arrangements with the United States and Israel.

And it may be unrealistic to believe that many other states will be able to meet – or are interested in meeting – WTO standards, such as transparency and open access to markets.

Jordan, for example, needed to make vast reforms before it could sign a free trade agreement with the United States, in 1997 (it was passed by the U.S. Senate in 2000).

"Trade obstacles in the Middle East often exist for a reason," Alterman said. "Either the government makes a significant amount from the tariffs, or middlemen make money clearing away obstacles, which gets filtered back to the government."

The benefits states could receive from the plan may not be enough to motivate Arab regimes to open up their societies, said Stephen Cohen, national scholar of the Israel Policy Forum.

That's especially true in countries whose leaders might not be around a decade from now, such as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak or Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

Nimrod Raphaeli, a senior analyst in economic affairs for the Middle East Media Research Institute, said the biggest obstacle to the plan is more logistical – the fact that the Arab and Muslim world simply has few products to trade.

"To have a meaningful free trade agreement, you must be able to sell and buy," Raphaeli said. "In practice, there is little the Middle East can export to the United States."

The one major exception is oil, but the United States already imports oil from the region.

Manufactured goods comprise only about 6 to 12 per cent of Arab countries' gross domestic products, and Arab states do only limited trading among themselves, Raphaeli noted.

The U.S. free trade agreement with Israel, which dates to 1985, has borne more fruit because Israel has a larger manufacturing sector than the Arab states, he said.

Britain to debate ban on Jewish slaughter methods

Ha'aretz Daily Newspapers Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The British government will discuss next month a total ban on Jewish and Muslim ritual slaughter in a move expected to anger thousands, the London *Times* reported last week.

Under European Union animal welfare regulations, all farm animals must be stunned before slaughter, unless they are killed by religious methods, the *Times* said. According to Jewish and Muslim religious law, the animal's neck is slit and left to bleed to death.

Though some Muslim slaughterhouses allow the use of electric stunners, Jewish law is less flexible and shocking the animal first is not allowed.

The *Times* reported that a four-year study by the Farm Animal Welfare Council, which is appointed and funded by the British government, has concluded that Jewish and Muslim slaughter methods are inhumane.

The panel is insisting the slaughter methods meet mainstream regulations. According to the *Times*, negotiations between the council and Jewish and Muslim religious groups have broken down. The Campaign for the Protection of Shechita (the Jewish slaughter method), the newspaper says, has called the council one of the most "stubborn repositories of institutionalized religious prejudice in this country."

But a council source told the paper that "if modern slaughter methods can avoid suffering, it is not unreasonable for religious leaders to reconsider their position."

Research by members of the council found that cows and poultry take up to two minutes to lose consciousness after their throats are cut, while for sheep it is between 14 and 70 seconds.

Neville Nagler, director-general of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said, "Pre-stunning is against our very long-standing religious principles. There would be a very serious outcry at interference in what has been a fundamental religious rite for thousands of years."

The Jewish method of slaughter is already prohibited by Switzerland, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands. In France, only the Jewish umbrella group CRIF is permitted to slaughter animals. In a compromise that was reached in the Netherlands last year, Jews are allowed to slaughter bulls, but only

BEAUTY SHOP

BY CAROL WISE

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

SpaMedica at 66 Avenue Rd. is now doing one of the most innovative procedures in Toronto. It is called Thermal Lift and the results are remarkable.

A high-frequency electrical current penetrates the first layer of skin, leaving it completely undamaged while stimulating the collagen to create a skin-tightening effect.

"The outcome lasts for about three to four years," says Dr. Steve Mulholland, medical director of SpaMedica. A local anesthetic and intravenous sedation are administered so that there is no pain, and the whole procedure takes about one hour. There is really very little down time. Mulholland says you can go out that same night.

The lift and tightening effect occurs over the next three to four months. This is a great way to get your face lifted and smoothed without a knife. The results are not as dramatic but certainly excellent. New technology never ceases to amaze me!

Pastels and bold shades are hot this summer. Lots of slippery shine on the lips with eyes full of colour and very dramatic. Have fun with summer palettes that frolic with an exotic essence. One word of advice: protect your skin with sun block, especially if you are outside a lot.

Ombrelle SPF 45 SPF is superior sun protection for the palest of skin and claims to block up to 98 per cent of skin damaging UV rays.

For a great self-tan, try **Estee Lauder's** latest *Go Tan Sunless Towelettes* for face and body. They are easy to use, as the towelettes are a non-woven fabric to uniformly release the tanner to your skin seamlessly.

Did you know that the Terry Ritcey Hair Salon (122A Yorkville Ave.) is now offering **Kerastase Paris**, along with a host of other great hair products.

This line of products is terrific and not easy to access. Some say it is like a miracle for certain types of hair. Tuula Hanninen, receptionist at the busy salon, raves about the *Kerastase Rituel Restructurant*, an in-salon express treatment for even the most processed and damaged hair. The difference is immediate – almost like magic.

CAROL'S TIPS

SKIN CARE: Chanel's *Precision Line* has developed five high-performance anti-pollution cleansers. These cleansers not only remove impurities and all makeup, they strengthen the skin's defences against the damaging action of pollutants. **Chanel** also presents three new products in their *Rectifiance Intense Collection*. These wonders are designed to stop the hands of time, give your skin maximum hydration and reinforce your skin's natural defence system.

Neo strata's *Up-Lifting* family introduces the firming eye contour cream with kigeline and tensol to help lift and tone. It also contains caffeine to reduce puffiness.

Chanel's Precision Line.

Almay's *Face and Eye Makeup Remover* pads remove all makeup with no irritation or mess – they are an outstanding little traveller!

In five short minutes, **Clinique's** new *Anti-Gravity Firming Lift Mask* promises a grab and pull tightening effect, giving slack skin an instant lifting sensation.

Vichy unveils *Novadiol*, rich in stimulating soya extract to help restore skin's plumpness and tautness – very good for menopausal skin.

A new night treatment from **Dior** is really quite engaging. The concentrate combines the whitening *S.N.O.W. Complex* and the brightening *Edelweiss Complex* with Retinol-Oxasom. This unique combination will help fight age spots and pigmentation flaws, leaving your skin looking brighter and more flawless.

Carita treats us with five new body care products. Renovating *Mineral Power* provides the cells with all the mineral and trace elements to retain cell vitality. The other products are equally sensational – check them out.

New products from Carita Paris.

Lancaster introduces *Aquamilk Beyond Moisture Essence*, a milky intensive concentrated serum with an ultra-light texture. It is high-performance and perfect for all thirsty skins.

One of **Orlane's** newest products is *B21 Balancing Mask*, created to complete their *B21 Purete* collection. The mask counteracts the problems of mature, oily and combination skin and also contains firming ingredients for an uplifting effect.

Another winner from **Chanel's** Precision line is *Eye Patch Total*. It's an anti-fatigue line-smoother that boosts the radiance of the eye area and reduces puffiness and dark circles – great after a late night or a long flight.

One of the first "wonder sprays" for bust and décolleté from **Christian Dior** is available this summer. Its name is *Bikini Top*, and it promises to revitalize and refirm your bust.

FOUNDATION: The *Flower Power* collection from **Lise Watier** treats us with a really terrific portfolio for dark skin. And is it ever handy! If you do get some colour this summer, you can just blend up any shade.

A must-have this season is **Clinique's** *Airbrush Concealer* available in two friendly shades. It will camouflage just about anything on your face, such as dark circles, brown spots, red spots.

Continued on page 38

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Summer Fashion

Continued from page 37

BEAUTY SHOP

By CAROL WISE

CHEEKS: Get that sun-kissed glow with **Clinique's** new powder bronzer – *Touch of Bronze* – and look like a bronzed beauty all year.

Check out **Chanel's** *Double Contraste Compact* for lips and cheeks. There are four sun-drenched shades in two heavenly textures: cream blushers with a semi-matte finish for the cheeks and a high gloss for the lips – stunning!

Take a look at **NARS'** burnt orange and chocolate brown blush with a gold shimmer. No need to sit in the sun with these treasures.

Sheer gel cheek colour, brand new from **MAC**, gives natural translucent coverage and is totally weightless.

LIPS: To soothe dry lips after sun, try **Clinique's** *Tinted Lip Treatment* – it really locks lips with shine and protection and comes in three sumptuous colours.

Estee Lauder's *Pure Color Lip Vinyl* is really a sensation. It's shiny, comfortable and loaded with colour.

For really glossy lips with luscious fullness, try **Dior's** *Addict Ultra Gloss* housed in the sleekest container. And, forget about heavy or sticky – this is totally lightweight.

Rouge Grace from **Lancaster** comes in 20 pure and ardent shades that are simply spectacular. High concentration of pigment provides intense colour and longevity. The new tube is absolutely exquisite.

NAILS: Revlon's *Copper Coast* summer collection simply shimmers with hues of varying shades of copper. Also from **Revlon**, look at their *PrisMagic* collection that provides a multicolour effect.

NARS' summer nail shades are exciting in feminine pink and sea foam.

Dior's *French Manicure* kit and the speed-drying *TopCoat* are fabulous. White French tops the tips of your nails while Pastel Pink – two coats please – covers the whole nail.

Chanel's new colours Pink Mink and Angora are definite must-haves.

EYES: Chanel's eye shadow compact, *Spotlight*, is dazzling with vibrant, jewel-like colours. They can be used dry or with water for more intensity.

NARS' tones this season include shimmering pink and teal – quite the combo.

And check out **Shiseido's** *The Makeup* in their duo compact of pearly white and a very sexy magenta.

Splashproof, new products from **MAC** include fabulous coloured pencils and a few mascaras that will withstand the summer heat.

Estee Lauder's new *Artist's Lip and Eye* pencils come in a crayon box full of colour. Each pencil has a soft-touch grip to make application a breeze.

Dior's five-colour eye shadow compact is terrific for the lady on the go. Ten feminine harmonies – two special editions and eight musts.

Try **Lancaster's** automatic cream to powder eye shadow – easy to apply and what a brightening effect! Top it up with *Lash Volumizing Mascara MO2*, both from their Monaco Spring Lights Collection.

Shiseido The Makeup brings us a mascara base that helps to intensify volume and curl. So easy – one coat of base and one coat of your favourite mascara.

HAIR: Redken, 5th Avenue NYC, introduces four fabulous new products – two shampoos with complimentary conditioners, *All Soft* and *Extreme*, both claiming to make your hair soft as silk, no matter how dry, brittle or distressed your hair might be Their latest *Lush Whip* is a great styling cream that is light-weight and does the job without making your hair heavy.

Lancaster's Rouge Grace comes in 20 pure and ardent shades that are simply spectacular.

Almost 20 years after its initial launch, a still-favourite line gets a new update! Its name is *Studio Line* from **L'Oreal Paris**. Among some 15 formulas available are great styling gels, fixing sprays and non-aerosol managing spritzes.

To take away the frizzies try *Oleo Relax Nutri-Huile* from **Kerastase Paris**.

The news from Terry Ritcey hair salon sounds to me like sensuous hair is on its way for summer. Senior Stylist Greg Kreutzer thinks bangs are back, but with a chunky separation to achieve a more modern movement and texture.

Kreutzer finds **Redken's** *Rough Paste Working Material* to be perfect for the look. Also big this year are hair extensions and the salon is pleased to announce that they are certified as official practitioners of the Great Lengths Hair Extension system. Free consultations are available.

Shaggy, layered hair, slightly unstructured and easy to manage, will be another really popular look for summer, says stylist Eduarda Jacob. However, even though it looks unstructured, each effect is carefully planned. Jacob recommends *Sap Moss Styling Spray* from **Aveda** for this special look.

To enhance these fabulous hair styles, Jeff Jager, head colour technician, says tone on tone will be the most popular colour technique this summer. Café au lait, Irish cream shades of blonde and soft suedy browns will be among the hottest shades – perfectly sensuous for those warm balmy nights.

Continued on page 39

Summer Fashion

Continued from page 38

BEAUTY SHOP

By CAROL WISE

FRAGRANCE: Two new additions to the **Kenneth Cole New York Fragrance** line are simply sensational. *Kenneth Cole New York White*, is a new complex floral that is very sexy and so New York. For your special honey, you must treat him to *Kenneth Cole New York Morning Rush Energizing Face Gel*. It is a multi-tasker that erases signs of those late nights out.

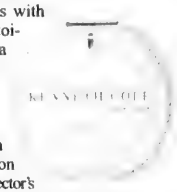
Nina Ricci presents *Memoire D'Homme*, which has a real fresh, spicy-woody harmony that is ever so sensual.

The warm, sexy scent of **Chanel's** *Allure* is now available in a refillable spray, a shimmering body lotion in a new travel size (perfect for the gym) and a shimmering body scrub – a limited edition product.

The House of Lacoste presents us with *Lacoste, Pour Femme*. This delightful scent captures a woman's spirit, bringing forth a real sense of comfort.

Coty's newest Adidas fragrance for men is *Adrenaline*. It's edgy, sophisticated and quite intense. An invigorating combination of herbs and cool citrus makes this fragrance a clean athletic scent.

Dior treats us with *J'Adore* eau de toilette housed in a beautiful spray cylinder that exudes a spring garden's bouquet. *I Love Dior* is a new limited-edition fragrance in a collector's bottle. It is sexy, glamorous and quite trendy.



Create your own spa with **Marc Jacobs'** *Aqua Glow Body Polish and Moisturizing Bath* – sheer luxury and relaxation.

Kenneth Cole Morning Rush face gel (left) and New York White (top).

The fashionista disease

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

If you constantly find yourself making room in an ever-shrinking closet or not having enough money to take a 20-dollar bill out of your bank account, chances are you are suffering from the common disease of obsessive-compulsive shopping.

Whether it's high-heeled pumps or cute purses, every woman has a penchant for something. Something about these accessories makes them so irresistible that you simply cannot bear to leave them on the store shelf.

Some may call it infatuation – even compulsion – but these purchases are merely the fashionista's version of collecting stamps or postcards.

Every girl has the right to treat herself to what she loves most. Shopping can be just what the doctor ordered for even the worst of problems. "Shopping therapy," as some like to call it, can be extremely effective, especially when you buy accessories, which, unlike clothing, lend themselves to all sorts of situations.

After all, you can never feel too fat for shoes, or too pale for a great new purse.

Though the purchases may seem superfluous at the time, this type of shopping is in fact economical. When you don't have enough cash to splurge on an entire outfit, a little purse, hat, belt or scarf can do just the trick.

There will always be a time, no matter how rare, to wear those hot pink mules from last season, or that purse made out of paper.

Personally, I know this compulsive behaviour quite well. My closet overflows with so many multi-coloured purses that I often forget my most imperative items in the purse I used the day before. And much to my mother's dismay, my shoes have far surpassed my allotted space in the front hall.

But I don't feel guilty. This disease of obsessive-compulsive shopping has hit the majority of the female population.

I say we are doing quite an admirable thing. While bettering the Canadian economy, we are also bettering the views of others. And for this, we should receive a reward.

On that note, they're having sales at Yorkdale…

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Lachan choir to perform Japanese/Jewish music

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Japanese/Jewish music and a composition by a 14-year-old will highlight Our Prophets Proclaim: Musical Visions of Israel, at the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. W., on May 27 at 8 p.m.

In their repertoire, Lachan: The Toronto Jewish Chamber Choir, will feature *A'irah Shachar (I Will Wake Up the Dawn)*, music written and first performed in Hebrew by the Shinonome Chorus (Makbetat Hashachar) of Japan.

The Shinonome choir is part of a Japanese religious movement called Beit Shalom--House of Peace or Japan Christian Friends of Israel.

Its followers are Christians who recognize Jews as the chosen people. Their mission is to pray for the Jewish people, peace in Jerusalem, and the coming of the Messiah. Many of their followers display a Magen David outside their homes.

Lachan was founded 10 years ago and has performed internationally. They were the national semi-finalists of CBC's choral competition in 2002.

"I believe that music is a powerful outreach tool to foster understanding and compassion among people," says the evening's conductor and musical director Cantor Benjamin Maissner.

Up to Jerusalem, a composition by Cassandra Luftspring, 14, will premiere at the concert.

A student at Arts York at Unionville High School, Luftspring is a soloist with the Toronto Children's Chorus. She won the Applause Award from York Region District School Board and a silver medal from the Royal Conservatory of Music for highest marks in Ontario on Grade 7 piano examination in 2001.

The program will also include a salute to the landscape of Israel as well as classical and popular music by Steinberg, Finkelstein, Shemer, Aldema and others

Tickets are $20, seniors and students $15. Call 416-782-3214.

Lachan Toronto Jewish Chamber Choir will perform *A'irah Shachar* written and first performed by Japan's Shinonome Choir. The concert will also include the premiere of a composition by Cassandra Luftspring.

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Photos depict Jewish scenes through the ages

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Photo artist May Karp uses her camera to trace, among other things, the history of Jewish Rome, beginning with the ancient community, which dates back to 161 BCE, when they came as ambassadors of Judah Maccabi.

Some 65 of Karp's photographs, including those taken in Rome, will be exhibited at the Moore Gallery, 80 Spadina Ave., Suite 404, May 22 to June 14.

In the show, titled Sequenza,which means "next" or "following" in Italian, Karp has included photographs taken in Italy, Spain, South America and North America.

"I was especially interested in the history of the Jews of Rome," she says. "My husband Fred and I chose Italy because we wanted to learn about the old part of Rome in depth."

The photo exhibition includes a preserved Jewish ghetto house in Rome, where the Ghetto was established in 1555.

"Jews of the ghetto in Rome were allowed to leave during the day but had to wear Jewish insignias. They were allowed to sell used clothing and they were moneylenders, the only two professions Jews were permitted."

While in Rome to take the photos, Karp says, they spoke Yiddish to people on the street.

There are now 16,000 Jews living in Rome and the surrounding areas, she adds.

The diversified exhibition also includes scenes in Barcelona and Bilbao, which boasts the Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry.

"Mr. Gehry's design of the titanium skin design on the outside of the museum," she says, "originates with the scales of the carp fish his grandmother used to keep in the tub of her home in Toronto to be made into gefilte fish for the Sabbath."

She says she tries to establish a larger vision "by transcending boundaries and cultural divides while creating memorable images."

She uses a technique known as the Sabbatier effect. "These render a painterly quality to my photographs and express a tension between the past and what might happen *sequenza* – next."

This is Karp's third solo exhibition at the Moore Gallery. As in the past when she donated part of her exhibited photographs to the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and the Mount Sinai Hospital, Karp will donate some of the photographs from the Sequenza exhibit to the Breast Cancer Clinic at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

There are already 23 of her photographs at Princess Margaret Hospital, and her work is found in private collections throughout the world.

For information on the Sequenza exhibition at the Moore Gallery, call 416-504-3914.

An old Jewish ghetto home in Rome, by photo artist May Karp.

Arts & Travel

Exhibit reveals podiatrist's celebrity foot fetish

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

He articulates the names with familiarity – espadrilles, Dolce and Gabbana, Skechers.

For those of us not in the know, these are types of shoes and podiatrist Hartley Miltchin, a collector of celebrity footwear, recently brought his obsession out of the closet and into the Bata Shoe Museum, where they are currently on display in the exhibit Starstruck!

Marilyn Monroe wore her shoes to death.

About five years ago, Miltchin started his collection with a pair of Michael Jordan's size 12 sneakers signed by the entire Chicago Bulls team. After that, he was off and running, so to speak.

His collection now includes, to name but a few, a pair of Pamela Anderson's custom-made pink and shiny boots, Shania Twain's 1999 stage shoes and Shaquille O'Neal's runners – size 23, by the way.

Miltchin has a story to go with each shoe.

Elvis Presley's black leather cowboy boots, for instance, were worn in three of his early movies.

"They're very well used," Miltchin says, noting that Elvis' style set the stage for the footwear worn later by The Beatles.

One of John Lennon's black ankle boots is also on display – and also well-worn. According to Miltchin, Lennon's boots have an even wear-pattern, indicating that the famous musical leader of the 1960s peace movement "probably didn't have any imbalances."

Hollywood diva Marilyn Monroe wore her shoes to death, with a lot of "pressure down on the balls of her feet," Miltchin says. Lucille Ball wore junk, and her foot rolled into the big toe, while Elizabeth Taylor wore the soles out of her silver stiletto sandals.

"Madonna's shoes scream 'Madonna,'" Miltchin says as he pulls a pair of sandals out of his tote bag. They have a 90 degree slope and a heel that goes on forever.

"The everyday person just doesn't wear shoes like these," he says.

Rapper Eminem's Nikes are on display, complete with a "Slim Shady" signature. Apparently Eminem never signs anything with his real name. He uses his alter ego instead.

Displayed under plexiglass are Britney Spears' Skechers – a line of shoes she endorsed when she was still a Disney Mouseketeer. NSync's Justin Timberlake's boot is also prominently featured. If you look closely, you can see his name carefully sewn in. Rumour has it he has a doting mother.

There is a size 7 Jimi Hendrix slipper that Miltchin bought from an old girlfriend with a drug habit, and a Davy Jones high-heeled shoe – apparently worn to compensate for his shortness – that is signed by all four Monkees.

The collection merges Miltchin's collection with those already owned by the Bata Shoe Museum's and displays them as if visitors have arrived at a celebrity party.

Buddy Holly's shoes are at the soirée, as are Fred Astaire's – who had an imbalance near his big toe.

The exhibit also contains Micky Mantle's golf shoes (size 10), as well as Wayne Gretzky's skates, which Gretzky used for two seasons and were mistakenly given away by his dad to an auction.

"They were his favourite skates when he played for the Edmonton Oilers," Miltchin said. He got Gretzky's signature on them when his sports memorabilia dealer cornered The Great One in a sports bar two years ago.

Guides at the Bata Shoe Museum will tell you that much can be learned about a people and their culture by examining their footwear.

Indeed, those walking through the exhibit can't help but stop and wonder about Elton John's shopping shoes – high-heeled shiny runners with a "J" embossed on the side.

Miltchin, a Bathurst Manor native who grew up just a few blocks from where he now practises, loves all the shoes in the collection. For him, it's a fitting obsession for a podiatrist with sole.

Starstruck! is on display at the Bata Shoe Museum until Feb. 22, 2004.

One of John Lennon's black ankle boots.

The Canadian Jewish news

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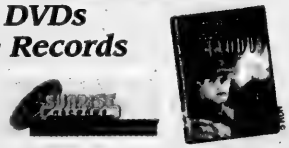

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

VISITING ISRAELI ARTIST DAVID MOSS HELPS LOCAL ARTISTS "EXPAND HORIZONS"

Well-known Jerusalem-based artist **David Moss** was in Toronto for two weeks recently, running workshops at the Lipa Green Building for local Jewish artists and art teachers under the auspices of a cultural committee of UJA Federation.

Born in Ohio in 1946, Moss is known for reviving the art of the modern ketubah and for designing a magnificent Haggadah and many other Jewish works. His pieces have been displayed by many international art galleries, including the National Library of Canada in Ottawa, which possesses a facsimile of his Haggadah. The local artists who attended his workshops included "metal workers, conceptual artists, fabric artists, calligraphers and painters," Moss told *Eye on Arts*.

"We didn't actually create art, typically because I'm working with artists who already know how to do this," Moss said. "So I tried to help them with other aspects of their work – more creative aspects, and the Jewish connection. I try to help them to look at their work in more open ways, to expand their horizons, to explore new possibilities, to switch directions in their work or to do it in more engaging ways."

Moss returns to southern Ontario as scholar-in-residence at Camp Ramah in the Muskoka region for several weeks in July to work on projects with the kids and work with artists. Moss also works in a similar capacity with various Jewish communities in the United States.

For more information, visit his Web site at www.davidmoss.com.

* * *

Jewish Music at Distillery Jazz Fest: Jewish music is featured prominently at Toronto's Distillery Jazz Festival (May 22 to June 1) with performances of jazzy, klezmer and Israeli music by three different ensembles.

Shurum Burum by the **David Buchbinder Ensemble** mixes exuberant jazzy musical improvisations by 11 musicians with choreography and acrobatics of six circus and dance performers. Cointreau Cabaret, May 24 and 29, 9:30 p.m.

The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band features six musicians on trumpet, bass, drums, clarinet, piano and vocals in a performance of authentic '30s music from the early days of klezmer, re-creating the Warsaw Ghetto of 1933. Cointreau Cabaret, May 31, 8 p.m.

The band **Shakshuka** produces meditative and driving grooves inspired by eastern and Israeli musical styles, blending features of Persian, Indian, Arabic, Spanish and western jazz music. Cointreau Cabaret, May 27, 11 p.m.

All events take place at the Distillery Historic District, Toronto's new centre for arts, culture and entertainment. Set on 13 acres in downtown Toronto (between Parliament and Cherry streets, south of Front Street), the former Gooderham and Worts Distillery dates back to 1832 and is the largest and best-preserved collection of Victorian industrial architecture in North America.

The jazz festival coincides with the grand opening of the Distillery Historic District on May 24 and 25. Tickets $10-$25. 416-872-1212. Web site: www.distilleryjazz.com.

* * *

British Prize: London-based writer **Zadie Smith** is not Jewish but her second and most recent novel, *The Autograph Man*, won the British Jewish Quarterly Wingate fiction prize in April because of its Jewish content, which includes some elements of the kabbalah.

As Smith explained recently to the *London Jewish Chronicle*, she grew up with many Jewish friends and found that her reading led her on a trail from Kafka to the *Zohar*. Although only 27, she sometimes speaks with a wisdom that belies her years – as when she explains why she doesn't generally like to give press interviews:

"It is precisely because I want to be a very great writer that I don't want to do anything else but write. Doing interviews, going on television, being in the papers, is all a waste of my time. I really do think writing is damaged by this kind of attention. You watch great writers become dissipated or get into difficulties because of it."

* * *

At the Galleries:

• Areas affected by the Israeli and Palestinian peace process are depicted in Holyland: 1994-2001, a series of photographs by **Ethan Eisenberg**, a Canadian who has made numerous trips to Israel and the West Bank. Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto. May 22 to June 29. Also on view are a series of Portraits from Namsaling, Nepal, by Tony Makepeace. 7 Hart House Circle. 416-978-8398.

• Sotheby's-Ritchie's exhibition of Important Canadian Art runs May 23 through 26, with an auction May 27, 7 p.m. 288 King St. E. 416-926-1774.

• Bawdy Language, an exhibition of photographs and book launch by **Beverley Abramson**, on view at the Atlantisia Gallery, 92 Scollard St. until June 7. Reception May 24, 5-8 p.m.

• Recent acrylics paintings by cartoonist Andy Donato are on view at the Joseph D. Carrier Art Gallery, 901 Lawrence Ave. W. until June 28.

Jewish Film Festival leaves me with a pickle

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Last week, some attendees of the Jewish Film Festival went home with a pickle. But only if they co-operated and left through the back doors of the Bloor Cinema, as instructed.

Before the mid-day matinée, while the audience rushed to unreserved spots, signs reminded viewers that it's not kosher to hog seats. Nonetheless a skirmish in Aisle 4 had to be settled because someone draped a coat over the chair in front in order to secure clear viewing. While this issue was being resolved, a man with a microphone – I believe it was the man holding the tray of pickles at the exit – went over the rules of movie etiquette, reminding the audience that talking, shushing and clucking during important parts is not allowed.

But some habits are hard to break. About five minutes into the movie, the woman sitting behind me informed no one in particular to watch carefully because a scary part was coming up; someone over at the side let us know when to expect the funny parts; the person to my right groaned over the leftist comments and the man to my left sighed every time the character who supported Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's viewpoint was heard.

During the intermission, I was told a long line had formed outside the men's washroom. Apparently, a group of women had commandeered the men's room because the wait for the women's was too long. The men patiently waited while a woman went in and out of the men's bathroom to report.

As she counted down to "four… three… two… one" woman left in the washroom, she flirted the crowd into compliance. After the restroom was finally returned to the men, several people commented that this was a great moment of co-operation for the Jewish people.

This collaborative effort was facilitated by the ubiquitous ushers who were on top of all disruptions. Headsets and walkie-talkies kept those in charge informed about all disturbances.

A man in Aisle 7 had to be reminded that telling everyone what happens at the end really isn't fair.

To which he promptly responded, "For fair, I would have gone to work. Instead I came to the Jewish Film Festival to unwind with mishpachah and watch films that sometimes touch my soul."

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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 51.

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Arts & Travel

Artist explores the theme of love in her exhibition

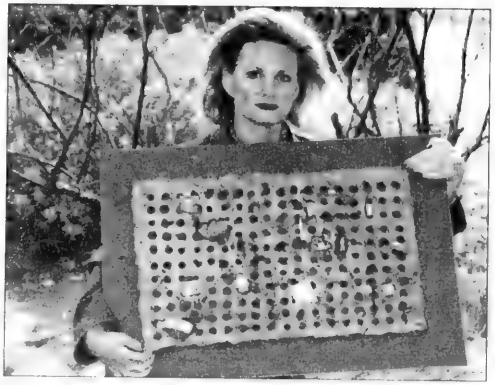
By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Love, and its many forms, is the theme of an exhibition of works by multi-faceted artist, Tootsie Halbert, at A Show of Hands Gallery at 1016 Eglinton Ave. W. through the month of June.

"Each expression of love is powerful and life affirming," says Halbert who has created large scale framed compositions for the show.

Halbert uses layered paper and mixed media to create the meaningful exhibition which reflects the depth of her artistic abilities.

For more than 40 years, Halbert has used many different media to express herself including, ceramics, jewelry, textiles, sculpting and painting.



Artist Tootsie Halbert is seen with her multi-media work titled, Wild Life. Halbert's artwork is on view at Show of Hands Gallery through the month of June.

"The most commonly identified forms of love are the love between husband and wife, parent and child, members of a cultural or faith community and country," she says.

Recently, Halbert created a work of art for an exhibition which was sent to Shanghai celebrating the life of former Chinese Consul General Dr. Feng Shan Ho, who helped save the lives of 20,000 Jews fleeing the Holocaust.

"I have also learned that love can also be found in acts of loving kindness between strangers, as the life and work of Dr. Ho demonstrated. All of these ties that bind are explored in the exhibit at the Show of Hands Gallery."

She adds that the inspiration for her art is drawn from people and nature "in all of their wondrous expressions. I strive to evoke the innocence of childhood, the pleasures of nature (perhaps influenced by growing up in Kirkland Lake), my own connections to Judaism as both a faith and culture, and the celebration of life in all of its diverse manifestations."

Halbert's pieces are to be studied. "You have to look at them carefully because everything in life is not on the surface."

For more information call A Show of Hands, 416 782 1696.

Quiet hero rescued Jewish kids

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Almost 700 Czech Jewish children owe their lives to a diffident British stockbroker with a heart of gold.

Nicholas Winton, now 93, saved them on the eve of World War II.

His story is the subject of *Nicky's Children*, which CBC TV will broadcast on May 28 at 8 p.m.

The program is hosted and narrated by CBC correspondent Joe Schlesinger, who was rescued by Winton.

Winton, who was knighted recently by Queen Elizabeth, headed the British Refugee Committee, which cajoled Britain and Sweden into admitting 669 Jewish children from German-occupied Czechoslovakia.

Such was the temper of the times that no other countries would have them.

Never driven by ulterior motives, he was simply moved by the plight of Jews facing Nazi persecution.

This absorbing documentary unfolds through the medium of interviews with these "children" and archival footage.

Schlesinger adds a few touching personal flourishes and appears on screen with Winton, a man whose passion is his flowering English garden.

Winton's altruism came to light by accident in 1988 when his wife Greta, stumbled upon an old scrapbook filled with the children's names, and letters from their parents.

Winton had never bothered telling his wife about his good deed. To him, it was just an "episode," "something that had happened" in the course of a long life.

For some strange reason, *Nicky's Children* does not mention the fact that Winton is half-Jewish. Perhaps his partial Jewish ancestry was a factor in his decision to help the children.

Be that as it may, the film covers considerable ground, fleshing out the historical context of the era and providing capsule sketches of several of the children.

To achieve his humanitarian objective, Winton had to convince the German authorities to release the children and the British and Swedish governments to accept them.

No naif, Winton was not above using forged British documents to fool the Germans into releasing the children.

From May to August 1939, Winton greeted eight train loads of children. The outbreak of hostilities in Europe forced the cancellation of a ninth transport. The kids who had been slated to board that train did not survive the war.

Many of the children were under the illusion they would be reunited with their parents. The reality was quite different. In the vast majority of cases, parents and offspring never saw each other again, the parents having been murdered during the Holocaust.

In a poignant recollection, Schlesinger recalls saying goodbye to his father in a smelly bathroom in a train station just across the border in Germany.

Jews were not allowed to set foot in the station's waiting room. Schlesinger did not see his father again. He perished in a death camp in Poland.

In Britain, Winton placed them in a variety of institutions ranging from foster homes to boarding schools.

In an interview, Winton explains he had no patience for myopic rabbis who objected to the placement of children in Christian homes. Sometimes there was no alternative.

Winton became something of a celebrity after his wife accidentally discovered his scrapbook in their attic.

He was invited to appear on a television show, not having been told that some of his "children" would be in the audience. In a moving scene, a woman leans over to hug him in a mutually tearful reunion.

As befits his status as a reporter, Schlesinger has the last word. Winton, he says tremulously, is one of the most decent people he has had the privilege of knowing. Schlesinger can pay no higher compliment to a fellow human being.

A quiet hero, Winton richly deserves the praise.

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Event to raise funds for new cancer treatment

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Radiation may be a lifesaver for cancer patients, but its intense side effects can batter their bodies and minds.

But thanks to medical advancements, there are now new radiation treatments that target cancerous cells while minimizing damage to healthy cells.

Lisa Coristine has undergone several successful rounds of this new type of targeted radiation.

"I was fortunate," the 27-year-old teacher said. "This is not something that happens all the time."

Lisa's success and bravery inspired her family and friends to form the Brave Heart Foundation, which raises funds for targeted radiation at Princess Margaret Hospital.

The foundation will be throwing a fundraising "Life" party at the York Event Theatre at 101 Eglinton Ave. E., on May 23.

"[Life is] a very suitable theme because… hopefully, we can try and save lives," said Tammy Cohen, who is in charge of planning the affair.

Cohen said the party will include DJs and other entertainment, as well as a raffle for those who buy tickets in advance. She expects about 500 people to attend.

Coristine is thrilled the foundation is throwing the bash.

"It feels so good to know you are doing something," the Thornhill resident said. "One thing I knew when I [was diagnosed with cancer] was that I would put it to good use."

Lisa Coristine

Coristine's battle with the illness dates back to September 2000, when she began experiencing severe migraines.

By the summer of 2001, she lost her sense of smell and was sleeping 20 hours a day.

Doctors were baffled and so was Coristine.

"I thought I was burnt out from my first year of teaching," Coristine said.

By the time Coristine had an MRI in August 2001, a tumour in her sinuses had grown to 8.5 centimetres in length and was pushing against her brain.

She had surgery and underwent five weeks of a new kind of targeted radiation.

"Instead of going in blindly, this type of radiation is designed to only hit programmed areas," Coristine said.

"That is what the foundation is raising money for – cancer treatments that help minimize the damage to healthy cells."

The following summer, her doctor spotted some additional brain tumours, and Coristine was warned she could lose her eyesight and suffer other ailments.

But once again, she received targeted radiation and pulled through.

"It would be a beautiful world where patients could have a doctor say, 'Don't worry [about the side effects], we have this new, improved treatment.'"

Coristine is currently undergoing radiation for a tumour in her nostril, but she is upbeat. She credits family and friends, particularly her sister Jennifer Zelovitzky, her boyfriend Amir Sperling and friend Jackie Taitz, the trio who started the foundation, for her positive mindset.

"They keep up such a brave front," Coristine said.

"The fact these three people formed a foundation and I was the inspiration for it is an unbelievable feeling."

For tickets to the Life party, e-mail brave heartfoundation@hotmail.com.

The foundation is also planning a fundrais-

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Five-year-old 'puts the squeeze on' at lemonade stand to help Heart and Stroke Foundation

On May 25, five-year-old Amanda Belzowski, one of the youngest supporters of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, will put her heart into raising funds in support of cardiovascular health.

Amanda and her family are running their fifth annnual lemonade stand on Briancliff Drive (off Lawrence, west of Leslie, and across from Edwards Gardens).

To date, they have contributed almost $5,000 in lemonade stand proceeds to the foundation.

In addition to Amanda's lemonade, the Belzowskis will offer their customers some family entertainment including children's recording artist Markus, who will begin his performance at 2:15 p.m.

As part of this family outing, Kenton of the Twisted Ones will also be delighting young patrons with his balloon creations.

For the last few years, Amanda and her family have participated in the Becel Ride for Heart, and have raised almost $10,000 in support of the foundation's research into the root causes of heart disease and stroke.

Amanda's great-grandfather and her grandmother have each had an artificial aortic valve replacement.

The 16th Annual Becel Ride for Heart takes place on Sunday, June 1 at 7:15 a.m., with a separate in-line skating event beginning at 7:45 a.m.

The biggest one-day fundraising event for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, this year's Becel Ride for Heart is expected to raise $1.45 million for life-saving heart and stroke research.

Registration for the Ride for Heart takes place up until the day of the event at various locations in GTA. Phone 416-486-RIDE--7433), and www.heartandstroke.ca/ridefor heart for information.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I just had a bone density test and found out that I need to increase my calcium intake. I am not really a dairy lover. How can I maximize my intake without consuming a lot of dairy products?

A. If you are going to consume dairy products, choose yogurt over milk. Cup for cup it has more calcium. Calcium-enriched orange juice is also a great source. Each cup contains almost the same amount of calcium as a cup of milk and it is available in most grocery stores. If you can't get enough from food (three servings per day equalling approximately 1,000 mg) then you should try a supplement. I suggest a calcium magnesium combination in a 2 to 1 ratio. This type of supplement is available in most health food stores.

Q. My two-year-old loves tuna sandwiches and I am happy to make him this seemingly healthy lunch. I am concerned, however, about things I have heard recently about high levels of mercury in tuna. Is it safe for him to eat?

A. There is a concern about the type and portion of tuna eaten by young children, pregnant and nursing women, and women in their childbearing years. The concern is that high levels of mercury ingested may cause neurological or other problems. The fish that seem to contain the highest levels of mercury and should be eaten in a limited way are swordfish, shark, tilefish, king mackerel and fresh tuna.

With regard to tuna recommendations, first, light tuna contains approximately half the mercury of white tuna, and is therefore a much safer choice for young children. The most recent recommendations from the Centre for Science in The Public Interest limit children to 28 grams or 1 ounce per week of white tuna and 43 grams or approximately 2 ounces of light tuna if they weigh under 33 pounds. This increases to 85 grams or approximately 3 ounces of light tuna for children up to 49 pounds.

Fish that are low in mercury levels include flounder, haddock, farmed or wild salmon and farmed trout.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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330 OBITUARIES

330 OBITUARIES

ORZECH, Rose – on April 29, 2003, late of 888 Castlefield Ave.
SOLOMON, Irving – on April 29, 2003.
HURWITZ, Meyer – on April 29, 2003, late of 7300 Yonge St.
KRONENBERG, Chaim – on April 29, 2003, late of 87 Allingham Gardens.
GOODMAN, Michael G. – on April 30, 2003, late of North Miami Beach.
SNIDER, Annette – on April 30, 2003, late of 58 Harrington Cres.
SNAPER, Etia – on April 29, 2003, late of 78 Windermere Cres.
GLASS, Milton – on April 27, 2003.
SHTEINBERG, Matvey – on April 30, 2003, late of 3549 Major Mackenzie Dr.
HUPPERT, Louis – on May 1, 2003, late of 4 Cavotti Cres.
MEINHARD, Chanah Helen – on May 3, 2003, late of 1 Princess Ann Dr.
FACTOR, Morris – on May 3, 2003, late of 53 Viewmount Ave.
VAISMAN, Raisa – on May 3, 2003, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
DAVIDZON, Menea – on May 3, 2003, late of 15 Tangreen Crt.
SCHATZKER, Ruth – on May 4, 2003, late of 15 Bayhampton Crt.
WASSERLAUF, Sabina – on May 3, 2003, late of 32 Peveril Hill Rd. N.
SARNER, Edes – on May 2, 2003, late of 131 Hove St.
SHREYBERG, Zelda – on May 4, 2003.
REV, John – on May 5, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
REIKEN, Samuel – on May 5, 2003, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
NORDEN, Harvey – on May 6, 2003, late of 703 Finch Ave. W.
WILLIAMS, Sylvia – on May 6, 2003, late of 1 Northwestern Ave.
SZEGO, Rose – on May 6, 2003, late of 555 Sheppard Ave. W.
SHOPIRO, Ruth – on May 8, 2003.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

TAERK, Belle – on May 3, 2003, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
POLAN, Helen – on May 2, 2003, late of 172 Pannahill Rd.
McCARTHY, Teena – on May 3, 2003, late of 310 Simonston Blvd.
STEIN, Blaine – on May 3, 2003, late of 92 O'Conner Cres.

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330 OBITUARIES

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

SADIE BEINHAKER (nee Brecher) ז"ל

in Jerusalem, Sunday, May 11th, 2003
She died peacefully, the passing of the Righteous.

Widow of Dr. Samuel Israel Beinhaker ז"ל.
Mother of Rosalind Elaine Sternthal and Gloria Pearl Brock of Montreal and Philip Howard Beinhaker of Jerusalem, Israel.
She was grandmother to 13 and great-grandmother to 17.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

Joseph Minarsky ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, South of Steeles
Adath Shalom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MARVIN S. SOROKIN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th at 1:30 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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336 CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late

FRANK EKSTEIN ז"ל
Of Blessed Memory

Wishes to express sincere and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all relatives and friends for their many acts of kindness, expressions of sympathy and for the many generous charitable donations made in his memory.

Your support brought us much needed comfort and gave us strength and courage in our bereavement.

Please accept this as our personal thank you.

ANITA, RICK & LILLIAN, RUTH & ALAN,
PETER & STELLA, PAUL & NILI

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

WILLIAM BRODY ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th at 3:30 p.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
5822 Bathurst St.
Section 6206
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

HARRY RESNICK ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 1st at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
(east side of Bathurst St., 2 blks. south of Steeles Ave.)
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

David Goldberg ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th at 11:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
3169 St. Clair Ave. East
Beth David Section (#115)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

SAMMY KATZMAN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th, 12:00 noon
Roselawn Cemetery
Mozirer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

HELEN RAUCHWERGER ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

Rabbi Jacob Mendel Kirshenblatt ז"ל

loving father of Sheila Kirshenblatt and
Assistant Rabbi Emeritus of Beth Sholom Synagogue
will take place
Sunday, June 1st at 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

SAUL MOROWICZ ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th, 1:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section FFFF
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

BELLA SPRINGER ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, June 1st, 11:00 a.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Roselawn & Chaplin Cres.
Eitz Chaim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LEON DREWNOWSKY ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MOSHE (MIKE) HARTSTEIN ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Bnai Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LOUIS NAGY ז"ל

will take place
Sunday, May 25th, 2:00 p.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Sons of Jacob Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

BERTHA WILENCZYK ז"ל

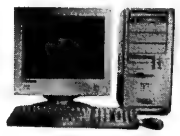
will take place
Sunday, May 25th, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst, South of Steeles
Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

In Memory of

ANNETTE SNIDER ז"ל

We wish to express sincere and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all relatives and friends for the many acts of kindness and support.

Max Snider,
Cheryl & Murray Einhorn, Fern & Allan Grossman,
Sally & Bernie Dubinsky, Faye & Mory Ross,
the family of Lillian & Ozzie Greenwald ז"ל,
Lou & Helen Wronzberg, Betty & Lou Ross,
and Families.



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The Canadian Jewish news

Iraqi Jewish refugee speaks out

By RACHEL EISENBERG
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

VIENNA — Jacob will proudly tell you he is one of the last Iraqi Jews from Baghdad. But he's very happy to have left what was his home for more than 50 years.

Jacob, who started his journey on Feb. 23 and travelled through other Arab countries, says he feels safe and relieved now that he has arrived in Europe.

For security reasons, his real name and whereabouts cannot be published.

When asked about the situation of Iraq's Jews now that Saddam Hussein has been deposed, Jacob is mildly optimistic.

"It will be better, but it will take a long time," he says.

He still fears for the Jewish community because it is hard being such a small minority in an Arab country, he adds.

There are believed to be approximately 35 Jews left in Iraq.

Jacob has not been in contact with them since the phone lines went down during the war in Iraq, though he has tried.

He is hopeful about his own future after having celebrated his first Passover since his own exodus.

A religious man, Jacob strongly believes that he was saved by the good deeds he did for the community, including bringing kosher meat to families who could not come to synagogue to pick them up. Jacob also made sure before he left to teach someone how to slaughter chickens and sheep in accordance with Jewish law.

"*Mitzvot tatzil mi'mavet*" he says – good deeds save one from death.

Jacob has an amulet that he carries in his pocket, one of the only religious articles he took on his flight out of Iraq.

Jacob had wanted to leave Iraq since 1977. However, the government told him that he could only get a passport after retirement, which would be granted after a minimum of 25 years of work.

Not wanting to leave illegally for fear of being caught, Jacob stayed, and finally got his passport after working for 32 years.

After the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, all Jewish studies were forbidden in Iraq, but Jacob's parents taught him about Judaism, including how to read and write Hebrew.

He was very involved with the Jewish community, performing ritual slaughter, leading synagogue services and blowing the shofar on Rosh Hashanah.

"We used to bake our own matzot in a small mud oven. Two and a half kilos of flour was enough for one person for Pesach," he says.

He proudly speaks of the ancient Jewish prophets and leaders buried in Iraq, whose graves also have become holy sites for Muslims there.

Yet Jacob claims that only his close friends and neighbours knew he was Jewish. At work he went by a different name that was less conspicuously Jewish.

His caution was due to the sporadic persecution of Iraq's Jewish community.

In 1969, a few years after the Six-Day War, innocent Jews were falsely accused and hanged in a square in Baghdad.

Many Jews disappeared during 1972 and 1973 – and no one is sure what happened to them.

After leaving Baghdad Jacob hid with a farmer in another Arab country, under a false identity. He kept his Jewishness secret for fear of being killed, he says.

Jacob then was able to move on to Europe, where he celebrated Passover with the support of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

He hopes to be granted refugee status soon in order to be able to join his family, who live in a different European country.

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Ex-Anaheim pitcher comes back with Tampa

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Al Levine was presented with a 2002 World Series ring last weekend during his first trip to Anaheim since last October's championship victory.

It was no doubt a bittersweet experience for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays hurler, accepting the memento after being somewhat surprisingly left off the Angels' 25-man postseason roster last year.

While he watched the series as a bullpen cheerleader and joined in the champagne celebration after the Angels' game seven triumph over the San Francisco Giants (Levine was among those seen whooping it up on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*), he was well aware that his four-year stint with the organization was over.

He declined comment on the way he departed Anaheim, but his decision to return to Scottsdale, Ariz., for the closing of his new home instead of participating in the victory parade in Disneyland spoke volumes.

"It's an honour to have [a ring], and I was happy that we won," said Levine, following a 7-5 Tampa Bay win in Toronto last week that began a 12-game road trip. "I was happy for the guys, but yet I didn't feel like I was part of the team.

"[The ring] is not something I'm going to wear. I'll give it to my son."

After officially being let go by Anaheim, the 6-3, 175-lb righthander was happy to sign a one-year deal with St. Louis, the defending National League central division champions.

But a nightmarish spring in which he yielded eight earned runs in just 10 innings pitched prompted the team to release him from their 40-man roster on March 26, prior to the guaranteed-contract deadline.

For Levine (pronounced Le-VINE), who turns 35 May 22, the move could have signalled the end of an eight-year career that also included stops in Texas and Chicago. He began his career as an 11th round pick of the White Sox in the 1991 free-agent draft.

The Park Ridge, Ill., native went home to spend time with his family in Arizona, uncertain whether he had a future in the game.

"You're never happy getting cut at the end of the spring, because it's tough finding a job," he said. "It made it even tougher especially after all the free agents that were out there this year.

Al Levine

"Sometimes it's not what you want, but it's for the best."

Levine, who went 4-4 with a 4.24 ERA and a career-high five saves in 52 appearances with Anaheim last year, was signed by Tampa Bay to a Triple-A contract on April 2. Slated to pitch in a simulated game a week later before reporting to the Durham Bulls, he was called up April 9 by the Devil Rays on an emergency basis and made an immediate impact with his new club.

That night, Levine came on in relief and picked up the win in a 10-7 triumph over Baltimore, pitching 2⅔ hitless innings. He credits hard work along with help from the coaching staff for the improvement in his throwing mechanics. He's been outstanding since, pitching primarily as one of the Devil Rays' set-up men for rookie closer Lance Carter.

Levine says he got shelled during the Grapefruit League as a result of doing some things wrong with his delivery and not "getting out there and throwing the ball."

Levine was 2-1 with a 1.65 ERA in nine appearances through May 13. He worked a season-high three innings against Baltimore on April 27, allowing just one man to reach base.

"He's done a real nice job and has been one of our more successful pitchers here early in the season," said Devil Rays manager Lou Piniella. "We need experience. We have a lot of young pitchers here, probably more than any team in baseball…he'll help stabilize things."

Berkovic: I may never play for Israel again

By ASHER GOLDBERG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Manchester City midfielder Eyal Berkovic says he may not return to play for Israel's national team. "If I feel my injury prevents me from giving a 120 per cent effort then I will not play for Israel," he said last week.

Berkovic said the operation he underwent some two months ago for a stomach muscle injury helped him, but he said he still suffers from pain. After a period of recuperation, Berkovic will have another examination at the clinic in Munich where the operation was performed.

The midfielder is due to return to Manchester on June 2 and will begin training ten days before his teammates. Berkovic, who is currently in Israel, spoke recently with national team coach Avraham Grant and the two agreed that a decision on his future with the national team would be discussed only after he had resumed training with Manchester City.

In any event, Berkovic will not play in Israel's Euro 2004 qualifier against Slovenia on June 7 and is highly unlikely to play in the following match against Malta.

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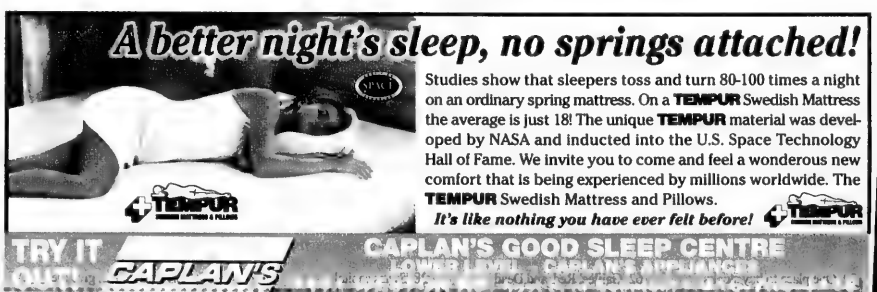
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יעל זליגר

הילדה רובין הוד, מאת: נורית זרחי, הוצאת ספרית הפועלים

נורית זרחי, בתו של הסופר ישראל זרחי, ידועה בעיקר כמחברת ספרי ילדים. ברם, היא התפרסמה גם כסופרת למבוגרים וכמשוררת. גם כשהיצירות הן אישיות ואינטימיות, כמעט תמיד נחשפת אצל זרחי אספקלריה שדרכה משתקפת החברה הישראלית.

נורית חתייתמה מאביה בהיותה בת חמש ומאורע זה היה מכריע בחיי הילדה. לאחר מות האב, נאלצה המשפחה לעקור מירושלים ולעבור לקיבוץ. על מעמדה הלא-ברור של המשפחה בקיבוץ כתבה נורית זרחי בסיפרה משחקי בדידות (1999).

בספר הילדה רובין הוד בחרה נורית זרחי להתמקד לא בילדה קטנה ולא באשה בוגרת אלא בנערה אידיאליסטית ששואפת לתיקון עולם. או, מהיבט אפשרי אחר, סיפור על נערה אידיאליסטית עם חרבה כעס המאפיין בני נוער רבים בגיל מעבר קשה זה. מה יכולה נערה ישראלית לעשות כשהיא מרגישה שהכל אינו כפי שצריך להיות; כיצד לתקן משפחה, בית-ספר ואת החברה הסובבת? איך מביאים לידי פתרון צודק בעיות של פער עדתי ואי-שוויון חברתי?

את סיפורה של רובין מספרת אחותה הצעירה שמעידה על כך שלרובין יחסים מוזרים עם הוריה. "רובין קוראת לאבא "גדי", ולאמא - "ורדי", ולא אבא ואמא, מפני שהיא נולדה להם כשהם היו צעירים" האבא צייר, אוהב לעשות מדיטציה והאם פסיכולוגית. רובין תמיד חושבת על עצמה כילדה מכוערת - אף אחד אחר לא חושב כך.

יום אחד, במסגרת מאמציה להביא מרפא לחברה הישראלית ולחדש את ימי החלוציות והאידיאליזם, רובין מחליטה לקנות חלקת אדמה בנגב, מקום שהאדמה לא יקרה, ולחקים קומונה המקיימים את עצמה בעבודת אדמה. לחוסר התלהבותם המיידית של ההורים לרעיון, רובין מגיבה בפסיקה שהם סתם בורגנים. לעומת זאת היא יודעת שבעצם דור ההורים כן תאמין במשהו. "אתה גדלת בקיבוץ" היא אומרת לאביה, "יש לך בדם אהבת הארץ ואהבת הציונות... אתה זוכר את הטיולים שטיילת מים לים, בלי ציוד, בלי מים, שבועות במדבר ברגל... אבל מה יש לנוער שלנו? שום דבר!"

רובין רוצה לחנך את הנוער של היום לאהוב את המדינה, ואת הארץ, ואת היהדות. "בחוזה שלנו יהיו מורים שמאמינים ביהדות, אנשים שרוצים לקרב נוער חילוני לדת, וזה יהיה חסכוני, כי הם בטח יסכימו לעשות את זה חינם..."

המקורבים לרובין חצויים בתגובתם. אחותה הקטנה, הדוברת בספר, אמנם מעבירה לרובין את חסכונותיה כתרומה למימון "אחות-החופש" אך בבית-הספר אין היא אוהבת שידעו שהיא אחותה של רובין - "שתם אסטרואוטית אחת שלא מחוברת טוב לאדמה." אצל האב הדיון בדרך כלל מסתיים בהלצה: "יהתקוות בת שנות אלפיים... ומה איתנו? אותנו לא תיקחי לכפרי" והאם, בדרכה המקצועית מנסה לא להתערב ברעיון "אחות-החופש" אך רואה במאבקה של רובין מאבק אופייני לנערה בגיל ההתבגרות שעוברת ניתוק קשר ראשוני מן ההורים.

יש טיפוסים שלועגים לרובין אך היא לא מוותרת; "עם על א.ד. גורדון צחקו." חבורה של בנים סוררים מרגנים עליה בסך הכל "אחת שיש לה הכל בבית וסתם רוצה לעשות רעש."

רובין עומדת בלחצים וממשיכה ללחום את מלחמתה בשצף. החבל נמתח ונמתח עד שהוא נקרע. לטובת החזון היא נעדרת מבית -הספר, פורקת עול, ומורדת בהוריה; "יותר לא תצאי מן הבית, צועקת עליה אמא. את שומעת, זו לא הפקרות פה, ואת לא ילדת- רחוב." נכון אומרת רובין, "רק שכחת שאני כבר לא ילדה."

אלא שאפילו רובין היא בסופו של דבר רק ילדה ונסיונה להיות לגמרי עצמאית כמעט שמוביל לאסון. תוך כדי בריחה לתוך הים והתנצחות עם חבורה של בנים, רובין נופלת, נפצעת ונלקחת לבית חולים. מצבה לא אנוש אך היא צריכה לעבור ניתוח ברגלה. ברגעי הכאב הללו רובין שבה להיות ילדה נפחדת ובוכייה אצל אמא - אמא, ולא וורד.

אין ספק שזהו נסיון אמיץ של סופרת מחוננת לפסוק בשאלות רגישות של החברה הישראלית ולעורר את בני הנוערים לחשיבה על ערכים לאומיים וחומאניים. לצערי, חשתי לא בנוח במהלך קריאת הספר. השפה איננה קולחת והרצף העלילתי קטוע. אמרתי "לצערי" שכן אין ספק שהתכנים מעולים.

CRÈME BRULÉE FRENCH TOAST

1/2 cup unsalted butter
1 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
2 tblsp. corn syrup
6 (1" thick) slices day-old challah
5 lg. eggs
1 1/2 cups half-and-half
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. orange flavoured liqueur
1/4 tsp. salt

Combine butter, brown sugar, and corn syrup in heavy saucepan over med. heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until melted and smooth. Pour into a 13"x9" baking dish.

Trim crusts from bread and arrange in 1 layer in baking dish.

Whisk together eggs, half-and-half, vanilla, liqueur and salt in large mixing bowl. Pour evenly over bread. Cover, refrigerate overnight.

Preheat oven 350°F. Remove dish from refrigerator and let come to room temperature. Bake uncovered for 35-40 mins. or until puffed and edges are light golden brown. Serve immediately with individual pieces turned over with caramel on top. Yield: 8-10 servings. *From "The Kosher Palette" Cookbook*

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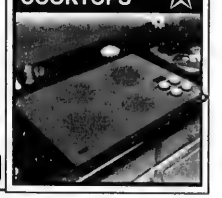


About Food

Dear Norene

By NORENE GILLETZ

This year, Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) falls on May 29. A wonderful way to show your solidarity with Israel is by serving Israeli dishes to family and friends. Support Israel by thinking Israeli – enjoy hummus, falafel and pita bread. You can also serve grilled foods, otherwise known as mangal.

And don't forget about the coffee! Israelis love good coffee. In coffee houses, they like to drink it served in porcelain cups with a piece of *oogah* (cake). Israelis seem to find any excuse to have coffee, so I was intrigued to find a recipe for Israeli Coffee Chicken submitted to www.jewishfood-list.com from Nancy Berry of California. It comes from *Jewish Cooking Secrets from Here and Far*.

As a side dish for your Israeli-style dinner, serve this special noodle kugel, which was shared with members of the Jewish Food list by Maxine Wolfson of Rhode Island. She wrote: "Here's an easy and never-fail way to make what is a 'must' for shul kiddushes in Jerusalem – Kugel Yerushalmi. It's both sweet and sharp and is served with a slice of pickle."

KUGEL YERUSHALMI (JERUSALEM NOODLE KUGEL)

1 lb. thin noodles, not the thinnest
4 1/2 cups water
1 tbsp. salt
1 tbsp. black pepper
1/3 cup oil
1 cup sugar
4 eggs
1/4 package pareve margarine

Bring water, salt and pepper to a boil, add noodles and reduce to medium flame. Cook until water is absorbed.

In a small pot, heat oil and sugar; keep mixing until sugar liquefies and turns brown. Be careful not to burn. Then immediately, carefully, pour over cooked noodles and continue stirring until thoroughly blended. Mix in margarine. Let cool for a few minutes and then add eggs one at a time, mixing after each addition.

Bake in a greased casserole for 50 minutes or more at 325 until nicely browned. Serves 8.

ISRAEL COFFEE CHICKEN

1 large broiler-fryer chicken, cut up*
1/4 cup cold coffee
1/3 cup ketchup
3 tbsp. soy sauce
2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
2 tbsp. wine vinegar
1 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. brown sugar

Combine liquids and sugar and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 5 to 10 minutes.

Arrange chicken in baking dish. Pour sauce over chicken and bake at 350 for 1 hour. Turn and baste chicken every 15 minutes. Serves 4.

* I made it with 2 chickens using the same amount of sauce.

Norene Gillet is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeanYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

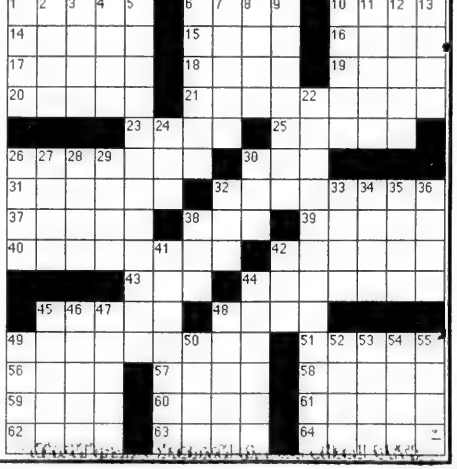
(Answers to the crossword are on page 42.)

The Canadian Jewish News

Israel's Independence Day
~Yom Ha'Atzmaut
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. In 1947, "Operation Exodus" landed refugees on the _____
6. Taste, in Haifa
10. You could use this conveyance in a rare Jerusalem winter
14. Politically incorrect show host
15. Television's Oscar
16. "I can't believe ___ the whole thing!"
17. Pupil, in Paris
18. A tel contains one (or more)
19. Growl
20. City secured by jeeps in 1948
21. Menachem ____, Herzl collaborator
23. Landmark of ancient Jerusalem, name of the Movement
25. Israel's P.M. in 2000
26. Omar's opus (var.)
30. One place to buy stocks
31. Russian opera name
32. Weizmann Institute city (old spelling)
37. Rookies (var.)
38. Lend an ___
39. Norway's language
40. The First Zionist _____
42. Hebrew for soil or earth
43. "Go to the __, thou sluggard" (Prov.)
44. They dig big trenches outside castles
45. What the JNF plants many of
48. Herzl was more than 6 feet ____
49. City named after Zionist founder, et al
51. Hebrew girl's name, also a tree
56. Gaelic
57. Upright xylophone (abbrev.)
58. Israeli Chief of Staff, archaeologist
59. Female hormone (abbrev.)
60. ____ contendere
61. Herzl urged the Jews to do this
62. Galilee, Red, and Dead
63. Keep it (editorial mark)
64. Scopus, Hermon, and Carmel (Heb.)

Down
1. Capt. Hook's sidekick
2. De starter, gives good light
3. Tent, in Hebrew (the early halutzim lived in them)
4. One quarter, in Beersheva
5. The Land of Israel, in Israel
6. Trumpet blasts, for Joshua
7. Entertain'n' (slangy contracted form)
8. Kingsley ____
9. How Beethoven referred to his last
10. A precious sense
11. Sri _____
12. Tin, in Le Havre
13. Bruce ___, film star
22. A very key 'wave' in the Yishuv
24. Fleming
26. Campus military training group
27. Followed by 'n', a labor group
28. Swiss capital
29. Astounded, slack-jawed
30. Poetic preposition
32. Arabic for head or headland
33. Rent one at a Tel-Aviv marina
34. It's either you _____
35. Ivan or Peter
36. Chuckle sounds
38. Is, in Marseilles
41. Naval officers
42. "You've got mail!" originator
44. Sports team pet
45. Concise, like much Biblical Hebrew
46. Jerus'm. has one of these for trains
47. Former Israeli president (first name) and others
48. Gunwale pin used as oar rest
49. Tee ____ (equals titters)
50. I like you ____ (just short of love)
52. Dr. Zhivago's beloved
53. Noble, majestic (Heb.)
54. Decree ____ (legal Latin)
55. "Give me liberty or ____!"



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The Canadian Jewish news

44 Pages | Thursday, May 29, 2003 | 27 Iyar, 5763 | 75¢

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This Week

National

Summer camps get ready to deal with West Nile virus. *Page 3*

Baycrest touched by latest SARS outbreak. *Page 5*

Seniors Scene

Faye and Harry celebrate their 75th anniversary. *Page 22*

On Campus

Birthright graduate helps fellow alumni. *Page 23*

Arts & Travel

Torontonian's budding career enhanced by *Spellbound*. *Page 33*

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www.cjnews.com

Walk with Israel

Some 25,000 Torontonians turned out on Sunday to "walk with Israel" at the event organized by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. ***Full coverage will appear next week.***
[Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper photo]

NDP Leader seeks Jewish vote

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Jack Layton knows the New Democratic Party has disappointed – if not outright alienated – a good part of its traditional Jewish base due to its stance on Israel and the Palestinians and due to pointed statements made by its members. But the new NDP leader is confident that progressive voices in the community will continue their support.

In a recent wide-ranging interview with *The CJN*, Layton, a 53-year-old former Toronto city councillor and NDP stalwart who won the party's leadership last January, said he's aware of the chill that has descended between the political left and Jews worldwide when it comes to the Middle East. But he feels the damage can be contained and even reversed.

Jack Layton

"I think there has been some erosion [in relations], but I don't think it's as extensive as sometimes portrayed," Layton said. "I've opened up a lot of dialogue with progressive Jews in Canada mostly because I know a lot of them, primarily from working on issues in Toronto around housing and other issues.

"When I ran for leader, I spent a lot of time talking with progressive Jews as well as progressive Arabs, Palestinians and Muslims, working with people to develop a statement which would come as close as possible to [being] embraced by both. I thought that process was extremely important. Ultimately we produced a document that everyone was able to say we felt comfortable with. It's not perfect, but it has a fair bit to recommend, and hopefully our approach to balancing the various perspectives will open the doors to our party moving forward."

The CJN ***intends to interview all the federal leaders***

No sooner did Layton take the reins of the NDP, defeating longtime New Democrats like Bill Blaikie and Lorne Nystrom, than the party passed a resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at its biennial convention in Toronto. The measure was an endorsement of an earlier resolution passed by the Socialist International, the worldwide organization of socialist, social democratic and labour parties.

Cont'd on page 27

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Despite doubts, Sharon pushes road map forward — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Celluloid Success

VANCOUVER — The Vancouver Jewish Film Festival continued a six-year growth trend this year, registering well over a 200 per cent increase over the festival's 1997 numbers. Attendance grew to more than 5,400 last year from an inaugural number of 1,700 and that trend was expected to continue this year. Organizers give credit to films such as *Amen*, *Mother V*, *The Smile of Isaac* and *Poker Face* for attracting younger, less affiliated people than other community events.

Honorary Degree

TORONTO — Yeshiva University presented Toronto community activist Julia Koschitzky with an honorary doctorate at its 72nd annual commencement last week. Koschitzky, who has served in a variety of senior community positions, currently chairs both the Now Israel Consortium and the Israel advocacy committee of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Schools defaced

MONTREAL — Two Jewish schools in Montreal were defaced with graffiti last week. Staff at the United Talmud Torah and its adjoining high school, Herzliah, removed the slogans, which included the words "Free Palestine" and obscene references to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

ISRAEL

Adopting Settlers

JERUSALEM — A Christian evangelical group is "adopting" Israeli settlers in the West Bank and Gaza. The Jerusalem Prayer Team plans to send $55 (US) to each of 14,000 settlers. The group, which includes Rev. Pat Robertson, opposes the U.S.-backed "road map" for peace. "We do not support the road map, as the Bible is our road map," the group said in a statement.

WORLD

Shul Reopens

KIEV — A major synagogue in Ukraine has officially reopened after years of renovation. The Bet Menachem Great Choral Synagogue, now named after the late Lubavitch rebbe, Menachem Mendel Schneerson, reopened at a ceremony in the city of Kharkov. The largest shul in Europe when it was erected in 1913, it was nationalized by Soviet authorities 10 years later.

Backing off Bush

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A group of Jewish Democrats calling itself the Israel Policy Forum has asked Democratic U.S. presidential candidates to refrain from criticizing President George W. Bush as long as he works to implement the "road map" for peace. The group's statement is signed by Democrats such as actor Richard Dreyfuss, fundraiser Lynne Wasserman and Ruth Messinger, president of the American Jewish World Service.

McDonald's Settles

NEW YORK — Several Jewish groups are among 24 recipients of money from a $10-million (US) settlement with McDonald's over its use of animal fat in french fries and hash browns that were labelled vegetarian. Hillel and the Star-K organization will each get $300,000, the Jewish Community Centres Association will get $200,000, the Orthodox Union will get $150,000 and CLAL National Jewish Centre for Learning and Leadership will get $50,000. Another $1 million is earmarked for education about kosher laws, while $6 million will go to vegetarian groups, $2 million to Hindu or Sikh groups and some for groups that promote child nutrition.

Dana International

BUDAPEST — An Israeli transsexual singer highlighted an Israeli Independence Day celebration in Budapest. Dana International sang to some 3,000 people at the event, which was sponsored by the Jewish Agency for Israel. After the singer won the Eurovision song competition in 1999, she was feted by some Israelis and condemned by others.

Holocaust Restitution

BERLIN — Survivors of Nazi ghettos have until June 30 to apply for retroactive German pensions. Applications after June 30 will not be eligible for payments going back to 1997 but will be able to receive regular monthly payments going forward. A simple letter of application containing the name, age, place of birth, period of time in the ghetto and the type of work done, is sufficient. The letter should be sent to LVA Hamburg, Uberseering 10, 22297 Hamburg, Germany. Meanwhile, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) has published the names of 363,232 policy holders whose heirs may be eligible for compensation. The list is available on the ICHEIC Web site at www.icheic.org. Deadline to file claims is Sept. 30.

Polish Holocaust Heroine Saved Jews

LOS ANGELES — Irene Gut Opdyke, a native of Poland who agreed to serve as a German officer's mistress to save the lives of Jews during the Holocaust, died last week at 81.

In 1940, Opdyke befriended 12 Jews who were forced to work as dressmakers and tailors for the Nazis in Tarnopol, Poland. She hid them in the laundry room of a confiscated villa where she worked as a housekeeper for a German officer.

One day, the 70-year-old major discovered her secret and said he would keep it only if she became his mistress. Whenever Opdyke overheard Nazi plans to destroy Jewish ghettos, she warned residents. She also stole food and supplies that she would deliver to about 150 Polish partisans and Jews hiding in a nearby forest.

Opdyke's 1999 book, *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Survivor*, is being made into a movie.

Opdyke, who lived in Yorba Linda, Calif., was named a Righteous Gentile by Yad Vashem and was presented with the Israel Medal of Honour, Israel's highest tribute. She also received a special commendation from the Vatican and her story is part of a permanent exhibit at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

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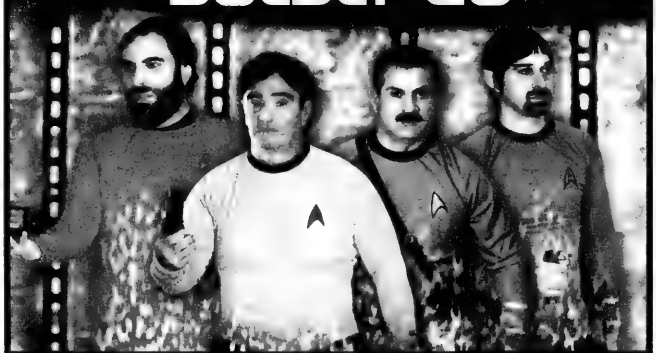

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Camps get ready for West Nile virus

Campers will be asked to follow precautionary rules

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Earlier this month, when parents thought SARS was under control and were beginning to sleep through the night, fears of West Nile virus returned.

West Nile was transported into Ontario in August 2001 by what experts believe is the Culex pipiens mosquito. According to the Ontario Ministry of Heath, in 2002, four people died from the virus itself and it's thought to have been a contributing factor in the deaths of 14 others.

Health authorities are assuring camp officials that with proper precautions, risks to campers are considered to be low.

However, camp directors say they are taking no chances. Most are currently holding education programs for staff and are busy repairing all physical barriers, such as screens and windows, to minimize the number of mosquitoes that can enter buildings and cabins.

Ellen Nash, director of Camp Northland-B'nai Brith in Haliburton, Ont., said staff members will participate in pre-camp training sessions so they can learn to protect themselves and campers.

"Statistically, children under the age of 10 are at least risk," Nash said, noting the importance of educating older campers and counsellors in the proper use of insect repellents – for their own protection and so they can be role models for younger campers.

The more serious complications associated with West Nile, such as encephalitis, occur in only one per cent of cases and mainly affect those people with a compromised immune system, she said.

According the Ministry of Health, some early signs of West Nile may be similar to flu symptoms. They include: fever, muscle weakness, stiff neck, confusion, severe headache, sensitivity to light, and extreme swelling or infection at the site of the mosquito bite.

Nash, who met with Ontario's commissioner of public health, Colin D'Cunha, at a recent gathering of camp directors, said the West Nile-carrying mosquito does not seem to be prevalent in the Haliburton/Muskoka area.

"The problem is more common in Toronto and urban areas, because West Nile mosquitoes don't tend to breed in large open ponds," Nash said, adding that she is just as worried about long-term dangers associated with too much sun exposure and will be ensuring that campers continue to apply sunscreen.

To fight West Nile, Nash said campers will be asked to follow precautionary rules. For example, at dawn and dusk, staff and campers will be told to put on light-coloured long-sleeved shirts and full-length pants – since the mosquitoes are said to be attracted to darker colours – and to apply insect repellent.

Campers will be instructed to apply sunscreen to their skin during the day and spray repellent on their clothing and hair and hairline at night, Nash said.

Malka Klein of Canadian Young Judea's Camp Shalom, located in Gravenhurst, Ont., said that more than 250 concerned parents attended a recent West Nile virus information evening.

Even though "health officials are reporting that chances of West Nile travelling north of Barrie are very slim," preventative measures are being undertaken and educational programs are underway, Klein said.

The camp is currently eliminating standing water locations, such as in eavestroughs, and treating stagnant water with pellets of the insecticide Bacillus thuringiensis Israeliensis (BTI), which Klein said are being recommended by municipalities and the Ontario Camping Association.

Continued on page 6

'My son's only wish is to speak again.'

Like other disabled veterans and victims of terror, Rotem Langer's life has been changed permanently as the fight for freedom continues and as Israel's very existence is being threatened.

Doctors did not give Rotem Langer, a parachutist soldier, any hope for survival. Langer was among the most critically injured during operation "Chomat-Magen". He was attacked by terrorists while stationed in Nablus.

Shot by a Palestinian sniper, a bullet entered Rotem's hand, traveling through his body and tearing apart numerous vital organs, causing hemorrhaging. Shrapnel accumulated around his spine. As Rotem turned around to shoot the terrorist, he received a second bullet in his neck — ripping his left artery, which carries blood to the brain. This stopped the supply of oxygen to the brain, causing Rotem to lose his ability to speak.

"During recovery, Rotem's inner brain pressure increased," recalls his father, Ze'ev. "In order to prevent further deterioration, doctors removed Rotem's scalp bone and stored it in deep-freezing; if he wants, it can be reattached in the future. At present, Rotem's brain is partially exposed, forcing him to be very careful and pre-meditate every move."

One year later, Rotem is working very hard toward his rehabilitation. On his behalf, Rotem's father says, "The only wish he has is to be able to speak again." When asked what he dreams, Rotem answers in single words and many movements, that in his dreams he is able to speak.

Rotem uses the fitness facilities at Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv to develop his body and weak right hand and arm. His treatment includes physiotherapy, speech and occupational therapy. In summer he appears at the swimming pool in a bathing suit, revealing many body scars. These are heroic scars. Rotem is our hero.

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A memoir of faith in war

From the editor's desk

Last week I wrote about a conversation I had in Israel with a remarkable man, Rabbi Haim Sabato, the rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat Birkat Moshe in Ma'aleh Adumim.

Rav Sabato is the author of *Adjusting Sights* (Toby Press), translated by Hillel Halkin. Originally published in 2002 in Hebrew as *Tiyum Kavanot*, the book as won two literary prizes in Israel, the Sapir and the Sadeh awards. It has been widely acclaimed by literary critics and scholars, and it has captured the imagination of the Israeli reading public from all walks of life.

The story recounts the fearsome first days of the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and the subsequent service of the author as a gunner in a tank crew on the Golan Heights. It is written reflectively, retrospectively, part diary, part narrative, but always in a captivating minimalist style that is at turns lyrical and explosive.

The heart-rending drama unfolds from the very first few lines of the tale, as it weaves liturgical and biblical references into a suspenseful, powerful narrative. Rav Sabato seamlessly incorporates traditional Jewish sources into the story in a manner reminiscent of Israeli Nobel laureate S.Y. Agnon. Many observers have commented upon that fact.

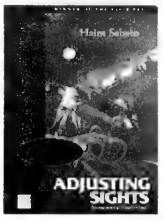
In a review of *Adjusting Sights* that appeared in the *Jerusalem Post*, Prof. Avi Amzalleg, a scholar of musicology and literature at the University of Haifa and Ben-Gurion University, was quoted as saying that Rav Sabato is "one of the best writers of this generation.

"Many authors today do not relate the Israeli experience in a language that comes from a place of Jewish roots," Amzalleg observed. "This book interests me because of its depth, because it's the language of the Mishnah, because it reminds me of the ideology of Jewish Spain and the idioms of Sephardi Jews and because it describes the modern Israeli experience using the ancient Mishnaic language."

It is precisely because *Adjusting Sights* describes the "modern Israeli experience" that it has become so popular in Israel and that readers from all backgrounds hear within its pages echoes of their own thoughts, fears and aspirations.

Rav Sabato told *The CJN* that the book virtually erupted from his soul one evening as he sat down at the computer. "I shut my eyes to recall that very first night when we went to war, after Yom Kippur. Then the soul did its own work. I did not have to assist it."

Into Rav Sabato's soul has been poured the rich essences of classical Jewish sources, Israeli literature and the canons of western, European and especially French literature. We, the readers, are the great beneficiaries, drinking in deeply the unique literary elixir that is his soul's divine product.



The title itself, "adjusting sights," is indicative of the clever, multi-layered imagination that permeates the work. It is a reference at the literal level to the periscopic sights connected to the gun turret from inside the tank. At the metaphorical level, it refers to the narrator's recurring need to adjust his sights as he tries to find and bless the new moon in the nighttime sky. It is also an even deeper metaphorical reference to the need of all human beings to adjust their sights when seeking God, when struggling with their faith during those awful moments of the most terrible and agonizing of human trials.

Adjusting Sights is an inspiring work.

* * *

This is the time of year, as spring rolls slowly, seductively, into summer and the school year drifts toward vacation, that communities throughout North America hold their solidarity marches on behalf of Israel.

The marches are exciting and wonderful things to behold and, better still, in which to take part.

In Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and all across Canada, tens of thousands of individuals marched this year, side by side in large, festive throngs of friendship and fellowship, flags flying high, blue and white the predominant colours, to show their love for the cherished Jewish state.

Grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren; men and women; observant and non-observant; affiliated and unaffiliated; Jews of all backgrounds and ethnic origins; and non-Jews too – the sheer emotional force of the massive expression of support and goodwill on behalf of Israel sent chills up and down the spine.

We commend the organizers and the planners of so daunting a logistical feat. And we especially commend the people who formed the parade.

In the days ahead, as the hard-hearted fingers of accusation inevitably point at Israel, as international pressure upon the tiny state mounts, and as the sense of isolation from an unhearing world recurs, let us remember the feelings of unvanquishable strength and unflagging justice that animated our hearts and stirred our souls as we marched, sang and danced on behalf of Israel. For those feelings will have to fortify us, even as they encourage our kinfolk in Israel, when those difficult days come.

MBD

CLOWNING AROUND: Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto held a Lag b'Omer program at the Lubavitch Community Centre on Chabad Gate in Thornhill with participation from the Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad, Ohr Menachem School, Jewish Russian Community Centre, Eitz Chaim Schools, Bais Chaya Mushka, Torah Tots and countless others. Almost 1,000 children, teachers and members of the community participated in the program and then walked north on Bathurst Street in a parade to Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation. Pictured from left, are Guitti Perman of the Zareinu Educational Centre; Yossi Shulman, a student of Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto who dressed up as a clown; Ofek Lalkin of Zareinu; clown Avraham Stiefelman of Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto; Chaim Wachtel of Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad; Yehezkel Zahavy, honorary president of Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad; Tevel Kaushansky of Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad; Tuvi Rockove of Zareinu; and Shmuel Dovid Wilhem of Yeshivas Lubavitch Toronto.

Greater Toronto Area

Baycrest touched by latest SARS outbreak

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER
CJN Staff

Baycrest Centre has suspended all visits, admissions, transfers and discharges on part of the third floor of its hospital until June 4 after a patient who transferred there from North York General Hospital, the source of a new cluster of suspected SARS cases, began showing signs of the illness.

The man, who came to Baycrest May 15 and is now considered to be a probable SARS case, developed a fever around midnight last Friday and was transferred to an emergency ward at Humber River Regional Hospital the next morning, said Baycrest's director of public affairs, Nancy Webb.

As of Sunday night, Humber River Regional emergency room staff said, he was in isolation at the hospital's Church Street site, but hospital officials would not disclose his status.

The man was put on "precautions" last Friday at Baycrest, after news broke the previous day of a new outbreak linked to North York General. He was one of three new admissions to Baycrest who were placed under watch after recent stays at North York General and St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital, where the suspected outbreak appears to have spread, Webb said. When first put under watch at Baycrest, the man had a normal temperature and no SARS symptoms, she said.

Once identified, all three patients were immediately isolated in private rooms and began having their temperature taken regularly. As well, staff started using gloves and masks when dealing with them. As of Monday, neither of the other two patients had developed symptoms and were to have been taken off precautionary watch earlier this week, Webb said.

"There has been no exposure here. We have nobody else with SARS symptoms and no SARS cases, for sure," she said.

Although the probable SARS patient was on the west side of the hospital's third floor, the east side was temporarily affected by the freeze as a precaution. As well, patients who shared a room with the man have been placed in isolation. "Private companions" – some 500 people hired by individual families to visit and help care for patients – are still allowed onto the west side, though not to visit patients in isolation. But patients are not allowed to leave and are being told to stay in their rooms whenever possible, the centre's Web sites said.

"There is no change to services and no change to visiting rules, other than we're restricting access to 3-West," Webb said.

Visitors were asked to wear masks for a short time on Saturday morning "to make sure anyone who came into Baycrest was safe to be here – it had nothing to do with any increased risk at Baycrest," she said.

"While we are treating this as a probable SARS case, there was appropriate protection in place, which is essential in stopping any spread from this one patient," the centre said in one of the statements issued to update patients, family and staff. "By taking immediate action, Baycrest believes it has done everything possible to ensure there was no unprotected exposure [to the patient]."

As of Monday, Baycrest was still describing itself as SARS-free, defined by the Ontario Ministry of Health as a health-care facility with no known cases of SARS.

Nevertheless, Baycrest is advising that everyone who was on the third floor of the Baycrest Hospital after 7 p.m. last Wednesday, May 21, should take their temperature twice a day for 10 days. If they feel unwell, they are advised to isolate themselves at home and immediately contact their doctor and Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600.

The Baycrest case came to light as health officials were investigating a cluster of new potential SARS cases in the Toronto area, which as of May 26 numbered 33, including a reported seven among health-care workers. The illness has killed 27 people in the GTA.

Before being touched by the latest outbreak, Baycrest had eased many of the restrictions put in place to keep the centre SARS-free. For instance, the approximately 800 hospital patients and residents at Baycrest's main complex on Bathurst Street are now allowed more than one visitor at a time, and those visitors, though screened, are not required to wear masks or have their temperature taken.

However, access is limited to one entrance on the west side of the main complex, and the centre is closed to all but family, clients, private companions and those with scheduled meetings.

Sol Matthews, who was at Baycrest Sunday to visit his 68-year-old sister in the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged, said the centre was dealing with SARS "brilliantly, the best that I can imagine." But he added that he is "troubled" because the only way to control SARS is through isolation, and experts don't know for sure who actually has the disease, what causes it and how it is transferred.

Public health investigators think the latest SARS outbreak began at North York General, where a 96-year-old patient developed pneumonia and died after surgery for a broken pelvis. Officials now suspect the pneumonia was SARS, though its origin is unknown, and that it spread to a female patient, 90, who was transferred to St. John's and later died. A health-care worker who treated the woman at St. John's is now in critical condition with what is believed to be SARS. She spread the illness to two other patients and a visitor.

The Ontario Ministry of Health advises anyone who visited North York General between May 13 and May 23, St. John's between May 9 and May 20, St. Michael's Hospital's neurosurgery unit within 10 days prior to May 24, should isolate themselves, call public health and watch for the sudden onset of a fever greater than 38 degrees and such symptoms as cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.

Also, anyone who was at North York General between April 22 and May 12 or at St. John's between May 9 and May 20 should isolate themselves if they have symptoms of SARS and call Toronto Public Health for more information.

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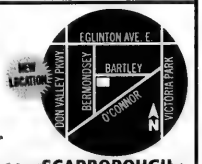

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Greater Toronto Area

March against anti-Semitism set for June 8

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A multi-faith collection of Jews, Christians, Hindus and Aboriginals will gather in downtown Toronto on June 8 in the second annual "march for humanity."

Sponsored by multi-faith coalition

Sponsored by a coalition of groups led by Canadians Against Anti-Semitism (CAS), the march is designed to "inspire Canadians to reclaim the pride imbedded in our traditions, and speak out against the spread of hatred threatening Canadian principles and our way of life."

The march will also serve as "a bridge to the non-Jewish grassroots, educate and promote awareness," said Sandra Stern, founder of CAS.

Six speakers will address the marchers, including Ontario Chief Justice Roy McMurtry, who will deliver the keynote address. Others scheduled to deliver remarks are Prof. Irwin Cotler, a parliamentarian who served as legal counsel to Nelson Mandela and Andrei Sakharov; David Mainse, host and executive producer of *100 Huntley Street* on the Crossroads Television System; Charles McVety, president of Canada Christian College; MP Art Eggleton (Lib.) and MP Scott Reid (Canadian Alliance).

Participants will be entertained by a number of performers, including the Sai Children's Choir, the Tall Pines Singers, the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, gospel singer Jackie Richardson, and Cantor Benjamin Maissner.

"Although our focus is prejudice, we're doing it in an atmosphere of social harmony, communal harmony, and ending it on a hopeful note, because our hope is to make it better," Stern said.

Stern said she was inspired to create CAS and organize its first march in June 2002 due to her concern over a "growing world wide rise of anti-Semitism. To me it was reminiscent of the 1930s."

What's more, she said, much of the anti-Jewish hate was taking place "right in my backyard," with Canadian synagogues struck by arson and with visible Jews being roughed up in the streets of Montreal.

Last year's march attracted about 1,200 participants most of whom were non-Jews, Stern said.

Among the march's co-sponsors this year are the Canada Christian College, the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada and Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto.

"Hopefully the march will demonstrate that Canadians will not and should not accept anti-Semitism." he added.

The march will began at 2:45 p.m. at Bloor Street and Avenue Road and head down University Avenue to Queen's Park.

Camps get ready for West Nile Virus

Continued from page 3

BTI is an organic insecticide developed in 1977 in Israel and has been used around the world to combat disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Klein said Camp Shalom is also concerned about the health implications related to the inappropriate use of repellents and will be issuing staff guidelines.

"We are going to ensure that mosquito repellents be applied as a group with the supervision of older staff," she said.

In addition, Camp Shalom is currently building a wash station outside the dining hall and everyone will be asked to wash their hands before eating, she said.

Directors are recommending light coloured clothing and insect repellent with varying concentrations of the chemical DEET – up 10 per cent for younger children and up to 30 per cent for those 16 and older.

Since DEET, the ingredient used in many insect repellents applied to the skin, doesn't work well when applied together with sunscreen, the camp will implement a routine of applying sunscreen in the morning and repellent in the evening, Klein said.

Camp Shalom is not recommending that parents send candles or mosquito coils. They do not offer sufficient protection against mosquito bites and present fire risks, she said.

Larry Bell, director of Camp Robin Hood in Markham, Ont., said day camps should not be affected because mosquitoes are generally a dusk-to-dawn problem.

However, the camp will be vigilant, he said, especially around wooded areas and will be taking precautions during any overnight activities.

Andrew Levy, director of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre's Centre Camp, said he has met with provincial health officials and is monitoring the situation.

AN EDUCATIONAL SUITCASE: Ventura Park Public School students Sonya (left) and Judy pose beside the recreated suitcase of Hana Brady, a child murdered in the Holocaust. After reading Hana's Suitcase by author Karen Levine, the students' Grade 8 class were inspired to create a new teaching resource to educate their peers at other schools about the horrors of the Holocaust, including the extermination of 1.5 million children. The students unveiled their exhibit at the Baycrest Terrace on May 15 in an emotional ceremony that included a surprise appearance by George Brady, the brother of Hana. Schools interested in obtaining the curriculum tool can contact Ventura Park P.S. at 905-707-6488.

Synagogue membership dispute goes to court

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Representatives of the Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation appeared in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, civil division, last week, to defend the congregation's refusal to grant membership to the husband of a long-time member.

As the case began last Tuesday, plaintiffs Barbara Rotberg and her husband Allen Mayer testified about their "loss of social standing" and damage to their reputations stemming from a series of incidents following the Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation's rejection of Mayer's membership application.

The couple is suing the congregation, as well as board members Dorothy Tessis, Sarah Senior and David Rybowski.

Sidney Silver, president of the 175-family-member unaffiliated, Conservative-style congregation when Mayer and Rotberg married in May 2000, was also originally named as a defendant, but was dropped from the suit following his death more than a year ago, said the couple's lawyer, Jeffrey Silver (no relation to Sidney).

Mayer and Rotberg, whose late father Henry was a synagogue founder, are seeking $20,000 in damages as well as membership for Mayer, along with its privileges, including the right to be buried in one of the burial plots held by his wife.

Their position, according to their lawyer, is that Mayer, a 52-year-old accountant, "always was" a member of the synagogue.

The defendants deny the existence of any custom that would automatically permit him to become a member on marrying a synagogue member.

They also deny that their decision to reject Mayer's membership was arbitrary or made in bad faith. Their statement of defence cites several factors leading to denial of his membership application, including a letter from Mayer alleging that the board was in breach of its fiduciary duties, alleged rudeness on Mayer's part and a concern on the part of board members that he would "create friction within the synagogue."

The synagogue's lawyer, Arnold Zweig, has submitted a counterclaim requesting, among other things, damages of $50,000 and an order that Mayer refrain from communicating about the congregation with any third party, including the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, the charitable branch of any Government organization and The Canadian Jewish News.

The case may be the first of its kind involving a synagogue in Canada, although there have been other cases involving churches, Silver said. A New Brunswick synagogue tried to expel an existing member in the 1920s, but the case was overturned in court, he added.

Attempts by Mayer to arrange a din Torah (rabbinical court) and, later, mediation, did not work out, Mayer testified.

An attempt by the parties involved to reach a settlement on the second day of the trial was not successful either.

Judge Abraham Mandel said in court that the trial would be "a lengthy and difficult case."

Photo exhibit on seniors to be shown at city hall

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Consultant on aging, photographer and writer Irene Borins Ash has been studying seniors for years.

"Some people become angry and envious as they age," says Borins Ash, who has a degree in social work from Yeshiva University. "Yet others choose to give their love, affection and wisdom to the world around them. When one offers love, this is what they themselves reap."

An exhibition of her photographs, titled Treasured Legacies, will be on display from Monday, June 2, to Friday, June 6, at the Toronto City Hall Rotunda, 100 Queen St. W., from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Borins Ash will be present at the exhibit.

The photographs of 41 seniors from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds is sponsored by The Older Women's Network (OWN) as part of Seniors Month.

"I have observed throughout my years as a social worker and photographer that seniors do not need to become despondent and withdraw from society as they age," says Borins Ash. "Rather, they can make the years from 60 and beyond a time to evolve and lead a continually vital and productive life."

She says the people she has photographed are all living meaningful, vibrant lives in spite of losses and changes. Some of the subjects are well known and others are not. Included are world-renowned jazz pianist Oscar Peterson, entrepreneur and philanthropist Ed Mirvish, social activist and writer June Callwood, internationally acclaimed violinist Eugene Kash and many others.

Also featured are a homeless man, Fred Dunn, 80, who lives in the Rosedale ravine, a cancer survivor, a volunteer at Princess Margaret Hospital and others that Borins Ash says "show the beauty – physical, intellectual and spiritual – of age."

In addition to the photographs, the exhibit includes some of the subjects' thoughts and philosophies.

Borins Ash is currently writing a book based on the exhibit, which will feature more photos and more in depth information on the subjects. The book, which will be published under the same name by Margie Wolfe of Second Story Press, is scheduled for publication in December.

Amazing weight loss story

In the past, I have weighed as much as 200 pounds at three different times in my life. I have tried every diet on the planet.

For over 25 years I attended and paid for the Bernstein diet. I was able to lose weight, but I needed to diet every year, then twice a year. I thought I was successful because I lost weight BUT I could never maintain the weight loss. I can still remember the pain and frustration of gaining, within two years, the same weight back or more!

Now I am able to maintain my weight loss through Positive Changes Hypnosis. I am so grateful to this wonderful program. I am healthy physically, spiritually and mentally. I hesitate to claim that I have reinvented myself but I feel more confident and the program has helped me with my relationships with others, both in my personal life and at work.

BEFORE

AFTER

The most interesting and rewarding aspect of this for me is that ***I am learning how to learn***. Learn in a different way, to be more creative with solutions.

I had heard of positive affirmations but never practiced using them myself. Now, I am. I enjoy today to the fullest and I am looking forward to a wonderful future.

— *Janet Eaton*

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CMDA revisited

Two weeks ago, this paper reported that Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA) had resolved a dispute with Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) that had threatened CMDA's status as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act. The dispute has indeed been resolved; CMDA has retained its charitable status. But that is only part of the story. Important questions and unresolved issues remain as a result of the manner in which the dispute was resolved.

CMDA launched proceedings in the Federal Court of Appeal against CCRA's decision to revoke CMDA's charitable status. CCRA had alleged three grounds upon which CMDA had violated Canadian law, and thus forfeited the privilege of retaining its charitable status.

The first was that CCRA questioned the control and ownership arrangements for the ambulances. The second ground, relying in part on a CBC report, alleged that the ambulances were not always being used for medical purposes. The third, which was, in its entirety, a subjective interpretation and application of political statements, alleged that the mere use of the ambulances inside the "occupied territories," in and of itself, constituted a violation of Canadian public policy and that legally, any activity that offends public policy cannot be "charitable."

In September, in a vote of 2-1, the court upheld CCRA's notice to revoke the CMDA's charitable status. But it did so only on the basis of the first ground. The Court unanimously expressly rejected CCRA's spurious contentions regarding the two remaining grounds. "There is no Canadian public policy expressed in an Act of Parliament or in any publicly available government document that a Canadian charitable organization cannot operate in the occupied territories," the court unequivocally decided, stating there was no difference between providing medical services in Tel Aviv and providing them in the "occupied territories." Subsequent to the ruling, the CMDA filed leave with the Supreme Court to appeal the Court's decision. That request for leave to appeal, however, has now been withdrawn as a result of the agreement entered into between CMDA and CCRA.

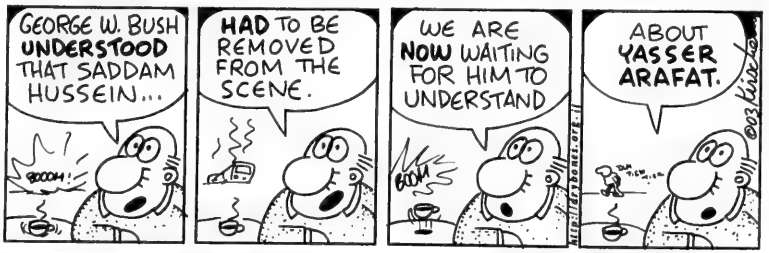
Understandably, CMDA and its many supporters were pleased to remove the threat to the organization's charitable status. But there are urgent questions surrounding the language of the agreement and its implications that must be answered.

Did CMDA yield to CCRA's ill-intentioned desire to prohibit ambulances from operating inside the "occupied territories" by enshrining a provision to that effect in the agreement? If it did, can the agreement be renegotiated to remove the provision? If so worded, can that portion of the agreement stand? Is it enforceable in the face of the unequivocal ruling by the Federal Court of Appeal dismissing the CCRA's shaky assertion? If that restriction is in the agreement, why did the CCRA still insist on it, given the language of the court's ruling? These and other questions must be answered, before the community can consider this sorry matter truly resolved.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. KIDNAPPED: Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones



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Mahmoud and Yasser

In your May 22 editorial, you state that "As long as the corrupt leader [Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat] is involved in PA decision-making, there will be no chance for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians" ("No chance if Arafat remains," *CJN*, May 22).

You also cite a *Ha'aretz* report and Israeli officials who believe that Arafat had prior knowledge of the orders given to a terror cell that departed from Arafat's compound in Ramallah on a mission that led to the murder of a 27-year-old Israeli from the West Bank community of Ahiya.

Arafat is here to stay. Mahmoud Abbas, the new Palestinian prime minister (and author of the Arabic *The Other Side: the secret Relationship between Nazism and Zionism*, which claims that less than a million Jews died in the Holocaust, victims of a Zionist-Nazi plot), says that Arafat is innocent of Israeli allegations that he has been involved in terrorist activities.

In a *Toronto Star* article "Bush works phone to sell his vision of Mideast peace" (May 21), Abbas is quoted as saying, "We say that Yasser Arafat is the legitimate leader who was elected to lead our way, and he is the president of Palestine."

Abbas, the Holocaust revisionist and former terrorist, is Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Palestinian counterpart in the new "peace" plan. This plan calls for a quick (in two years' time) undoing of the history of the past half-century, removing all Jews from the "West Bank," sundering Jerusalem and deliberating on the right of return of the Palestinians, or more accurately, their right to overturn the state of Israel.

With the first terrorist actions in that new era, a traumatized world Jewish public will struggle to make sense of Israel's frightening new vulnerability. Across the table, Israel will listen to the further claims of Abbas and his partner Arafat, explaining why Israeli actions and attitudes are responsible for the ongoing murder of its people.

Abraham Cohen
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Must seek common ground

Marvin Maurer's letter about "ethnic cleansing" by Palestinians opposed to Israel's statehood turns history on its head ("'Ethnic cleansing' unacceptable," *CJN*, May 15).

First, Maurer denies the existence of any Palestinian "factions" that accept a two-state solution. What nonsense! On June 21, 2002, Sari Nusseibeh and some 650 others published a statement in the Arabic newspaper *Al-Quds*, supporting a plan "to live in peace side by side in two neighbouring countries."

Second, "population transfer" was part of Zionist thought as early as 1895. This may come as a shock, but Tom Segev unmasks it in *One Palestine Complete*, by citing documents and quoting, among others, David Ben Gurion, Theodor Herzl, Vladimir Jabotinsky, Arthur Ruppin, Joseph Sprinzak, Menachem Ussishkin, Chaim Weizmann. A Committee on Population Transfer was formed in the 1930s (its minutes are in the Central Zionist Archive in Jerusalem).

Third, many Israeli acts of "ethnic cleansing" took place during the 1948 War of Independence and the 1967 Six Day War. Doubters should read Meron Benvenisti's *Sacred Landscape*.

I support Israel's existence as a Jewish state, but I cannot be blind to the realities of its creation and ignore everything that might lead to a peaceful solution. Knowing what was done in our names helps us understand the Palestinians and find common ground between our peoples.

Bernard Katz
Toronto

* * *

Send Queen's Park a message

The Jewish people are at a crossroads in Ontario. If all goes as the press reports, the provincial legislature will be dissolved and we will be going to the polls at the end of June. Another scenario has us voting in September.

This election will be fought on a number of fronts, but the most important issue facing the Jewish community is the continued existence of the Equality in Education Tax Credit (EETC) introduced in the dying days of the Mike Harris era and ultimately endorsed by Premier Ernie Eves. When the tax credit comes into force, it will provide a tax credit of 50 per cent of tuition (to a maximum of $3,500) paid by parents who send their children to Ontario private schools.

Meanwhile, provincial Liberal MP Dalton McGuinty has unequivocally stated many times that if he were elected premier, he would immediately dismantle the tax credit. McGuinty says this without providing any tangible replacement of this important relief to parents who wish to send their children to faith-based or other private schools in Ontario.

With tuitions at Jewish day schools at an all time high of more than $9,000 per student, the EETC is a welcome relief from the burdens of these skyrocketing costs.

Many people, including myself, have written to McGuinty and other Liberal MPPs, but there has been no response.

We must turn out for this upcoming election in the highest numbers possible to help ensure a legacy of Jewish education in Ontario. The funding of the schools of one religious denomination without equal funding for Jews, Sikhs, Muslims and others is discriminatory and must stop. We must send the message to Queen's Park and we must do it now.

Mark A. Greenberg
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

No matter its origins, anti-Semitism needs to be fought

By HILLEL HALKIN

The following is an excerpt of a speech at a recent international conference in New York called Old Demons, New Debates: Anti-Semitism in the West. *The conference, which brought together international scholars and journalists, was sponsored by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research at the Center for Jewish History. This speech was provided to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency by the Center for Jewish History.*

When we ask ourselves whether anti-Semitism is essentially one thing or many, just as when we ask ourselves whether or how it will cease – when we ask, in other words, what must change to make it cease – are we not really asking whether the real cause of anti-Semitism can be found in the Jews or in the world?

Hillel Halkin

Before anyone protests that even to inquire whether the Jews might be the cause of anti-Semitism is an abject capitulation to the anti-Semites, I would remind you that the belief that they are the cause of it has been traditionally shared by anti-Semites with Jews.

Why are the Jews like the fruit of the olive tree? ask the rabbis in the Midrash. "Because," they answer, "as all liquids mix with each other, but the oil of the olive does not, so Israel does not mix with the Gentiles… And as the olive does not yield its oil unless it is crushed, so Israel does not return to God unless it is crushed by affliction."

Being chosen and set apart exacts a double price. It makes an envious and indignant world persecute the Jews and it makes a pedagogical God allow this to happen.

Historically, this is the normative Jewish point of view. Classical Zionism, too, viewed the Jews as the cause of anti-Semitism.

Here is Leo Pinsker's *Auto-Emancipation*, published 14 years before Theodor Herzl's *The Jewish State*:

"Among the living nations of the earth the Jews occupy the position of a nation long since dead… If the fear of ghosts is something inborn, and has a certain justification in the psychic life of humanity, is it any wonder that it asserted itself powerfully at the sight of this dead and yet living nation?… The misfortunes of the Jews are due, above all, to their lack of desire for national independence."

Zionism understood the Jews' misfortunes differently from rabbinic Judaism, which made it more optimistic about overcoming them. And yet there is in all self-blame a peculiar sort of optimism that helps to explain why, starting with the biblical prophets, there has been so much of it among Jews; for if you are the cause of your own suffering, you have the ability to rectify it, as you do not if it is caused by something or someone outside you.

Imagine that, in its early years, Zionism had declared proudly and defiantly: "Do not blame the Jews! It is not their fault that they have become the scapegoats of a sick mankind, which has projected onto them, and will continue to project onto them, all its fears, hatreds and phobias."

Such a Zionism would also have had to say: "Because mankind will always have fears, hatred and phobias, there will always be anti-Semitism, which no Jewish state can put an end to. On the contrary: such a state will simply become anti-Semitism's new focus."

How many followers would a Herzl who said this have attracted? If anti-Semitism has a single cause – the Jews – it is a dragon that can be slain. If it has many causes – as many as the world has fears, hatreds and phobias – it is a hydra: cut off one head and it will grow another. Is that, then, what we are asking when we ask whether the new anti-Semitism is or is not just the old one all over again, whether we are fighting a dragon or a hydra?

Ruth Wisse

I have two friends who I wish were at this conference. They have thought more passionately about anti-Semitism than anyone else I know personally and they disagree about it so sharply that we've missed a chance to see some sparks fly by not having them.

They are the scholar and critic of Jewish literature Ruth Wisse and the novelist A.B. Yehoshua. Wisse rejects the notion that the Jews have caused anti-Semitism, except insofar, perhaps, as they have not been militant enough in combating it. Jewish self-blame, she thinks, is a habitual introjection of anti-Semitic attitudes that turns the anger of Jews inward at themselves rather than outward at their enemies.

Anti-Semitism is hydra-headed, and its latest form of hatred of Israel should be viewed not primarily as another round of "discrimination against Jews or even persecution of Jews," but as "a political instrument to oppose liberal democracy by harnessing ancient prejudice to brand-new fears." The battle for democracy – the one form of government under which Jews have always prospered – and the battle against "Israelophobia," Wisse argues in a book she now is writing, are one and the same, since Israel is "democracy's fighting front line."

Yehoshua is writing a book, too. In it he maintains that the ultimate reason for anti-Semitism is the Jews themselves. Although this does not, needless to say, excuse or justify prejudice against them, the Jews have throughout their history, Yehoshua believes, baffled and exasperated the world. They have done this by taking two ideas that were their contribution to civilization and by which civilization subsequently organized itself – the idea of monotheistic universalism and the idea of national particularism – and fusing them in a way that has subverted both, thus ironically making them in the world's eyes the symbolic enemy of humanity and of the nation alike.

A. B. Yehoshua

It is this fusion, or confusion, Yehoshua argues, that has enabled the Arab states to turn a political and territorial conflict with Israel into a successful anti-Semitic campaign, since Israel's failure to distinguish clearly between religion and nationality – that is, between Jewishness and Israeliness – makes it an anomaly among democracies and exposes it to charges of racism and discrimination.

I don't wish to comment in these brief remarks on the intrinsic merits of either Wisse's or Yehoshua's position, each of which draws on a broad hinterland of thought. I would merely point out that, if we ask ourselves the question put to this panel, "Has the sovereignty of Jews in the state of Israel and the flourishing of Jews in America permanently changed the context for the analysis of anti-Semitism," Wisse says, "Yes" and Yehoshua says, "No," while if we ask, "Do the Jews have the power to put an end to anti-Semitism," Wisse says, "No" and Yehoshua says, "Yes."

Yehoshua's "yes" is based on the conviction that, if Israel and Diaspora Jewry would pursue the Zionist revolution to its logical end, they would finally disentangle the Jewish confusion of religion and nationality that has rankled mankind for over 2,000 years, leaving us with two discrete identities – a Jewish religious one and an Israeli national one.

Since such a Judaism could no longer be suspected of supra-national allegiances and such an Israel could no longer be accused of undemocratic practices, one type of anti-Semitism would fade and – in the absence of a cause for another type – anti-Semitism would pass at last from the world. Wisse would object to this strongly. She would counter, I suppose, that Judaism without Jewish nationhood would not be Judaism, just as a non-Jewish Israel would not be Israel, and that Yehoshua's approach simply demonstrates the illusion of thinking that, short of disappearing themselves, the Jews can make anti-Semitism disappear.

We have, then, two opposed analyses. Yet, curiously, they converge on one belief, which is that a vigorously democratic Israel in an alliance of values and interests with democratic forces around the world is the best way of combating contemporary anti-Semitism. And while you needn't doubt that if they were at this conference, Wisse, who is on the political right, and Yehoshua, who is on the political left, would be fighting tooth-and-nail over just what such an Israel and such a Jewish politics entail, they would fully agree on the need for defending and promoting them.

This is encouraging. It suggests that, however differently we may answer the questions put to this panel, our operative conclusions may turn out to be similar. It is a little as if two oncologists, after arguing how and whether a new malignancy in a patient is related to a previous one, found themselves agreeing on the broad outlines of its treatment, if not on the specific drugs or techniques of surgery to be used. The history of medicine indeed tells us that successfully combating an illness need not depend on identifying its root cause.

"Why the Jews?" will go on being asked, not because the question is resolvable, or because we cannot act without answers to it, but because our anguish in the face of continued anti-Semitism makes us ask it. This anguish is especially great for those of us who have believed, and go on believing, that Zionism and Israel were the most appropriate and far-sighted of all Jewish responses to modernity, a heroic effort on the part of the Jewish people to rejoin the family of man. That this effort is now widely represented, so soon after the Holocaust, as a new argument for excluding the Jews from humanity's ranks is a bitter blow. One could easily be driven to despair by it. That is why it is important to keep in mind that, nevertheless, we know what needs to be done.

Hillel Halkin is a journalist and essayist and is the author of Letters to an American Jewish Friend *and* Across the Sabbath River.

Sometimes, it's your call

"When did you receive your calling?" I was a rookie rabbi, making small talk with a local minister, when he asked me this question. I was tongue tied. I had never heard voices or had a dream telling me to become a rabbi. God never called on me.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Since then, I have reflected on different types of callings. Some callings appear out of the blue, a burning bush that beckons while searching for lost sheep. Other callings come early on in life. Samson and Samuel receive their callings before they were born. And like them, there are people who, as children, just know that they were meant to be a doctor or a firefighter. Or, like Joshua, they are apprenticed from a young age to follow a mentor into a profession.

However, most of us are never called. There are no angelic apparitions or divine signs that lead to our destiny.

So where can we find our calling?

Sometimes, it's our call. We all experience times when we learn something disconcerting, and think to ourselves. "Someone should do something about that." And we leave it at that, assuming that "someone" will take care of it. Well, there may be no choir of angels, no thunder or lightning, but the moment that you think "someone" should do something is actually a moment of divine calling. It is you, not "someone," who is being called to duty.

This is a much higher form of calling. It is far superior for people to step up on their own, without waiting for God to tap them on the shoulder.

Judith Kaplan, a student at Yeshiva University, found her calling in the aftermath of the World Trade Center tragedy. She joined a group of volunteers who kept a round-the-clock vigil at the city morgue. These volunteers were doing *shmirah*, standing watch over the bodies until they were buried, reciting Psalms. For months, Kaplan volunteered for this task every Shabbat.

Aaron Singer found his calling after the Passover bombings in Israel in 2002. An American who had served in the Israeli army, he left his wife and baby daughter to return for reserve duty. After noticing that Israeli soldiers were outfitted with average flak jackets, he started a charity to buy state-of-the-art bulletproof vests for Israeli soldiers.

The greatest callings are the ones we discover on our own. The driving force behind these callings are best expressed in the words of a New York City firefighter, interviewed after 9/11.

He said he became a firefighter because, "I wanted to be able to wake up in the morning and look at myself in the mirror, and say I'm doing something with my life."

Now that's a serious calling. What's yours?

The Arab minority: What's Israel's interest?

The arrest of 16 leaders of the radical, northern wing of Israel's Islamic Movement may have been necessary, but it will likely further alienate the Israeli Arab community from the country's mainstream. The arrested men are accused of indirectly contributing to the infrastructure of terrorism through their donations to widows and children of terrorists in the West Bank and Gaza. They claim they only support families in need and do not distinguish between orphans. However, recent legislation limiting contributions from, and transfers to, outlawed organizations makes it possible to indict and probably convict them.

Shiva Hevzog in Toronto

The courts will ultimately decide the issue. Meanwhile, the mass, high-visibility arrests have exacerbated an already-tense atmosphere among Israel's 1. 2 million Arabs, who represent 19 per cent of the population. October 2000, when 13 Israeli Arab citizens were killed by police during a violent demonstration, was the turning point, and since then, the intifadah has fanned the flames of anger and suspicion of them among the Jewish majority.

Israeli Arabs have long complained of discrimination in the allocation of national resources and their de-facto status as second-class citizens. They rightly compare themselves to Israelis rather than to citizens in Arab countries. And while it's true that their point of departure in 1948 was an under-developed, rural society and that they have made huge economic and social advances since then, they have done so with little help from the state that granted them citizenship 55 years ago.

The following statistics speak for themselves: today, one in two Israeli Arab children lives below the poverty line. Twenty-nine per cent of Arab students complete high school, compared to 46 per cent of Jewish students. In 2002, the per capita investment by the ministry of housing in Arab towns was 104 shekels, compared to 11,554 shekels in a Jewish town such as Modi'in. And in 2002, of the overall development budget of 277 million shekels, only 1.6 million was allocated to Arab municipalities.

In the aftermath of "the October disturbances," then-prime minister Ehud Barak announced a 4-billion shekel development plan (of which 50 per cent had been previously committed). The allocation of these funds commenced last year, but according to the Mossawa Center, the Advocacy Center for Arab Palestinian Citizens of Israel, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's economic austerity plan will return Arab development allocations to 1999 levels – 5 per cent of the government's overall development budget for 2003.

Most Israelis are oblivious to these figures and are more concerned about the "Palestinization" of Israeli Arabs and their identification with the intifadah. They view the few incidents of direct involvement of Israeli Arabs in terror attacks as reflective of widespread support for the intifadah. This is probably true – even though most Israeli Arabs are not at all interested in becoming citizens of a future Palestinian state. The northern wing of the Islamic Movement, whose leaders negate the concept of a Jewish state altogether, is more radical than most Israeli Arabs, who generally support a two-state approach.

Ironically, Israel's security service has warned for some time of the need to fight extremist elements in the Arab community, while investing in equality of civic opportunity to reinforce its relatively moderate, centrist elements. But neither of these things has been done effectively. As a result, in a repeat of a familiar pattern seen elsewhere in the Middle East, the Islamic movement has become a provider of social services, thanks to wealthy donors from abroad, while the shrinking of the Israeli welfare state has reduced already meagre public sector allocations to the same constituency.

Today, several liberal Jewish funders, such as the New Israel Fund and the Abraham Fund, recognize that an investment in Israel's Arab citizens is an investment in Israel's stability. However, no amount of non-governmental activity can make up for gaps in government allocations.

Israelis face a real dilemma, but viewing all Arab citizens as the enemy will only make things worse. Earlier this month, the Israel Democracy Institute published alarming findings on Israelis' commitment to democratic principles. While 81 per cent of Israelis theoretically support equality in law, only 47 per cent support full equality for Israel's Arab minority. Fifty-seven per cent of Israelis believe the government should encourage emigration of Arab citizens.

In the shadow of repeated terror attacks, Israelis' willingness to support equality for Arab citizens is directly linked to their feeling of vulnerability. This link is understandable, but its implications for the country's well-being are serious indeed.

Canada's changing religious landscape

Many Jews look at the recently released 2001 census figures on religion with a concern about Jewish numbers. Here the news is fairly good, and better than for Jews south of the border. The number of Canadian Jews identified by religion rose 3.7 per cent in the 1990s, to nearly 330,000, although Jews' share of the overall Canadian population dropped slightly, from 1.2 to about 1.1 per cent.

This is more than can be said for Protestants and Catholics, who together saw their share of the population decline from 80 per cent to 72 per cent.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

In fact, the census figures hold importance for Jews more for what they say about non-Jews and Canadian society in general.

Three demographic changes in Canada's religious landscape involving non-Jews will pose challenges in the future and will likely have far-reaching consequences.

First, Canada is becoming a less Christian society. And Canadian Christians are often only nominally Christian. In 2001, 43 per cent of Canadians reported they had not attended services over the past year, up from 26 per cent in 1986. The number of Canadians contributing to Christian charities and the number of children attending Sunday schools have also declined. Some might argue that newer, more spiritual forms of Christianity are emerging, but to date, the evidence is scant. The declines are essentially in the mainline (liberal) Protestant denominations and among francophone Catholics.

Jews might have mixed reactions to this trend. Conservative Protestant denominations, while still small, are growing. It is among these more devout Christian groups that one finds the strongest support for Israel, as well as government support for religious schools. But many of these groups hold illiberal views that many Jews do not share. And Christians have historically been responsible for much of the oppression of Jews, in the "old country" as well as in North America. But Christian anti-Semitism seems to be a decreasing issue for Canadian Jews. Old wounds are forgotten and new commonalities have emerged.

A second key trend is the dramatic increase in those people claiming "no religion." One in six Canadians now say this. There are many Jews in that group. Indeed the Jewish atheist or *apikoros* has a legendary role in Jewish folklore and history. But a greater proportion of the additions likely come from among Christians.

The rise in both conservative Christianity and secular atheism signals a potential for greater social and ideological conflict in Canada, a version of the American culture wars. Jews will be caught in the middle.

Religiosity has been found to be associated with a series of conservative social attitudes and behaviours thought to be good for social stability and a healthy civil society: support for strong families and the welfare of children, for strong communities and volunteerism. And many middle class Jews value such stability.

On the other hand, in their historic struggles for full civil and political rights, Jews and atheists often fought side by side against Christian exclusion. Most liberal Jews probably think religion is a good thing, as long as it stays mainly in the private sphere and away from public policy on most issues.

A third trend evident in the new census numbers is the growth of non-Western religions, specifically Islam. This challenges Canadian Jews on two fronts: immigration and foreign policy.

Jews have historically been liberals on immigration. This worked well when many Jews were clamouring to enter Canada and when most other immigrants were Europeans who shared similar traditions and a similar historical frame of reference. But Islamic immigrants, even relatively moderate ones, are unlikely to include many strong supporters of Israel's right to exist, let alone of specific Israeli policies. In the post-Sept. 11 environment, Jewish and Muslim groups have taken opposing points of view on the respective importance of national security concerns versus the civil liberties of prospective immigrants. And more conflict can be expected regarding Canadian policy in the Middle East.

Yet, ironically, in many ways Muslim immigrants to Canada share similarities with Jews, in terms of a strong commitment to cultural retention and survival and the development of large networks of communal institutions. Hopefully, Jewish and Islamic communities in Canada can serve as voices for moderation, non-violence and peace.

The Kirshner File

The United States and the Mideast peace process

The United States has been struggling to bring peace to the Middle East since the Six Day War. For the past three decades, every U.S. president from Lyndon Baines Johnson to George W. Bush has been embroiled in the complex diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Being a superpower, the United States has reason to be interested in the attainment of peace in that notoriously unstable region. Peace would enhance Israel's security, improve Washington's relations with Arab states and secure oil supplies.

Shortly after the 1967 Six Day War, Johnson, who was manifestly pro-Israel, staked out the United States' position on the conflict. It has virtually remained unchanged for the past 36 years:

- Israel should not be required to give up the territories – the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights – unless the Arabs are ready to recognize the Jewish state and enter into peaceful relations with it.
- East Jerusalem is occupied territory and its status should be settled in peace negotiations. Jerusalem should not be physically redivided again.
- Israeli settlements in the territories are obstacles to peace. Old settlements should not be expanded. New settlements should not be built.
- Palestinian rights should be addressed by granting the Palestinians the right of self-determination. Until quite recently, the United States opposed the creation of a sovereign Palestinian state, preferring an association encompassing the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jordan. Last year, Washington enunciated its support of a two-state solution.
- Israel's qualitative military edge should be maintained.

The Six Day War, which was caused by Arab brinkmanship, cast the United States into the role of peacemaker, writes William Quandt in *Peace Process*, a comprehensive and erudite treatment of U.S. diplomacy published by the University of California Press.

Although Johnson patently failed to stop the drift toward war, he was determined not to repeat the mistake Dwight Eisenhower had made after the 1956 Suez war: Israel could not be expected to withdraw from the territories without significant Arab concessions.

Being preoccupied with the Vietnam war, the Johnson administration left the task of post-war peacemaking to a United Nations mediator, the Swedish diplomat Gunnar Jarring. Johnson's successor, Richard Nixon, and his national security advisor, Henry Kissinger, believed that the United States should not weaken friends, such as Israel, and strengthen Soviet clients such as Egypt.

In 1969, following U.S.-Soviet talks, Washington spelled out its views in a document. Final Arab-Israeli borders would be determined only by the parties. An agreement would not be imposed. William Rogers, the U.S. secretary of state, tested the waters by proposing an accord between Israel and Egypt. Israel would withdraw to the international border. In return, Egypt would submit to a formal state of peace.

Egypt was non-committal, but Israel rejected the plan. Nixon's first initiative thereby died on the drawing board. But in 1970, the United States scored a notable success by persuading Israel and Egypt to observe a ceasefire along the Suez Canal, where a War of Attrition had been fought for three years.

In 1971, at the urging of the United States, Jarring presented a memorandum to Israel and Egypt. Israel would withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula, and in exchange, Egypt would make peace with Israel. Anwar Sadat, Egypt's new president, accepted Jarring's proposition. Golda Meir, Israel's prime minister, did not.

Her recalcitrance sparked the Yom Kippur War, which upended several fundamental U.S. assumptions. The first was that Israeli military power would ensure regional stability. The second was that Washington's detente with Moscow would minimize the danger of local conflicts. The third was that the Arabs could not surprise Israel militarily.

With these beliefs shattered, the United States redoubled its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East and improve its relationship with Egypt without sacrificing its ties with Israel.

"For the first time the United States committed its top diplomatic resources to a sustained search for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict," observes Quandt, a former member of the U.S. National Security Council and now a professor of government and foreign affairs at the University of Virginia.

Kissinger, the freshly minted secretary of state, took charge of the campaign to bring peace and order to the area. His goals were fourfold: to isolate the Soviet Union from the substance of negotiations, to lift the Arab oil embargo, to build support for Arab moderate positions, and to avoid a public quarrel with Israel that could have domestic repercussions.

Kissinger, who also worked for Gerald Ford after Nixon's resignation, was remarkably successful, producing disengagements accords on the Sinai and Golan fronts. But as Quandt notes, he had "a blind spot" toward the Palestinians, trying to bypass this pivotal issue.

Jimmy Carter, Ford's successor, had little patience for the Arab refusal to recognize Israel and strongly believed that Israel would have to come to terms with the Palestinians and the PLO. Carter's policy was underpinned by three elements: the need for peace and normal relations, security arrangements and a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Lyndon Baines Johnson

Carter's vision was clouded by Israel's prime minister, Menachem Begin. He was unwilling to accept the principle of withdrawal from the West Bank and was committed to keeping settlements there intact. In light of the outcome of the 1978 Camp David talks, Begin showed far more flexibility with respect to Egypt's territorial demands.

Quandt suggests that, in the pursuit of a peace treaty, Begin was in a stronger position than Sadat. If talks broke down, Begin would be released from the obligation to vacate Sinai, but Sadat would have nothing to show for his flexibility.

Israel and Egypt finally signed a treaty, Israel's first with an Arab nation. But Sadat fell short of convincing Israel that the Palestinians should be part of the deal. In fact, Begin never renounced his claim to sovereignty of the West Bank.

Ronald Reagan, the next president, shifted U.S. policy away from the Camp David model to a more muscular competition with the Soviet Union for influence in which Israel was regarded as a strategic partner.

To thwart Moscow, Alexander Haig, the U.S. secretary of state, attempted to forge a "strategic consensus" among pro-Western Mideast countries. His idealistic scheme floundered on the shoals of Arab-Israeli tensions.

Meanwhile, Reagan's professed friendship with Israel was sorely tested by three events: Israel's 1981 bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor, Israel's 1981 decision to annex the Golan, and Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

On Sept. 1, 1982, after the ouster of the PLO from Beirut, Reagan gave his first and only major speech on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The gist of it was that Washington would oppose Israel's annexation of the territories and an independent Palestinian state.

Israel and the Arabs poured scorn on the formula. And the attempt by secretary of state George Shultz to persuade Lebanon to sign a peace treaty with Israel was sabotaged by Syria, Lebanon's "protector."

The United States opened a dialogue with the PLO in 1988, once its leader Yasser Arafat accepted Israel's right to exist, embraced United Nations Resolution 242 and renounced terrorism. But the dialogue collapsed in 1990, destroyed by an audacious, but abortive, Palestinian terrorist raid against Israel.

George Bush and his bold secretary of state, James Baker, did not mince words. Israel, Baker declared in no uncertain terms, needed "to lay aside, once and for all, the unrealistic vision of a greater Israel."

Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War created an opportunity for the United States to kick-start peace talks, beginning with the Madrid conference.

Bill Clinton came to the White House at a propitious time. Radical Arab nationalism, as embodied by Saddam Hussein, had been subdued. Yitzchak Shamir, the hardliner Israeli prime minister who scorned territorial compromise, had been replaced by Yitzhak Rabin.

Clinton's presidency was a high-water mark of Mideast diplomacy, coinciding with Israel's peace treaty with Jordan and the Oslo process. Clinton, for all his good intentions, could neither broker an agreement with Syria nor prevent the collapse of the Camp David summit and the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising.

Judging by its sponsorship of the "road map," which was released recently, these grievous setbacks have not discouraged the United States from trying to bring peace to the Middle East.

Nor have the latest Palestinian suicide bombings. The struggle continues.

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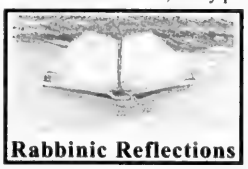
Jewish Life

By RABBI HOWARD MORRISON

Peace unto thee, O Jerusalem



Rabbinic Reflections

While every word of the Torah is sacred and significant, I must admit that I have a favourite Torah portion for personal reasons.

On Shabbat, May 19, 1973, I chanted parshat Behar as I celebrated my becoming a bar mitzvah at the Kotel (Western Wall) in Jerusalem. For years, I would say in jest that I had celebrated a "Behar" mitzvah. How appropriate parshat Behar was for me, given that all of its content revolves around the land of Israel, the place where I read it in public for the first time.

One particular verse has become universally recognized: "*U'kratem d'ror ba'aretz l'chol yoshve'ha*" – "You shall proclaim liberty to all the inhabitants of the land." Sadly, over the past three years, and more generally over modern Israel's short 55-year history, our Israeli brothers and sisters have not experienced the Torah's call for liberty among the land's citizens.

For a short period back in May of 1973, feelings were very different. My parents, three siblings and I had arrived in Israel one day after Israel marked its twenty-fifth anniversary of statehood. For each of us, it was our very first time in the Jewish state. From my youngest sibling, who was six at the time, to my parents, we all marvelled at each step and each experience during our two-week stay.

This year, parshat Behar was read on May 17. In a non-leap year, Behar would be read together as a double portion with Bechukotai. Traditional commentators discuss the juxtaposition of two seemingly identical phrases toward the beginning of Bechukutai: "*Vishavtem la'vetach b'artzechem; v'natati shalom ba'aretz*" (You shall dwell safely in your land; and I will give peace in the land.).

"You shall dwell safely in your land," refers to safety among Jews and non-Jews inhabiting the same area. "And I will give peace in the land" refers to internal unity among the different branches and segments of the Jewish people. Interestingly, many midrashim about Jerusalem are linked to this particular phrase.

This Friday, May 30 (28 Iyar), we commemorate Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day), marking the anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem during the Six Day War in June 1967.

With the celebrations of Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Yerushalayim fresh in our minds, coupled with the remembrances of Yom Hazikaron, the Ontario Jewish community can be proud of its communal solidarity with Israel.

In Toronto, we marched from the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre to Earl Bales Park on Yom Ha'atzmaut, and this past Sunday we walked for Israel in anticipation of Yom Yerushalayim.

Throughout the year, we must continue to invest in Israel, to contribute to Israel, to purchase goods made in Israel and to walk the streets in Israel.

May we soon see the day when there is a genuine lasting peace in Israel among Jews and non-Jews and among the Jewish people itself.

On this Yom Yerushalayim, let us sing the words "*May'al pisgat Har Hatzofim, shalom lach Yerushalayim*". "From the heights of Mount Scopus, I greet thee; peace unto thee, O' Jerusalem."

Rabbi Howard Morrison is spiritual leader of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto.

South American Jews cope with dismal situation

By WENDY EISEN

Guest Voice

The UIA mission of 21 Toronto leaders and two staff members to Argentina and Uruguay earlier this month was emotional, educational, exhilarating, inspiring and enlightening.

How privileged we were to meet Jewish leaders in another hemisphere, ardent Zionists whose hearts beat as one for the Jewish people; and how sad it was to see Jews whose lives have been dramatically altered by their country's corrupt political system and dismal economic situation.

Argentina's Jewish population numbers 200,000. Today, the former middle class, once successful and proud manufacturers, retailers, entrepreneurs and professionals, has become impoverished. Some men and women who once worked as volunteers in Jewish communal service now require assistance themselves.

On our trip, we experienced one poignant moment after another as we visited Jewish social service centres in both Buenos Aires and Montevideo.

Many new agencies have been created to respond to the crisis. Among them are an employment and job training centre, fully equipped with computers and professional staff, and day-care centres for children at risk, some of whom have been physically abused. The increase in abuse, a new problem among Argentine Jews, is born from the anguish and frustration of their debilitating situation.

The task of maintaining a buoyant and effective Jewish population during these troubling times is accomplished through the dedication of committed Argentine communal leaders, with the assistance of Israeli emissaries from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) and the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

It appears that only through "Jewish education" and "aliyah" – words that were repeated again and again to us – can the Jews of this community survive. Tremendous energy is expended to strengthen Jewish identity through education: 17,000 young people attend Jewish day schools, subsidized by funds sent by JAFI.

It was heartwarming to visit such schools and see children thriving in an environment imbued with Jewish tradition and values, and skilled teachers promoting aliyah.

Among Montevideo's Jewish community of 20,000, we met a group of young people who last year visited Israel on a Birthright trip and are now planning their future lives in Israel.

The following day, we wished a mazel tov to 40 new olim, who, through tears, bade family and friends goodbye at the Buenos Aires airport shortly before boarding their flight to Tel Aviv. Last year, 6,500 Argentine Jews made aliyah.

The contrasts in Jewish Argentina are staggering. On one hand, recently impoverished Jews wait patiently at a social care centre for their monthly food ration stamps; on the other, Jews who have their money securely outside of the country enjoy an affluent lifestyle.

Despite the economic challenges facing both Buenos Aires and Montevideo, the community's leaders are working tirelessly for their annual Keren Hayesod campaigns to raise funds for Israel. But JAFI sends these two communities more money than it receives, as Jewish arms stretch even wider to embrace our brothers and sisters in South America.

As I stood at the Jewish cemetery on Yom Hazikaron along with thousands of Argentine Jews who had gathered in solemn remembrance of Israel's fallen soldiers, I felt overwhelmingly the privilege of being Jewish.

Wherever Jews travel in the world, we are one. This is the miracle of Klal Yisrael.

Wendy Eisen is a Jewish community activist in Toronto.

Jewish Life

Shavuot and the Seven Species – part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Shavuot is coming and so are the blintzes and cheesecakes.

Although it's customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot, you may want to take a pass on some of the cholesterol. There are other ways to remember the holiday at your dining room table – if you look at the holiday's agricultural roots.

In the days of the Temple, Shavuot was the time when farmers would bring the first harvest of seven special grains and fruits to Jerusalem. Nowadays, we have no Temple but you can enjoy dishes made from the Seven Species: wheat and barley, grapes and figs, pomegranates, olives and honey. Today, some Shavuot food for your table – and food for thought – from the World Wide Web.

Wheat has always been considered fundamental to Jewish life. "If there is no flour, there is no Torah; if there is no Torah, there is no flour" (Pirkei Avot 3:21). In *Foods of the Bible*, Phyllis Glazer presents a wonderful overview of how our ancestors milled grains and explains what kinds of breads, cakes and other dishes were prepared. She then shares recipes for unleavened flatbread, wild wheat salad and earthy unyeasted bread.

I like the way Glazer tries to paint the scene as she does with her Biblical Dumplings: "Perhaps it was the hunting season, and the young shepherd boy was out with his flocks in the hills. His provisions were few – flour, oil, salt and water from a nearby oasis. Chancing upon a quail's nest, he made off with its precious contents. And back at the oasis, he may have come up with this original dish. [Serves the shepherd and three of his comrades]" **[http://ariga.com/visions/biblfood/wheat.htm]**.

Although barley (*se'orah*) may not have the profile of wheat or the sweet associations of dates, grapes or figs, it does have a strong connection to Shavuot. In addition to being the first grain to ripen in Israel, in the Torah, an offering of an *omer* (a specific measure) of barley was brought to the Temple on the second day of Passover **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/lagbaomer/omer.htm]**. From that day onward, it was necessary to count 49 days until Shavuot (Leviticus 23:15) **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?Q38D24F94]**. After the destruction of the Temple, the practice of bringing barley was discontinued, but Jews continued to count the omer period – and remember the importance barley has played in Jewish life.

Glazer has dug deep into the Torah and has found many facts that will hearten barley aficionados. Barley is mentioned 32 times in the Bible. And in the Book of Ruth, which is read on Shavuot, Boaz first fancied Ruth working in the field under the hot sun and gave her a gift of "six measures of barley" (Ruth 3:15), **[http://ariga.com/visions/biblfood/barley.htm]**.

After you've soaked in barley's rich history, you can try your hand at barley break cakes and wash it down with barley tea. Or reach for something a bit more stout and read about the Land of Israel's ancient ties to beer, usually brewed from barley. Archeologists digging at Tel Isdar have uncovered 3,000-year-old beer mugs that indicate that beer drinking in Israel goes back to the days of King Saul and King David **[http://www.fosters.com.au/beer/history/history_of_beer.asp]**.

As food writer and historian Gil Marks notes, grapes were the most important fruit in ancient Israel. He lists numerous references to grapes and wine in the Torah, from Noah's indiscretions after the flood to the huge grape cluster that the spies brought back after their toured Canaan. The children of Israel are even compared to this: "As grapes in the desert I found Israel." Marks then presents recipes that incorporate wine, such as Israeli Raspberry-Orange Wine Soup, Ashkenazic Chicken with Wine and Alsatian Wine-Poached Pears **[http://www.ou.org/shabbat/recipes/grapes.htm]**.

The Seven Species may be lovely foods but they don't corner the market on great Israeli produce. What unique qualities give them special status? I'll leave the last word to Israeli botanist-agriculturalist, Noga Hareuveni: "They require, in addition to hard work and intelligent agricultural processing, the right degree of sun, wind and rain in the proper proportions at the right time. These seven species obviously demand not only human effort but also Divine intervention. They are testimony to the partnership between humans and God in producing the life-sustaining foods from the earth" **[http://www.jpost.com/com/Archive/29.Jul.1999/Columns/Article-0.html]**.

Next week figs, pomegranates, olives and honey.

* * * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Lubavitch asks women to light candles for peace

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Lubavitch is urging women and girls to light Shabbat candles on May 30 to show solidarity with the people of Israel and add special prayers for the peace and security of Jews everywhere.

The aim is to have women who do not regularly light Shabbat candles light them at least that one night, as "Shabbat candles for peace."

Goldie Plotkin, rebbitzen of Chabad of Markham, told *The CJN* women will register their intention to light candles on that day at www.shabbatpeace.com. The names will be sent to Israel and publicized there "to show how the Diaspora supports them."

Women who already light candles, she said, are encouraged to focus their prayers on safety and security for all of Israel and to influence their friends and neighbours to also observe this mitzvah.

While in most homes, only the female head of the house lights candles, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the late Lubavitcher rebbe, encouraged girls over the age of three to also light them.

Plotkin said the idea was suggested at the convention of shlichot, female emissaries of Lubavitch, held in February in New York.

"It was in the middle of those awful attacks on Israel, and we wanted to do something on an international scale," she said.

A Lubavitch media release noted that Jewish women have always added personal prayers after lighting candles – prayers for their children, for their husbands, for health, whatever is especially dear to their hearts. "It is believed that these prayers are especially propitious as they are offered at a time when all creation is being sanctified in God's name through the ushering in of Shabbat."

Nechama Dina Jacobson, a rebbitzen at the Jewish Russian Community Centre, said Jewish women have the spiritual power to bring peace into their homes and into the world through their prayers.

Chabad shlichot will be preparing posters and giving out brochures and candles, so that "every Jewish woman should know about this project," she said.

For more information, contact Plotkin, at 905-886-0420, ext. 225, or Jacobson at 416-222-7105.

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With the participation of
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Greater Toronto Area

'Have a knish' was Stroli's motto

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Shmuel Stroli, the owner of Stroli's and the originator of kosher take-out in Toronto, died recently of heart disease. He was 84.

Obituary

His signature was the gift of a knish to every Stroli's customer. Son Alex said this was in line with his retail philosophy. "If you want to shop wisely, shop on a full stomach. So have a knish."

Rabbi Stroli was born in Sharmash, Romania, and received his smichah in Cluj (Clausenberg). In 1950, he and his wife moved to Israel, and then, in 1957, to Toronto.

He started out in the food business working for Hershel Rubenstein, but soon took over his business, along with partner Yitzchak Pilc.

Together they introduced what was then a new concept in Toronto – kosher take-out. "He felt that that was a way to enhance his service, as well as a way to get closer to his customers," said Alex.

Gittel Rosenzweig Weinberger, a family friend and the former rebbitzen in Kitchener, said take-out was a tremendous boon to kosher housewives, especially those who worked outside the home.

Also very appreciated, she said, was that Stroli's shipped kosher meat and other products to small communities.

Another facet of Stroli's personal service was home delivery, complete with non-Jewish, but Yiddish-speaking, drivers.

The venerable Bathurst Street business carried on until 2001, when Rabbi Stroli gave it up to be able to care for his ill wife.

Rabbi Stroli was a life member of Clanton Park synagogue.

While he was not prominently involved in communal life, his son said, he worked consistently behind the scenes. "He was a humble man and felt that any charitable acts should be done quietly."

A devoted family man, Rabbi Stroli was thrilled that just three months before his death he was able to meet his youngest great-grandson.

Rabbi Stroli is survived by his wife Mathilda, son Alex, of Passaic, N.J., daughter Miriam Klein, of Brooklyn, N.Y., five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

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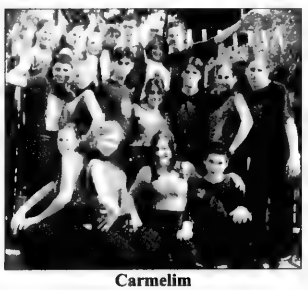
Benefit concert to aid disabled Israeli veterans

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Talented Israeli youth will highlight an upcoming concert sponsored by Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel-Beit Halochem Canada.

Carmelim, a group of young singers and dancers who have performed in South Africa, Eastern Europe, England and the United States, will headline the benefit, titled A Celebration of Life, June 12, at 7 p.m. at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.



Carmelim

"The Carmelim group expresses the ideologies of a multicultural nation transmitting positive spirit of peace and harmony for Israel's future" said Toby Feldberg, national president of Beit Halochem Canada and concert chair.

Also performing a medley of songs will be renowned tenor Mikhail Kotlyarov, who has entertained opera lovers at the Moscow Column Hall, the Bolshoi Theatre, the Vienna Opera Theatre and the Royal Opera Theatre in London, England.

Beit Halochem is devoted to helping more than 50,000 Israeli disabled veterans and their families. Its four centres in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem and Nahariya offer them state-of-the-art sports, social and rehabilitation facilities.

"All proceeds from this concert will go toward ensuring that our Israeli heroes are given the best care possible," Feldberg said.

Toby and husband Saul Feldberg were the honorees at the 2002 Jewish National Fund's Negev dinner in Toronto. They chose Halochem Park in the Haruvit Forest as the beneficiary of the funds raised at the dinner.

For more information or to reserve tickets, call 416-787-8950, 1-800-355-1648, or visit www.advi.ca on the Web.

Greater Toronto Area

Friends of Yiddish leader to be honoured in June

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Bess Shockett, the executive vice-president of Friends of Yiddish, is being honoured for her longtime commitment to the Yiddish language and culture.

Friends of Yiddish and the Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation are honouring Shockett at a tribute dinner on Sunday evening, June 8, at the Pride of Israel Synagogue for her work with Friends of Yiddish as well as her work in the Jewish and general communities.

Bess Shockett

Born in the Ukraine, Shockett's family came to Montreal when she was four years old. She attended Commercial High School and cheder after school, where she learned Hebrew but the girls were only taught how to daven.

At home, her parent and grandparents spoke Yiddish. She grew up steeped in an awareness of the language that has defined the Jewish people for centuries.

"My grandfather was a Chassid," Shockett told *The CJN*. "My father got me the Yiddish book, *The Family Cranovski* by Isaac Batshevis Singer and he told me I had to read it."

But it was more than just reading and speaking the language, she said. "There was a great love and respect for Yiddish in my home. And it was transmitted to me."

> *'There was a great love and respect for Yiddish in my home. And it was transmitted to me'*

In 1952, she married Barry Shockett, who was the editor at *Southam Press* of several trade papers, and they moved to Toronto. The couple first joined the United Jewish People's Order and later, when some members broke away and formed the New Fraternal Jewish Association, joined that association.

In 1972, Shockett was sent by the organization to a conference on Yiddish sponsored by the Committee for Yiddish, the umbrella organization for Yiddish. In 1974, she became director of the Committee for Yiddish, a position she held for 15 years.

In 1982, Shockett and volunteers Shirley Kumove, Les Nirenberg and Gerry Kane formed Friends of Yiddish, a membership organization with monthly meetings.

As its current executive vice-president, Shockett chairs the organization's summer concerts and is a member of the board of Jewish Book Fair, the Holocaust Committee of the Miles Nadal Community Centre, the Jewish Theatre Committee and the Committee of Yiddish at the University of Toronto.

Of all the Yiddish programs she has participated in, Shockett said she loved being a part of U of T's Yiddish committee the most.

"It was a thrill for me having been at the early stages of the establishment of the Yiddish language courses the University of Toronto," she said. "[W]e collected nickels and dimes to pay for the Yiddish program, to attend the recent celebration honouring Al and Malka Green and the other donors, who established an endowment which guarantees Yiddish programs at the U of T in perpetuity."

Shockett said she is excited about the future of Yiddish in Toronto, particularly about plans for the development of a Yiddish cultural and education centre in the city.

"Yiddish has such beauty and it would be ashamed not to give the younger generation the opportunity to learn the music, culture and literature that developed and matured for more than 1,000 years," she said.

"The challenge is to get younger people involved. There is a growing interest in Yiddish music and I hope it will expand to include the language and literature."

For information or reservations for the dinner, call Min Grossman of Friends of Yiddish at 905-709-4602. Reservations must be made by May 31.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
is saddened by the passing of

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The Holocaust Centre of Toronto
mourns the untimely passing of its Benefactor

Frank Ekstein ז"ל

Our heartfelt condolences go out to his beloved wife Anita Ekstein, and to his children and grandchildren.

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Greater Toronto Area

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CORRECTION

The last line of the story "Event to raise funds for new cancer treatment" was inadvertenly omitted. It should have indicated that the Brave Heart Foundation, which raises funds for cancer treatment at Princess Margaret Hospital, is planning a fundraising walk for Sept. 7.

OMISSION

In *About Food* by Norene Gilletz, April 25, the last step was omitted from the recipe for Czech Apple-Noodle Kugel. It should have read: after the kugel is placed in the prepared pan, place it on the middle rack of the oven and bake at 350 for 35 minutes or until golden.

The CJN regrets the omission.

If it wasn't for a second chance, we would have no chance. Thank you.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Mechina program for pre-academic studies prepares students from disadvantaged backgrounds for university. Every year about 500 students enroll in this intensive one-year program. As a result many young people have the opportunity to achieve what they thought was unattainable.

The Israel government's need to divert funding to defense is exacting a costly toll in budget cuts to the University.

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INVEST IN A BETTER TOMORROW, TODAY!

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

שבועות — דער גייסטיקער געבוירן־טאָג

פון אַלעק סילווער

מיט עטלעכע וואָכן צוריק האָבן ייִדן איבער דער וועלט געפייערט דעם יאָרטאָג פון נאַציאָנאַלן ווידערגעבורט פון דער ישׂראל מלוכה — יום העצמאות. שבועות פייערט דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק דעם געבוירן־טאָג ווי אַ פאָלק — „היום הזה נהיית לעם" — וואָס איז שוין טויזנטער יאָרן אַלט. אין דעם טאָג ווען די בני ישׂראל זיינען געשטאַנען ביים הר סיני און באַקומען די עשׂרת הדברות, זיינען זיי געוואָרן אַ פאָלק מיט אַלע פעלקער גלייך.

עס איז אַן אָנגענומענער כלל אין דער וועלט, ספּעציעל אין דער מאָדערנער וועלט, אַז נאָר ווען אַ פאָלק לעבט אויף איד אייגענער נאַציאָנאַלער טעריטאָריע, קען עס באַצייכנט ווערן ווי אַ זעלבשטענדיק פאָלק. אין דעם פאַל זיינען ייִדן ממש אַ יוצא מן הכלל, אַן אויסנאַם אויף דעם געביט, ווייל עם ישׂראל איז אויספאָרמירט געוואָרן אין דער מדבר און נישט אין אירע אייגענע נאַציאָנאַלע גרענעצן; נישט מיטן פיזישן כּוח פון אַ באָדן אונטער זייערע פיס און באַוואָפנטע אַרמייען, נאָר מיטן גייסטיקן כּוח פון דער תורה און די צען געבאָט איז ישׂראל געבוירן געוואָרן ווי אַ פאָלק.

„היינט זענט איד געוואָרן אַ פאָלק" — האָט דער רבונו של עולם געזאָגט צו דעם פאַרזאַמלטן ציבור, און באַלד דעמאָלט איז פעסטגעשטעלט געוואָרן דער אויסזען און אינהאַלט פון פאָלק ישׂראל פאַר אַלע צוקונפטיקע דורות. עס האָט נאָך געדויערט אַ היפּשע צייט פון דעם טאָג ווען די יוצאי מצרים האָבן באַקומען די געטלעכע געזעצן ביז זיי האָבן דערגרייכט זייער ארץ ישׂראל, אָבער קיינער האָט שוין נישט געקענט אַוועקנעמען פון זיי דעם טיטל: עם ישׂראל — דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק.

אַזוי האָבן ייִדן געוואַנדערט איבער גלותן אָפּהיטנדיק די תורה. נאָר אַ דאַנק דעם זיינען ייִדן, טראָץ דעם, וואָס זיי זיינען געווען צעזייט און צעשפּרייט איבער דער גאַנצער וועלט, תמיד געווען פאַראייניקט צווישן זיך, שטענדיק געווען אַ פאָלק. זיי האָבן פרייוויליק געטיילט מיט דער מענטשהייט דאָס, וואָס זיי האַלטן ווי דאָס הייליקסטע אין לעבן. צווישן אַלע ביישטייערונגען, וואָס ייִדן האָבן געמאַכט צו דער מענטשלעכער ציוויליזאַציע (און די דאָזיקע ביישטייערונגען זיינען גאָר, גאָר אַ סך), זיינען די עשׂרת הדברות די קרוין פון די ביישטייערונגען.

נישט אַלע פעלקער האָבן געוואָלט אָנגעמען די צען געבאָט און אַ טייל פעלקער ווילן נאָך ביזן היינטיקן טאָג נישט אָנערקענען, אַז די געטלעכע געבאָטן ביים הר סיני זיינען דער שורש, דער מקור פון די געזעצן, פון דער מאָראַל און עטיק פון דער **גאַנצער** מענטשלעכער ציוויליזאַציע. דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק איז אָבער נישט מיד געוואָרן, נישט אָפּגעשטאַנען אין פּראָקלאַמירן צו דער וועלט דעם אמת, די וויכטיקייט און נויטיקייט פון די עשׂרת הדברות.

איין מאָל אין יאָר פייערט דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק דעם יום־טוב פון מתן תורה, דעם יום־טוב פון גייסט און העכערע מחשבות. שבועות פידט דעם ייִדן צוריק צום באַרג סיני, און כאָטש ער איז דאָרטן נישט געווען, געדענקט ער ווען ער האָט געזאָגט דעם „נעשׂה ונשמע". אַזוי נאָענט איז דער ייִד צו דער תורה, צו די צען געבאָט, ווי ער אַליין וואָלט זיי פּערזענלעך גענומען ערשט נעכטן, כאָטש עס זיינען שוין אָפּגעלאָפן איבער פיר טויזנט יאָר.

שבועות איז דער יום־טוב ווען עס ווערט ווידער אַרויסגעהויבן דער אמת פון די צען געבאָט און די אייביקייט פון דער תורה און עם ישׂראל. דאָס האָט געגעבן דעם ייִדישן פאָלק די גייסטיקע גבורה איבערצוהאַלטן אַלע רדיפות און פייניקונגען אויף איד גלות־וועג, ביז זיי האָבן ווידער דערגרייכט זייער צוגעזאָגט לאַנד.

דאַרפן מיר נאָר בעטן, אַז ישׂראל זאָל דערגרייכן איר אויסגעטרוימטן שלום; זי זאָל קענען לעבן רויק און צופרידן, און ווייטער קענען פּראָקלאַמירן צו דער וועלט, אַז דער אָנהייב פון דער געזעצלעכער און מאָראַלישער ציוויליזאַציע איז געווען ביים מעמד הר סיני, ווען דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק איז גייסטיק געבוירן געוואָרן.

מיר ווינטשן אַלעמען אַ געזונטן און פריילעכן שבועות!

Greater Toronto Area

IDF officer Mandel remembered on shloshim

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

A baby on a shag carpet. A little boy in water wings. A teenager clowning for the camera. A young man playing the guitar. A soldier proudly accepting the beret of his unit.

All ordinary pictures of an ordinary life, that became unspeakably poignant when Toronto-born IDF officer Daniel Mandel, 24, was killed in action during an anti-terrorist mission in Shechem.

Seen from left, are Miriam Goldstein, Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, Jerry Rosenfield.

The pictures were part of a film made in Israel in his memory, which was shown at a program marking the shloshim of his death. The event was sponsored by Mizrachi, the Israeli Consulate and Bnei Akiva Schools Yeshivat Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot Girls School. It was held at Or Chaim.

Rabbi Hanan Schlesinger, a neighbour and friend of the Mandel family in Alon Shvut, gave a d'var Torah in Daniel's memory. He said that the prophets predicted a time when life would be normal in Jerusalem – "Thus says the Lord of hosts; old men and old women shall yet again dwell in the streets of Jerusalem, and every man with his staff in his hand for very age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets" (Zechariah, 8:4-5).

This prophecy was more than optimistic, Rabbi Schlesinger said, considering that Zechariah wrote after the return from the Babylonian exile, 70 years after the destruction of the first Temple.

Only 40,000 people returned from Babylon, he said, and the land was barren. "Think," he urged as an aside, "we are now a nation of over five million. We have to recognize what a great miracle that is."

Zechariah knew, he said, that the Jewish experience is one of "cycle after cycle of birth, near death and then rebirth."

People talk about the covenant God made with Abraham, to give him offspring, even though he was already old, and to give him the land of Israel for his descendants. But God made another promise, the rabbi went on.

He quoted from Genesis: "Know surely that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them… but in the fourth generation they shall come back here."

Although it is thought that the prophecy refers to the time of slavery in Egypt, the rabbis noted that nowhere is that country mentioned.

"We were promised exile, oppression, pain and suffering – that is also part of the covenant," not just that the Jewish people will return to the land of Israel.

And that exile would go on throughout Jewish history to Babylon, to Persia, to Greece and to Rome, he said, up until 1948, when the state was established.

The prophet Ezekiel had a vision of dried bones that were brought back to life by God. After Hitler, the Jews of Europe were dried bones, emaciated skeletons. "Who would have thought that only three years later, those dried bones would arise in an independent state."

Ezekiel's words were not about the resurrection of individuals from their graves, Rabbi Schlesinger said. "Ezekiel was speaking to the collective national identity."

Not only are we back in our land, as an observant Jew who had read the words of Ezekiel would know, he said, but the other prophecy, "*Ki mitzion teytze Torah*," (from out of Zion shall come out the Torah) has also come true. This refers, he said, to the miraculous outpouring of Torah study and institutions in the country.

The Jewish people are not meant to feel secure in Israel, but must realize that they are dependent on the grace of God for their welfare. "They must realize that they only acquire the brachah [of the land] through suffering and pain."

That suffering and sacrifice is the path to the ultimate redemption, he said. The rabbi quoted Mandel's mother, who said at Daniel's funeral that his death was the price the family paid to be real Israelis.

The cycle continues. During the week of shloshim, Daniel's sister Nichole had a baby. A son.

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Jewish Toronto

Israeli children at risk traumatized twice

By HOWARD ENGLISH

Increasing needs, shrinking revenue and longer waiting lists. These are challenging times for Israeli social service agencies and *Orr Shalom* typifies their multiple difficulties.

Haim Feingold, Executive Director, Orr Shalom

Orr Shalom is a network of group homes across Israel – supported, in part by UJA Federation - catering to children who have been abused or abandoned. Or they've simply lost their way. Some children – as young as 10 - have fallen so far off track that *Orr Shalom* has rescued them from drug dealing or other criminal activities. And all of them have been traumatized, said *Orr Shalom* Executive Director, Haim Feingold on a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto speaking tour. Now, added *Orr Shalom* Chair, Aliza Olmert, during an interview last week, nearly three years of terror attacks have compounded their problems. "These traumatized kids are re-traumatized by the situation," she said.

"The kids need more attention and professional care," added Feingold. "They're afraid to go outside and to the mall."

However, it's not only the children who are deeply affected, it's the professional staff in each home as well. "You have to support a home mother who can't go out. We have to invest much more to prevent burnout among the professionals working in each home," Feingold noted.

Over the past 10 years, *Orr Shalom* has grown from three homes to 23, with the latest additions taking shape in the Arab community of Abu Ghosh, near Jerusalem and the largely Bedouin city of Rahat. Both facilities are for boys only and Olmert hopes for funds to purchase houses for girls in these communities as well. There are, however, firmer plans for a new girls' home to help pre-teens in Mevasseret Tzion and modern new quarters – also in Mevasseret - purchased with funding from Toronto's Paula Nussbaum – for the 10 residents of an already existing, but rundown group home.

Volunteers from Canada-Israel Experience spent Yom Ha'atzmaut helping out at Orr Shalom's *Childrens Homes in Israel. Pictured (l-r) Marnina Webber of Toronto, Esther Lieberowitz of Toronto, and Leah Zilbert of Halifax help plant a new garden.*

Orr Shalom is definitely not crumbling under the burden of Israel's recession, but the country's economic malaise is making it tougher to function. The waiting list, which now stands at 100, is getting longer. "The more difficult the times, the more families are falling apart," said Olmert. And many of *Orr Shalom's* Israeli donors are struggling.

Yet, *Orr Shalom's* dreams are boundless. As Feingold put it, "if there's a need, we're ready to do anything."

Torontonians enjoy rebirth of Mike's Place following bombing

Members of a recent joint UJA Federation-Israel Bonds solidarity mission to Israel paid a special visit to *Mike's Place* exactly one week after the popular Tel Aviv night club was victimized by a homicide bomber.

The restaurant – a fashionable late-night spot attracting Israelis and tourists - was victimized on April 30 when the killer detonated the bomb at the entrance to *Mike's Place*. A security guard on duty at the time prevented the bomber from entering. Three people were killed in the attack and 48 injured.

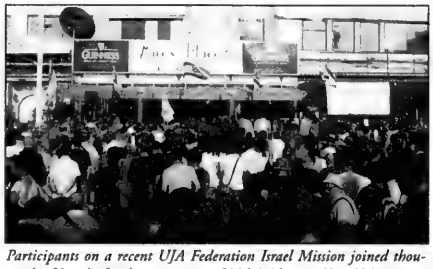
Members of the May 5 to May 11 mission, chaired by Ron Herczeg and Zelic Altman, made it a priority to visit the restaurant following an emotional trip to Tel Aviv's Sourasky Medical Centre. There mission participants met with two teenaged girls, both of whom survived the blast, but were badly burned.

During their visit, a mission member asked the girls whether they would ever go back to *Mike's Place*. Without hesitation, they both answered, "yes." It was then that several members decided to visit *Mike's Place* as a symbolic show of support.

"It was an amazing experience," says Altman. "I walked by *Mike's Place* one day and it had a huge dumpster in front of it and a shutter was drawn over the front. Then, the very next day, there were thousands of people there for its official re-opening. I think *Mike's Place* reflects the spirit of Israelis. It reflects their defiance and refusal to let terrorism ruin their lives."

"We spent eight days circling the country, from north and south, to east and west, and I've never felt safer and more secure," says Ron Herczeg. "*Mike's Place*, and how Israelis flocked to it a week after it was hit, is a perfect example of how we, in the Diaspora, should treat Israel. We need to continue going to Israel on missions like this, to show our support, just like the Israelis did when one of their own was attacked."

"On the one hand, going to *Mike's Place* exactly one week after it was bombed was just a great night out at a packed bar with great people and a great band," says Dr. Elyse Lackie, a mission participant. "On the other hand, you take a step back and realize how amazing this place is to be back on its feet so fast. It makes you realize how incredible Israel is too. The people of Israel, just like *Mike's Place*, are still there going strong, and they're not going anywhere."



Participants on a recent UJA Federation Israel Mission joined thousands of Israelis for the re-opening of Mike's Place on Yom Ha'atzmaut.

"At *Mike's Place* we shared drinks and music with both Israelis and foreigners," says Yoram Birenzweig. "There was dancing on the tables, and plenty of smiles. I can honestly say that despite sitting beside the fresh memorial, that evening was filled with defiant happiness, no tears, and no fear. This is the spirit of Jews in Israel. Strong survivors. Fast to recover, and no desire to forget."

The mission took participants to Rabin Square on Yom Hazikaron where they met with the late Prime Minister's daughter. They also visited a trauma center named after Marnie Kimmelman, the Toronto teenager killed on a Tel Aviv beach over 10 years ago. They traveled north to the Golan Heights and hiked through Gamla, where they also attended a briefing by IDF soldiers.

Celebrate Shavuot Buy Israeli

By JUDY HAZAN
Buy Israeli Project

What better way to celebrate Shavuot than with a big, dreamy slice of cheesecake made with cream cheese from Israel? Of course, Jews around the world need little incentive to eat cheesecake at anytime, but at Shavuot it is our tradition to eat dairy products.

According to Rabbi Shraga Simmons, "it is ironic that Shavuot is such a little-known holiday. Because in fact, Shavuot commemorates the single most important event in Jewish history - the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai."

So what has that got to do with cheesecake, you might ask. There are a variety of arguments that are offered to answer that very question. In the Biblical book *Song of Songs*, the sweetness of Torah is said to "drip from your lips like honey and milk under your tongue." Another explanation is the juxtaposition in *Exodus* (23:19) of Shavuot with the prohibition of mixing milk and meat. And yet another explains that the moment the Torah was received, Jews were obligated to the laws of *Sh'chita* (slaughter of animals) and since they did not have time to prepare kosher meat, they ate diary instead. Whatever the original reason, Shavuot is a special holiday that is marked by the eating of dairy products.

Luckily, in the GTA, stores carrying kosher foods are well stocked with dairy treats from Israel. Shoppers will find many varieties of cheese, creams, milk and frozen foods. Buying Israeli products is a vital way to help the Israeli economy bounce back from many of the losses experienced since the beginning of terrorist violence in September 2000.

For more information on available Israeli products, visit www.jewishtoronto.net and click on the Buy Israeli button.

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Palestinian media continues to encourage martyrdom

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

Itamar Marcus, founder of Palestinian Media Watch.

Palestinian children today are being strongly encouraged to kill Jews in order to die as martyrs (*Shahid*) in the name of Allah, says one of the world's leading experts on Palestinian media.

"Right now there are roughly 800,000 Palestinian children who want to blow themselves up to kill Jews, and become a martyr," said Itamar Marcus, founder of Palestinian Media Watch (PMW), while on a recent UJA Federation speaking tour in Toronto. "If only five percent actually decide to do it, you're talking about tens of thousands of suicide bombers."

Marcus also cautioned against any hope for change in the way Palestinian media portrays Jews, now that Mahmoud Abbas, the new Palestinian Authority Prime Minister is in office. "Anti-Jewish hatred and the glorification of death are rooted in Palestinian ideology," said Marcus. "The media is an honest reflection of Palestinian ideology."

Founded in 1996, PMW is an independent, non-profit organization that provides government and news outlets with in-depth analysis of the Palestinian media. "We're not so much about studying only the media," Marcus pointed out, "we're studying Palestinian society, their educational system, everything - through the window of media."

"They (Palestinians) have a clear and concrete ideology with many messages, and many ways of transmitting their messages – in particular to young people. This methodology is what is so problematic," observed Marcus. "It is transmitted in age-appropriate ways: for teenagers they use music videos, for preschoolers they use songs, for students they may use religious and political leaders."

Marcus says that when his organization reads the Palestinian daily newspapers, it studies everything, cover to cover.

"We read absolutely everything in their newspapers from the sports section and crossword puzzles to poetry and movie reviews," said Marcus. "About six weeks ago there was an article about a soccer tournament for fifth grade boys. The prize for the winning team was called the Odet Cup. We figured out that Odet was the suicide bomber who killed himself and 29 Israelis on Seder-eve at the Park Hotel in Netanya last year."

In fact, after further investigation, Marcus discovered that each of the 10 teams in the tournament was named after a different Palestinian homicide bomber.

"This is yet another way they glorify martyrs to their children," noted Marcus, "by naming the ultimate prize in a children's tournament after suicide bombers."

PMW recently wrote a report on the use of crossword puzzles in Palestinian newspapers, which also, said Marcus, features images of hate.

"We found a recent crossword puzzle clue which was 'name the Jewish centre for eternalizing the Holocaust and the lies'. The answer was Yad Vashem," said Marcus.

This is a Hamas poster paying tribute to one of the organization's homicide bombers. The axe, which is crashing down on the words "The Jews", says "Hamas"and the caption reads: "We shall knock on heaven's doors with the skulls of Jews."

Palestinian media incitement against Jews and Israel is usually related to events, Marcus said. "If there is a big terrorist attack, the next day will be quieter. It goes back and forth from delegitimization on one level to delegitimization on another level."

For the TV camera, a Palestinian mother sends her son to be killed

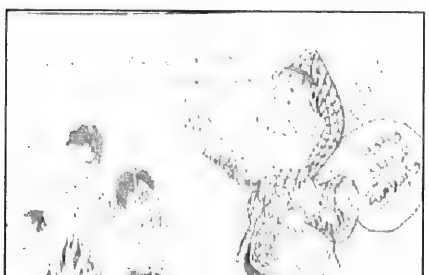
Some of the suicide terror attacks are preceded by a parting ceremony of the terrorist from his mother. One such ceremony on Palestinian TV featured a 17-year-old terrorist, who later killed five Israeli teenagers before he was shot dead.

The following are the TV narrator's description of her hugs and kisses, and a portion of an interview with the mother.

Narrator: "In a silence filled with tears, with a mother's warm longing, his mother embraced him good-bye, planting kisses on his cheeks before the moment of parting. She ordered him not to come back to her except as a *Shahid*."

The mother (after her son was killed): "I give my son to Jihad for Allah. This is a religious obligation for us. If I were to have compassion for him, or allow him to change his mind it would not be right. I do not want to follow my heart, a mother's feelings. I mean, I sacrificed him for something greater. Even something like this is connected to motherhood. How? Because I love my son and I want to choose the best for him."

(Arab News Network TV)



In this cartoon which has appeared in the Palestinian newspaper Al Hayat, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat is telling the children, "the sea is behind you, the enemy is in front of you. Our only choice is victory."

Arafat: Displaying dead Palestinian children to the world is "the greatest message"

The *Shahada* mandate to children comes from the Palestinian leadership. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat presents the actions of children who intentionally died as *Shahids* as model behavior. Fourteen year-old Faris Ouda died a week after having been filmed on TV hurling stones at an Israeli tank. The story of his death was glorified in the PA official press: "On the day of his death Faris Ouda left his home with a slingshot, after having made himself a wreath decorated with photos of himself and having written on it 'The Brave *Shahid* Faris Ouda'..." He said to his mother: "Don't worry, mother, *Shahada* is sweet..."

(PA official daily, Al-Hayat Al-Jadida)

Yasser Arafat has singled out Ouda as a role model for children. Addressing an assembly of summer camp children, he praised Ouda's action, and called the children there "peers of Faris Ouda." Asked in a TV interview what was his message to Palestinian children, he cited Ouda's suicide act, saying dead Palestinian children *Shahids* are "the greatest message to the world."

Question: "Mr. President, what message would you like to send to the Palestinian people, in general, and, in particular, to the Palestinian children?"

Arafat: "...This child, who is grasping the stone, facing the tank, is it not the greatest message to the world when that hero becomes a *Shahid*? We are proud of them..."

(Palestinian Authority TV)

All transcripts of Palestinian media are supplied by Palestinian Media Watch.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 2, is deadline for June 12 issue and Monday, June 9, is deadline for June 19. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Friday, May 30

BIRTHRIGHT ALUMNI DINNER

Birthright Israel Alumni Committee is having a Shabbat dinner at the Bernard Betel Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W., at 7 p.m. $12. For information and to reserve call **Annie Raphael**, UJA/ Federation, at 416-635-2883, ext. 279.

Sunday, June 1

HUGE GARAGE SALE

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, is having a sale of new and used items that offers something for everyone in the family! Free admission. Lots of parking. 4700 Bathurst St., 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. 416-633-5100 or www.ncjwc-ts.org.

JEWISH HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Jewish Healing Project is sponsoring a Healing Service, 3-4 p.m., at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., led by **Rabbi Howard Morrison** of Beth Emeth-Bais Yehuda Congregation and **Ken Rabow**, composer-arranger. An opportunity to experience hope, comfort, faith and support in the face of whatever difficulties you are experiencing. Wheelchair accessible, no fee, all welcome. For information, call 416-944-3359.

THE SARS EXPERIENCE

Torah in Motion and Toronto Area Study Institute of Jewish Medical Ethics sponsor a symposium on Ethical, Scientific and Jewish Perspectives of Toronto's SARS Experience, featuring **Rabbi Aaron E. Glatt**, chief of infectious diseases, St. Vincent Catholic Medical Center, New York, and assistant rabbi at Congregation Anshei Chesed; **Dr. Michael Gordon**, vice-president of medical services, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care; **Dr. Hy Dwosh**, director of SARS unit, York Central Hospital; **Dr. David Rose**, director of SARS unit, Scarborough Grace Hospital. 7 p.m. at Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz Congregation, 147 Overbrook Pl. Admission $10, students $5, physicians $18 with accreditation certificate. 416-633-5770 or www.torahinmotion.org.

HAIR AFFAIR: HIDE & SEEK

BAYT Sisterhood presents **Lynne Schreiber**, author of *Hide and Seek*, a collection of essays examining the commandment of hair covering for women. Also featuring Suru's Hat Boutique and Barbara's Wigs. 8 p.m. All women welcome. Admission $5.

SINGLES CABARET NIGHT

A evening for singles 21-35 at Adath Israel Congregation is sponsored by Dynamic Singles. Vocals by **Sarah Craig** and **Matthew Craig** on piano. 8 p.m. $10 at the door. For information, call **Nilly**, 416-635-5340.

ISRAEL EXAMINED

Paul Michaels, communications director of the Canada-Israel Committee, will speak on Israel Affairs, 8 p.m. at Kehillat Shaarei Torah. Suggested donation $5. 416-229-2600.

ROSH CHODESH PARTY

Women are invited to celebrate the beginning of the Jewish month with insightful lectures and discussions. 8 p.m. at the Jewish Russian Community Centre, 18 Rockford Rd. For information, call 416 222-7105, ext. 230.

Monday, June 2

HEALTH & HOME CARE

The Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens is planning an all-day program on Health and Home Care. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call 416-785-8570.

Continued on page 21

A Night of Sacred Stories

On the first night of Shavuot, study Torah through the retelling of sacred stories from the Jewish oral tradition.

Stories to be followed by discussion.

EVENING TO BE MODERATED BY SPECIAL GUEST:

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• ELI RUBENSTEIN, Congregation Habonim

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Continued from page 20

CAFSACK MEETING

CAFSACK, a Canadian charitable organization raising funds for Jewish welfare and burial organizations in South Africa, invites the community to an information evening at 8 p.m., 31 Ames Circle, York Mills/Leslie. For information, call 416-761-6060.

Tuesday, June 3

YOM YERUSHALAYIM

B'nai Brith Dr. W. Filderman Lodge invites members and friends to a celebration of the 36th Yom Yerushalayim with a musical program featuring **Zemer Coral**. 7 p.m., 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith building). $7. Refreshments served. 416-631-0634.

COUNTERING ANTI-SEMITISM

Adath Israel adult education committee presents **Karen Mock**, executive director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, speaking about Countering Anti-Semitism, Racism and Hate in Canada: Realities and Remedies at 8 p.m. All welcome.

DIMANT SPEAKS AT SAR-EL

Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith Canadam will speak about the latest events in Israel to Sar-el, Canadian Volunteers For Israel, 8 p.m., 788 Marlee Ave. All welcome. For information, call 416-781-6089.

EBAN DOCUMENTARY

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation shows the third episode of **Abba Eban**'s documentary *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews* at 8 p.m. Free.

Wednesday, May 4

FIRST KINGS OF ISRAEL

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue continuing education lecture series examines the first kings of Israel. **Prof. Rachael Turkienicz** discusses Solomon: Unique Wisdom, Unfulfilled Potential. 8 p.m. Free. 416-633-3838.

Other News

EUROPEAN ANTI-SEMITISM

Arza Canada presents three lectures with **Rabbi Uri Regev**, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in Jerusalem. The New European Anti-Semitism, Sunday, June 1, 8 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple and again at Solel Congregation on Monday, June 2, 8 p.m. The New Struggle For Israel's Soul, Tuesday, June 3, 8 p.m. at Temple Sinai Congregation.

SHAVUOT EVENTS

Watch for a listing of Shavuot events in next week's What's New.

JRCC is offering an opportunity to explore the significance of the holiday of Shavuot, Bringing Heaven Down to Earth. Sunday, June 1, 8 p.m. at 18 Rockford Rd. 416-222-7105, ext. 230.

Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. is holding a Shavuot dinner followed by Learn-a-Thon, treats for kids and a speaker's program for adults, Thursday, June 5. RSVP by Monday, June 1. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

ISRAEL DAY

Join the community for 8th annual Israel Day, a free, non-profit outdoor festival featuring continuous on-stage entertainment, a marketplace, great food, children's arts, crafts and inflatables, a drum circle, live auction and many exciting displays. It's a joyous fun-filled day of play for the whole family. Sunday, June 8, at Mel Lastman Square, 5100 Yonge St., at the North York Centre subway station, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you would like to volunteer at Israel Day, call **Barbara Peters** 416-633-3988.

HONEST REPORTING

Honest Reporting Canada presents the Canadian Premiere of *Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in Israel*, a one-hour movie that takes a powerful look at the current crisis facing Israel. Tuesday, June 10, 8 p.m. at Yorkwoods Library Theatre, Keele and Finch; and Wednesday, June 18, 7 p.m. at the Bloor Cinema, Bathurst and Bloor. $10 adults, $7 students. For tickets and information, call 905 764-1818 or www.aishtoronto.com.

ZAREINU MOVEATHON

Zareinu Educational Centre, the Jewish day school and treatment centre that provides special education and individualized therapies for children with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges, will be holding its 6th annual Zareinu Moveathon on Sunday, June 22, at Earl Bales Park. The event includes a 100K master ride, 50K Challenge Ride, 20K Family Ride, 10K Clergy on the Run, 10K Rollerblade, 2K Fun Loop and a carnival and community picnic. For information, call 416-661-1800 or www.zareinu.org.

SYNAGOGUE CONCERTS

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's 75th Anniversary Concert Gala will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 7:30 p.m. The Concert Gala unites cantors **Benjamin Warschawsk**, **Yaakov Motzen**, **Shlomo Simcha Sufrin** and **Moshe Haschel**. Tickets $55, $40 and $25. Call 416-789-3213.

Beth Sholom Synagogue is presenting A Freilich Musical Odessy with cellist **Daniel Domb** and guitarist **Carey Domb** on Wednesday, June 18, 8 p.m. Dessert reception follows. Tickets $15. Call 416-783-6103.

Beth Jacob Synagogue in **Hamilton** present a gala cantorial concert, featuring cantors **Shneur M. Bielak, Sidney S. Dworkin, Ben Silverberg** and **David Edwards** singing from the Golden Age of Cantors to Music of the Modern Age. Sunday, June 22, 7:30 p.m. Tickets $18 in advance, $25 at the door. For tickets call 905-522-1351. Bus service available from Toronto, contact Shaar Shalom 905-889-4975 or Lodzer Centre 416-636-6665.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service information/registration. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

High Conflict Divorce: A workshop for parents wanting to develop strategies and techniques to deal with a high conflict situation and help to lessen the impact of that conflict on their children. Tuesday, June 3, at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Developing a Successful Parenting Plan: A workshop for parents wanting to develop a business-like relationship with their "ex" partners by negotiating the day-to-day details of their children's lives based on their needs. Tuesday, June 3, at The Promenade Mall, Suite 313, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club is holding a Sunday dance on June 1, and Saturday dances June 7 and June 28; Casino Rama, June 11, June 25; Dixie Mall Outlet, Sunday, June 8; Mary Kay make-up demonstration, June 12. Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open.

LZA Seniors' theatre outing includes Stage West Dinner Theatre June 12 to see *Sound of Music*. For more information, call **Libby** 416-782-2059 or the office at 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. June 3, Jerusalem Day party, June 10, trip to Centre Island. For information, call **Anna**, ext.110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Adult dance and fitness program: Latin Jazz with Bruce Langille begins Thursday, June 5, for 10 weeks. 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Summer Programs for young children. Infant Program: Babies to 14 months, begins June 16, 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Creating Together In The Summer: 14 months to 3 years begins June 16, Monday-Friday, 9:30-11 a.m.

Now You're Two: 2-3 years, begins June 16, Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:30-11 a.m

Mini Me Day Camp: 3-4 years daily program 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. begins June 30.

Everything For Me: A Day Camp for 5-7-year-olds, begins June 30, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Good Age Club: Dr. Zorana Rose discusses Naturopathic Approaches to Aging, Thursday, May 29, 2 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The Chai Dancers of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre 55 Plus will be celebrating 25 years of performing. If you were a Chai Dancer, we would like to include you in our festivities. Contact **Teme**, ext. 364.

TORAH STUDY: Over 100 people attended a recent evening of study onWar and Water: Ancient and Modern Perspectives, at the home of Sarena and David Koschitzky, sponsored by Mekorot: Institute of Torah Study for Women. Above, Ilana Sober discusses Water in the Book of Genesis.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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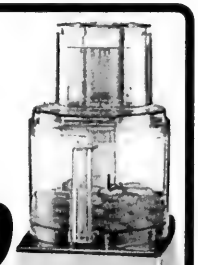
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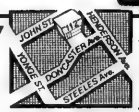
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Seniors Scene

Fay and Harry celebrate their 75th anniversary

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Past and present: Fay and Harry Nesker's wedding photo and more recently.

Torontonians Fay and Harry Nesker celebrated their wedding anniversary on May 28, 75 years after marrying in secret.

Family and friends attended a reception at Cummer Lodge where Fay is a resident to rejoice in their marriage that took place on May 28, 1928. On that day, Fay Lefkovitz and Harry Nesker, who were then living in Chicago, eloped to Waukegan, where they didn't have to wait for a license, lied about their ages and got married.

After, they returned to their homes and did not tell anyone they were married because they knew Fay's family would think they were too young.

In an interview with Harry, 95, and his son Jerry Nesker, a Toronto lawyer, Harry said the secret came out when he came to pick Fay up to take her on a picnic.

Fay's mother said, "You don't take my daughter anywhere until she is your wife."

Harry replied, "But she is my wife. We are married."

To make their parents happy, Harry and Fay exchanged vows for the second time, on July 3, 1928, this time under a chuppah.

Today, Harry said, he lives alone, travels by public transportation and is still independent. His wife has Alzheimer's and has been living at Cummer Lodge for 11 years.

"I love her very much," Harry said. "Sometimes I could just eat her up. When I go to see her, her face lights up and she responds to me. We had problems like everyone else, but my wife was remarkable. She knew how to make people, even strangers, feel happy."

Jerry said, "I absolutely enjoy my Saturdays when I take my father to visit my mother. There is something about watching the two of them together. There is a twinkle in her eyes the minute she sees him."

Harry's grandfather, Michel Nisker (the family names are Nisker and Nesker), came to Toronto in 1905 from Kielce, Poland. He made several trips back and forth while setting up business before he had enough money to bring his family here. Harry's father, Yukel Nisker, came to Canada at the beginning of World War I. They were not able to bring Harry's mother and the rest of the family until 1920.

At the age of 18, Harry left Canada.

"My father was too religious for me," he said. "I couldn't take it."

Leaving with six friends, he went to work as a busboy in the Catskills and later moved to Detroit to live with a friend's aunt.

In those days, he said, you didn't need citizen papers to enter the United States. You only had to pay a head tax.

"I and my friends did not have the money for the head tax so we snuck in across the border by hiding from the inspectors – when they went upstairs, we went down, and when they went down, we went up until we finally got across."

But the authorities eventually found them and they slipped away to another relative in Chicago.

"On the first night we were in Chicago, we went to a dance where I first saw Fay."

He says he was not introduced to her that night, "but I thought she was a very good-looking girl."

That weekend, he attended a party and saw Fay. "She came to the party with a boyfriend, but I took her home that night."

After they had been married a few years, there was trouble. Harry wanted to move back to Toronto to go into the grocery business with his brother. But his mother-in-law, who didn't want them to move, convinced Fay to remain in Chicago with their young daughter Pearl (Weinberg).

Six months later, Harry returned to Chicago to convince his wife to come with him. He told her, "Come with me and if you don't like it in Toronto, you can come back to Chicago."

That never happened. The Neskers stayed in Toronto and had two more children, Brenda (Dolman, who died in 1992) and Jerry.

Harry and his brother owned six grocery stores, which they sold later to Leon Weinstein of Power Supermarkets. Harry also owned a hotel and a chain of men's retail clothing stores.

He said he told Jerry he would retire when Jerry graduated from law school. In June 1972, immediately after Jerry's graduation, Harry retired. He was 64.

In their retirement, the Neskers visited Israel several times and spent their winters in Florida.

When Fay moved to Cummer Lodge, Harry travelled by public transportation to be with her at least four days a week.

Harry and Fay have 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

"They tried to stop us from getting married but they couldn't," Harry said. "And 75 years later, I'm glad that they didn't succeed."

Birthright graduate helps fellow alumni

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

In the four months since Annie Raphael became a post program planner with the Birthright Alumni Committee (BAC) in January, the 26-year-old Toronto native has fielded some of the more than 100 calls and e-mails from past participants on Birthright Israel who want to get involved in the Jewish community here but don't know how.

"I'm excited when I get these e-mails," Raphael (née Hochman) said in an interview at the Lipa Green Building. "I tell them, 'I know exactly where you're coming from.'"

Raphael herself took the free, 10-day trip to Israel in December 2001. A former student of the National Ballet School of Canada who now runs her own dance school called the York School of Dance, Raphael said her first introduction to the organized Jewish community was as a student at the University of Western Ontario, where she studied philosophy after spending a year in Europe on a "dance ambassadorship" program.

"I didn't become immersed in the Jewish community on campus," she said. "I was sort of an outsider looking in, interested but too removed to jump in at that point."

A bit part in a Jewish student play proved to be "exhilarating," and Shabbat dinners at Chabad on Campus were also a positive experience, she said.

After three years on campus, Raphael took a "real person job" at an economic consulting firm before returning to Western to complete her honours degree. After hearing from Jewish students who'd been on Birthright, she decided to take the trip as well.

She said she went on the trip partly because of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, which occured while she was in New York for a dance workshop convention. She said she was "completely changed [and] wanted to do better things" with her life. "I was just glad I was alive. It made me want to do something positive."

The Birthright trip was an "eye-opening experience," she said. Although she had lived in Israel briefly as a six-year-old, this time she "really felt connected to Israel and the Jewish people."

Other participants decided to learn Hebrew or about keeping Shabbat after returning home, she said. Raphael became involved with the Birthright alumni committee. Although the group of about a dozen members received support from UJA Federation/Canada Israel Experience staff, they worked mostly on their own to organize social action and other activities such as a Shabbaton last November, said Raphael.

As they began to plan larger events, it "became evident that a staff person was needed."

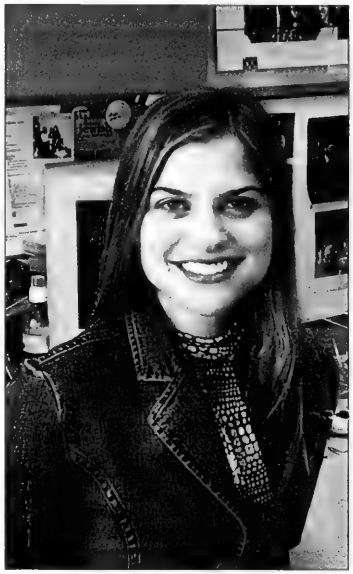
Raphael began her new job a month after marrying her husband, Avi, whom she met shortly before her Birthright trip.

Her first project was organizing beginner Hebrew classes at a nominal fee for alumni. Thirty people registered within the first two weeks.

A more spectacular, larger-scale project was the reunion party to celebrate Birthright's three-year anniversary. About 300 people turned up at a downtown nightclub to party and raise money for the Israel Emergency Fund. "We had a blast," she said. "The place was packed."

Upcoming events include a Shabbat dinner in conjunction with the Bernard Betel Centre on May 30 and a Birthright alumni "ultimate frisbee" team beginning June 1. BAC is also helping out the social action group Hands on Toronto on June 22 and with a Shuk in the Park event in early September.

Raphael, who works with alumni of other Israel experience programs as well as Birthright, said her goal is to educate young Jewish adults about the Jewish community, empower them to integrate themselves in to the community and help facilitate the Jewish leaders of tomorrow.



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האוניברסיטה העברית בירושלים

Hamilton rabbi says goodbye after 14 years

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz, spiritual leader of Temple Anshe Sholom for the past 14 years, will take on a new position as senior rabbi of The Community Synagogue in Port Washington, Long Island, in July.

In an interview, Rabbi Zeplowitz said his departure is tinged with a sense of sadness at having to say good-bye to his many friends in Hamilton, but the challenges that lie ahead are akin to "an incredible rush of being able to try something new."

Drawing an analogy between taking on a new position and skiing, he said, "You're on top of the hill and you think, 'What am I getting myself into?' Hopefully you won't fall down and break any bones along the way."

Rabbi Zeplowitz, whose approachability is reflected by his nickname, "Rabbi Z" (pronounced the American way), has welcomed young and old throughout the Hamilton area to address him in that vein.

The Community Synagogue, with 600 families compared to Temple Anshe Sholom's 450, is not vastly different in size, but the demographics are considerably different, he said.

The Community Synagogue, which was established about 50 years ago, is part of a growing community with considerable financial resources. Port Washington attracts many young Jewish families, and the Hebrew school has a population of about 500 students, Rabbi Zeplowitz noted.

His new team will include an associate rabbi, a rabbinic intern, a cantor, a cantorial intern, an administrator, an educator and a school principal.

Although the dynamics in the new position will be different, his responsibilities will remain the same: "to teach, preach, be a pastor, be helpful, speak out and be involved with the community."

Rabbi Zeplowitz has been actively involved with the community in Hamilton through the temple's social justice program, which he has led.

In the period after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Rabbi Zeplowitz and Rev. Canon Patrick Doran of St. Paul's Anglican Church mobilized local clergy to stand in solidarity against racism.

More recently, Rabbi Zeplowitz and Muslim scholar Dr. Yahya Fadlalla formed the Jewish-Muslim Dialogue Group, made up of about a dozen high school and university students in the Hamilton area who meet twice a week to share their beliefs.

Rabbi Zeplowitz said it is vital for Jews to build relationships between themselves and others, whether they are Muslims, Palestinians, Buddhists or Christians.

He has guided the temple's many social justice programs, including the adoption of families from the former Yugoslavia, integration of refugees from the former Soviet Union and helping women and children from abused homes. Initiatives such as these are part of the Reform movement's commitment to social activism, he said.

He strives for a solid link between the temple and the Reform movement as a whole.

"What I've tried to do is connect the congregation with what is happening in the larger Reform movement. I really believe that whatever power we have as individuals, we have a much greater power as a sacred community, so I've made a big effort throughout my 14 years here to be connected with the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto."

He sees the Reform movement as moving in two directions at the same time.

"In some ways we are much more traditional, in terms of ritual, in terms of using Hebrew, and in terms of the connection to the state of Israel... Some tendencies are more liberal... the inclusion of if homosexuals and lesbians in Jewish life."

Rabbi Zeplowitz said one of his goals as a rabbi is to form a community that allows individuals to express themselves, and in turn, be treated with respect. The synagogue should be open to all ages and provide a comfortable environment for "kids who can run around and hug the rabbi, older people who feel they are not forgotten, not cast away."

The synagogue should provide a sense of belonging for the disabled, he said. "It should not be a burden for them to come, but a joy."

The synagogue should be a place where all can go "to share grief and share their laughter."

Rabbi Zeplowitz said from his standpoint as spiritual leader, "a congregation must be committed to social justice, to look beyond its own walls. The ideals of our people are not just about having meaning in our own lives. And a congregation must be committed to Jewish learning. Learning is ongoing, from cradle to grave."

His words of advice to the rabbi who will eventually fill his shoes at Temple Anshe Sholom are to "be clear in your vision, don't try to be like the person whom you've succeeded, and be patient.

"The relationship of a rabbi to a congregation is a very unique relationship. You're both leader and follower [leading to] unresolved tension on lots of levels, sometimes in terms of authority, sometimes in terms of psychology... It takes time to develop a sense of trust."

Rabbi Zeplowitz was born in Niagara Falls, N.Y. He studied at the University of Toronto and the Jewish Institute of Religion at Hebrew Union College, and was ordained as a rabbi in 1984. He spent five years as a rabbi in the Chicago area before becoming spiritual leader of Temple Anshe Sholom.

Rabbi Zeplowitz is past president of the Canadian region of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. He sits on the National Social Action Committee of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism and he is past chair of the Reform Rabbis of Greater Toronto.

He and his wife Anne have three children, Abigail, Deena and Nathan.

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Coast to Coast

BB wants dot.com to drop Al-Jazeera

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Representatives of JumpTV have agreed to meet with B'nai Brith Canada officials who have accused the Montreal-based Internet company of "broadcasting hate material."

The charge was levelled after JumpTV began offering Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based Arabic-language news channel, to subscribers through its Web site earlier this month.

JumpTV spokesperson Blake Markle told *The CJN* that he would not comment on the hate allegation until the meeting, which has not been scheduled. "We're holding out [on commenting] till we sit down with these people."

JumpTV, which Markle said has been in business for a couple of years, describes itself on its Web site as providing live online delivery of TV networks from broadcasters around the world. These networks are available to subscribers worldwide with an Internet browser and Media Player.

Markle would not say how many subscribers the company has or how much demand there has been for Al-Jazeera, which JumpTV is offering for $9.95 (US) a month.

The company says its online streaming operations are conducted from facilities in Canada and the United States.

Earlier this month, B'nai Brith issued a press release warning JumpTV's chief executive officer Farrel Miller that it will hold the company responsible for transmitting hate material, even if it originates elsewhere.

"B'nai Brith Canada has had years of experience in dealing with hate on the Internet, working together with government and community agencies, Internet service providers and legal/legislative experts," said national president Rochelle Wilner.

"There are ways of ensuring coverage that meets the needs of ethnic communities without contravening Canadian anti-hate laws."

Executive vice-president Frank Dimant added: "All carriers, whether Internet, cable or satellite, have an obligation to ensure that they are not used to disseminate hate material. If they do not take this responsibility seriously, B'nai Brith Canada will explore all available legal remedies to counter the dissemination of hate propaganda in this country."

B'nai Brith's communications director Joseph Ben-Ami told *The CJN* that "we are prepared to use any whatever legal recourse we have" to stop JumpTV from airing Al-Jazeera. But as there is no regulation of what goes over the Internet, pursuing those who broadcast hate is difficult, he conceded.

He said B'nai Brith might consider going to a human rights commission with a complaint because precedents exist for that route.

Both B'nai Brith and Canadian Jewish Congress have protested an application by the Canadian Cable Television Association (CCTA) to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission in March to add Al-Jazeera to the list of channels CCTA members can offer on their digital tiers.

Ben-Ami said B'nai Brith is "not against Al-Jazeera per se," but he said the station has "certainly transmitted anti-Semitic material from time to time."

Montreal Vaad gives OK to doughnuts

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The Vaad Ha'ir of Montreal has good news for doughnut lovers.

Rabbi Saul Emanuel, its executive director, has sent a letter to synagogues confirming that the doughnuts sold at the new Krispy Kreme outlet in Marché Central are under the supervision of KSA (Kosher Supervision of America) and are kosher, although not Cholov Yisrael.

Rabbi Emanuel told *The CJN* the Vaad Ha'ir has been assured by KSA that the batter and other ingredients used in the doughnuts made here come exclusively from Krispy Kreme's two mixing plants, which are KSA-certified. The original is in Winston-Salem, N.C., and the newer one, opened last year, is in Effingham, Ill.

"We have checked out the situation through numerous inquiries with KSA," Rabbi Emanuel said.

He added that other kashrut agencies in New York have also certified Krispy Kreme.

Rabbi Emanuel explained that while the ingredients that go into the doughnuts are kosher, the store itself is not under the supervision of the Vaad nor is the Vaad certifying the product. The store is open on Shabbat, which automatically rules out the possibility of its receiving the MK hechsher, he said.

Nevertheless, Rabbi Emanuel said it is perfectly acceptable for those who keep kosher to consume the doughnuts, except for those who use only Cholov Yisrael dairy products. Products are deemed Cholov Yisrael when a mashgiach has been present right from the time the cows are milked.

Rabbi Emanuel said that because Krispy Kreme has promised KSA that no other food ingredients ever come into its stores, there is no concern about the kashrut of anything the products come in contact with when they are made.

Krispy Kreme has more than 270 stores in the United States. Canada's first opened two years ago in Mississauga, Ont.

According to Krispy Kreme's Web site, the only animal products used are eggs and dairy derivatives. All food additives are vegetable-based and the doughnuts are fried in vegetable shortening. A few of its stores in the United States are certified kosher.

KSA, which is based in Los Angeles, is run by rabbis Binyomin Lisbon and A. Tzemach Rosenfeld. The not-for-profit agency is a member of the Association of Kashrus Organizations. On its Web site, KSA describes itself as "the largest recognized and accepted Orthodox kosher certification agency based in the western United States."

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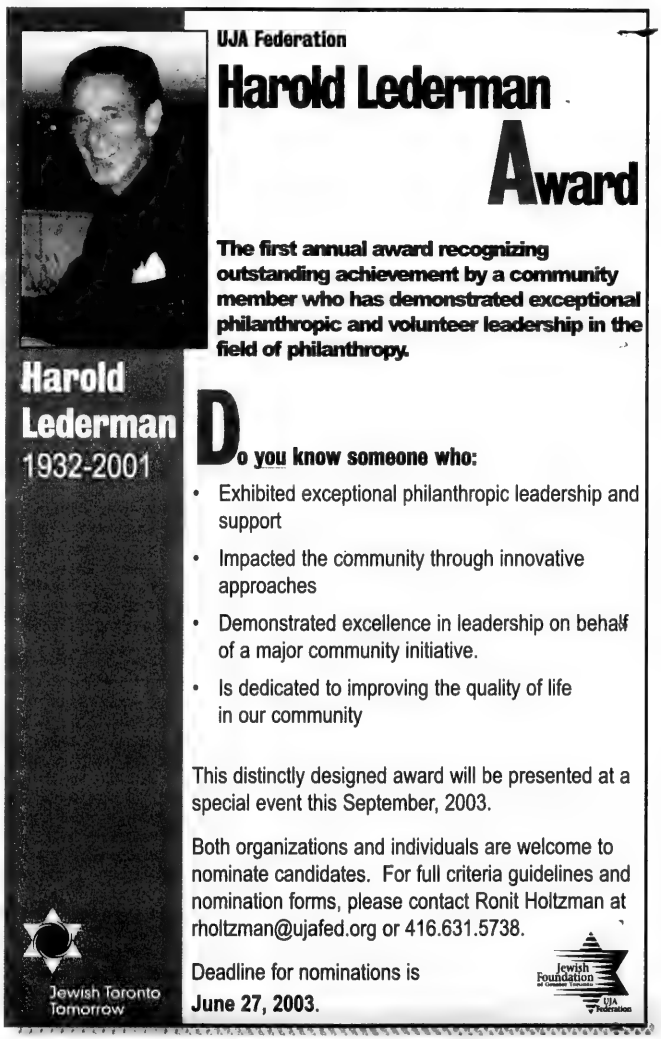
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Coast to Coast

Context needed when describing extremist groups

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Reporting on the recent spate of terrorist attacks that left nine Israelis dead and scores injured, James Bennett of the *New York Times* wrote that "[a]t least two of the attacks appeared to be the work of militants from Hamas, which opposes any negotiations with Israel" (May 19).

Writing in the *Globe and Mail* the same day, Paul Adams quoted Hamas spokesperson Mahmoud Zhar: "These [attacks] reflect the people's view that we should not waste our time hoping America or Israel will give us our land." Like Bennett, Adams notes that Hamas "has already rejected the peace talks."

Like many other correspondents, neither Bennett nor Adams mentions that these terrorists – and other extremist Islamic groups such as Islamic Jihad – reject not only the U.S.-sponsored "road map" to peace or other negotiations with Israel, they reject Israel's very right to exist as a Jewish state. They seek Israel's annihilation.

This is not merely a rhetorical device to solidify their political opposition to secular nationalist Palestinians. Rather, it is a dedicated, religiously based, uncompromising aim. Journalists need only read the Hamas charter for the chilling details. It calls for the creation of an Islamic republic to replace Israel, saying that Muslims should "raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine."

Journalists must understand this credo, in order to accurately describe what Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other violent extremists hope to achieve as they continue to randomly target Israeli men, women and children for murder.

When Zahar, quoted by Adams, talks about "our land," he is referring not merely to the West Bank and Gaza, as most Westerners naively assume. He is referring to all of Israel.

From time to time, this column has pointed out the need to provide context in descriptions of groups such as Hamas. This point bears repeating, so central is it to understanding Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Some Israeli analysts are now explaining – with an increasing sense of urgency – that if Hamas and Islamic Jihad are allowed to challenge secular moderates, if they grow in power and influence, the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians will be transformed from a nationalist to a religious one. If this happens, Islamists will allow absolutely no accommodation with "non-believers" be they Jewish or Christian. The fact that Christian Arab residents of the territories have already been largely squeezed out by the growth of Islamists, especially in Bethlehem and the surrounding towns of Beit Jala and Beit Sahur, is one of the Middle East's great untold stories (as the editor of this paper observed many months ago).

The same Israeli analysts who warn about the unchecked power of Hamas and Islamic Jihad also make it clear that pro-Western Arab states, including Egypt, Jordan and Morocco, must publicly support secular Palestinian moderates, now led by Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. Otherwise, Abbas will not have the strength – already eroded by PA president Yasser Arafat's machinations – to do what is required to clamp down on Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah's own Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

Unless these groups are disarmed and neutralized, all hope for progress in an peace talks will remain a sad illusion.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Layton appeals to 'progressive' Jewish voters

Continued from page 1

The resolution calls on three fellow members of the Socialist International – Israel's Labor and Meretz parties and the Fatah faction of the Palestinian leadership – to "agree that the mutual recognition of the state of Israel and the state of Palestine, as two states to live side by side, should be the initial commitment before negotiations start between the two peoples."

The main elements of a final settlement, states the measure, involves implementing the post-1967 UN Resolution 242; establishment of a Palestinian state "side by side with Israel under irreversible security guarantees for both sides; borders ensuring that the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are part of the Palestinian state, but opening the possibility of negotiated land swaps; both states [with] their capital in Jerusalem, and a just solution to the refugee issue."

Layton knows he has his work cut out for him in shoring up support among Jewish voters. Examples of deteriorating relations have abounded: Amid the heated rhetoric arising from the current Mideast violence, NDP-MP Svend Robinson, an unabashed pro-Palestinian voice, returned from a well-publicized visit to the region a year ago and pronounced that the Israeli government and military were "guilty of torture and murder."

Then leader Alexa McDonough demoted Robinson by removing the Middle East from his portfolio as foreign affairs critic. But McDonough, who took over the file herself, then went on her own fact-finding mission, and called on Israelis "to assume some responsibility for the Palestinian people whose land they now occupy."

For decades, the NDP enjoyed a traditional base of Jewish support, made up of elements in the community committed to social action. Has the party now lost that support?

"I'm a political scientist, so I'm going to take that as an empirical question," responded Layton, a one-time university professor. "I just don't know whether there's been an empirical study that would show that. I don't know that any political scientist has analyzed where the vote of Jewish Canadians has gone. I have certainly sensed a cooling, but I think I'm feeling a warming beginning to happen."

The explosive Mideast conflict also emerged as a powerful wedge in the NDP leadership race to replace McDonough. Two candidates, Nystrom and Joe Comartin, won praise from Muslims for going beyond party policy when they said the Palestinians have a complete "right of return" to parts of Israel their families inhabited before 1948.

Layton had a terse response.

"Those candidates were not successful. The candidate that was successful did not take that position and I don't believe a great many reasonable people would adhere to that kind of rigidity. I don't know whether those statements have left a lasting negative impact. [But] it will be noted that those who said that did not succeed."

As for Robinson, he's now the party's health critic, but is also the NDP's spokesman on international human rights as well as part of an "advocacy team" on peace and international affairs headed by McDonough.

Layton conceded the NDP is an opposition party in a country that isn't a central player in the Middle East. "But if we can play some small role in helping to create bridges and dialogue that work toward a just and peaceful solution that ensures Israel as a Jewish state that has integrity and doesn't have to worry about its longterm viability – not to mention being safe and able to live in peace – and build on progressive initiatives being taken in Israel, at the same time as a Palestinian state can come into being – if we can make a small contribution to all that, then that's what we're going to try to do."

Turning to domestic issues, Layton warned that a Liberal government headed by Paul Martin will mean "more aggressive financial conservatism."

"Unless there's been a complete transformation, under Paul Martin, we'll see an expression of interesting ideas which are either not implemented, or the reverse of those ideas are," Layton said.

For example, he charged, when Martin campaigned for the Liberal leadership in the early 1990s, "he argued we should have a national housing policy. The details of that paper could have been written by me. It was terrific. The moment he became finance minister, he took steps not only to avoid implementing the policy, he annihilated the entire housing program and got the federal government completely out of it."

The NDP's top priority, he said, is health care.

He said there is a $6-billion gap between federal spending and the recommendations made last November by the Romanow Commission on the future of health care.

Investments in transportation, especially in new light-rail and rapid-transit initiatives, should come from the gas tax, he said.

Layton called for "serious investment" in water treatment. "We have far too many communities in Canada that are told they have to boil their water every summer."

The NDP also seeks an economic strategy based on sustainability. That means working with automakers on so-called green cars – those powered by alternative fuels – and technologies driven by wind, solar energy and hydrogen.

The NDP also favours proportional representation, and Layton points to Wales and Scotland as successful models.

The move would increase the number of women and minorities in government. It would not, as widely feared, lead to shaky minority governments, but show that "people working together in coalitions is a good thing. We're way behind the times."

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Helping kids make healthy choices

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

The bad news is that our children are under pressure; the good news is we can make a difference, according to a panel at a May 15 symposium called Healthy Choices: Helping Teens Through Adolescence.

Sponsored by Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, the evening offered parents, educators and camp staff an arsenal of common sense information, mostly around issues of obesity and eating disorders, now the second-most common chronic children's illness, according to moderator Dr. Leora Pinhas.

In the past, women measured their beauty by their own village's standards Pinhas said. In a digital and global village, they compare themselves not only to women worldwide, but to computer-generated and digitally retouched faces and bodies.

We can't compete with these impossible standards, she said, so we must arm teens with a balanced perspective on fitness.

"Better fat and fit than thin and out of shape," said Dr. Naama Constantini, a sports medicine physician with the Israeli Olympic team. The biggest risk, she said, is not high cholesterol, high blood pressure or diabetes.

"It's low fitness – that's killer number one."

There's a 50 per cent decline in physical activity in girls between ages six and 16, Constantini said, far more than for boys. Girls who do stay active do so more for weight loss than health benefits, a mindset that can lead to an unhealthy workout regime.

Too much exercise can lead to menstrual problems and inhibited accumulation of bone density, which could cause osteoporosis later in life. Most of a woman's lifetime bone mass is accumulated between ages 11 and 15, Constantni said.

"It's like a bank; the more you put in now, the more you will have in the future." Exercising properly during adolescence helps to accumulate almost twice as much bone mass she added.

Constantini quoted Maimonides' philosophy of "not too much, not too little." We shouldn't just encourage adolescents to exercise; our emphasis must shift towards healthy, moderate exercise.

This philosophy also applies to food, Dr. Nava Israel, head dietitian for the 1997 and 2001 Maccabiah Games, said. Improperly educated parents and "scientific" eating can undermine teens' wellbeing, she added.

"Everybody's an expert ... The most natural thing, feeding our children ... has become a crazy thing."

Eating problems are rooted in misplaced dietary morality, said Israel. We call foods full of sugar and fat "bad," but their appeal is based on survival instincts.

"Those are the foods our mouth prefers because they nourish us very well in small amounts," she said. "This is the way we're built."

Deeming certain foods "forbidden" means we "go overboard on both ends – absolutely none, or too much," Israel said. Kids learn this behaviour early, so parents must preserve their innate balance.

"Children will stop in the middle of ice cream if they've had enough – if they're not deprived in the first place."

Israel suggested offering an appealing array of food and insisting children show up for meals. When it comes to mealtimes, she said, the household is "not a democracy."

Make mealtimes pleasant, and give up the guilt; parents aren't responsible for putting food in kids' mouths, she said.

"They eat what they need if they're not bugged, if we don't make them conscious of it. We deliver food and atmosphere, but we're not responsible for how [their] body turns out."

As a therapist treating eating disorders, Cindy Goodman Stulberg also emphasized the importance of setting a good example within the family.

"You can't talk about adolescents without talking about parents and families," she said. Teenagers don't seem to care what we think, but they're watching.

"They're very sensitive to parents' attitudes about food and weight-related issues."

Kids also watch their parents' relationships.

"Even if [parents are] not openly arguing, kids pick up on tensions," she said. If a child develops problems, parents then focus on the behaviour rather than its causes.

"If the parents' stuff isn't addressed," she asked, "how can the kids get better?"

Goodman Stulberg also recommended moderation. Parents' expectations are often too high, she said.

"Teenagers are irresponsible, moody," she said. "You can't do everything ... Sometimes, you can't do anything. Know that feeling helpless happens."

But while we may occasionally be powerless, we can empower teens by freeing them from media stereotypes, said Dr. Gail McVey, chair of the Ontario Community Outreach Program for Eating Disorders. Through peer groups and a fun health curriculum, McVey said she is raising self-esteem in adolescents and lowering instances of eating disorders like bulimia.

Though most speakers focused on girls, McVey showed photographs of two Luke Skywalker action figures – one from the 1970s and one made more recently. The newer one was more muscular with a triangular body and meaner-looking face. This, she said is typical of what boys see in cartoons and video games.

McVey said she hopes her studies will help put an end to harmful teaching methods.

The common curriculum suggests students learn about eating disorders in Grade 7 – "a very impressionable age." They tend to disregard warnings but pick up on harmful behaviour.

In response to her work, McVey said some schools are starting younger and shifting focus from weight to wellness and from "normal" shapes to healthy attitudes.

"It's not so much about what children eat," she said. "It's about what they're not doing."

Constantini cited a two per cent increase in obesity for every extra hour of television a day. However, she said, as little as five minutes of activity at a time can counteract this.

They're looking to parents, she said, and their impact can be enormous.

"Do small things but accumulate them. Integrate exercise into life ... our role is to ... keep it fun."

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Toronto Argonauts head coach Pinball Clemons, right, came out to support the Baycrest Challenge on Mother's Day, May 4. Joining him in a warm-up activity before the 5K walk is Mary Schlanger, a long-time Challenge participant. The rainy weather didn't dampen the spirits of the 800 participants who raised money to support research into Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive disorders at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

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Despite doubts, Sharon will push road map forward

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in remarks broadcast Monday that he would make every effort to push the road map forward, despite his doubts about the peace plan accepted by the cabinet Sunday.

The Prime Minister's Office said early Monday morning that Sharon would meet with his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas in the next few days, Israel Radio reported.

The expected talks will follow the cabinet's conditional approval Sunday of the road map to Middle East peace brokered by the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations. It calls for an independent Palestinian state by 2005. The Palestinians accepted the plan in its entirety several weeks ago. The road map decision was the first time an Israeli government has gone on record as supporting the concept of a Palestinian state.

"This is not a happy decision," Sharon said late Sunday, speaking in Jerusalem. "We will need to make painful concessions, and if the process moves forward, and I will make every effort to see that it does, we will make painful concessions such as these. But in one sphere there will be no concession, and that is in the sphere of the security of Israel and of its citizens.

"I know that there are doubts," Sharon continued. "Everyone has doubts. I have doubts as well. But I know one thing. We must try."

Early reports suggested that the meeting between Sharon and Abbas could be convened at the beginning of this week, but unnamed officials said the talks, following an initial session on May 18, would likely take longer to arrange.

'We will need to make painful concessions'
– Sharon

The Sharon-Abbas meeting, held at Sharon's office in Jerusalem, was the first top-level Israeli-Palestinian meeting since the outbreak of the intifadah in September 2000. Following their three-hour meeting, both sides said that no agreements had been reached.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz of Sharon's Likud party, who voted for the road map in last Sunday's session, has consistently warned that it poses dangers for Israel.

In granting qualified approval to the road map peace plan, the cabinet had not ratified a binding legal document, but rather a "declaration of diplomatic intentions," Mofaz said in remarks broadcast Monday on Army Radio.

"We did not vote on an international agreement. In fact, this is not a legal document. There is no sort of commitment here; rather this is a declaration of diplomatic intentions," he said.

"In my view, this is a reality in which we are saying yes to the process, even though the chances are not necessarily high – certainly not [in view of the] period of time that has transpired since the [Abbas] government was established – but we are prepared to go into the process positively."

Mofaz said he trusts that Washington will address Israel's security and other concerns outlined in the list of 14 reservations the government has sent to the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush.

"The Americans stated that they are relating to all of Israel's comments 'fully and seriously,' and from this it can be understood that there is very profound commitment with respect to Israel's comments," Mofaz said.

Meanwhile, unnamed officials were quoted as saying a planned tripartite summit with Bush, Sharon and Abbas could be held in Aqaba, Jordan, rather than the previously announced site, the Red Sea resort of Sharm al Sheikh in Egypt. Preparations have begun in Washington to send Bush to Egypt and Jordan in early June to advance the process.

Bush said Friday he was considering meeting with Sharon and Abbas if it would help with peace efforts.

Support personnel left Washington on Sunday morning to pave the way for the likely trip to Egypt and Jordan. It was reported that Bush might also visit a third country in the region after the Group of Eight nations summit in Evian, France, concludes on June 3, according to three administration officials.

Sharon is opposed to convening a U.S.-led summit in Sharm al Sheikh, if it includes representatives from Europe and the United Nations, sources in Jerusalem indicated Saturday night.

The prime minister may, however, agree to participate in a smaller forum including only representatives from the United States, Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt, the sources said.

France gets frosty rebuffs from Shalom

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told his counterpart Silvan Shalom at a meeting in Jerusalem Sunday that France is interested in improving its relations with Israel and in helping to implement the road map.

Shalom rejected the offer, saying Israel will accept only American implementation of the plan.

Shalom also criticized de Villepin's decision to meet Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat Monday, which led to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's decision not to meet the French minister.

Villepin said France is trying to pressure Arafat to abide by his commitments. He said while it supports PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, "boycotting Arafat will only cause additional problems."

Their opinions clashed again when Shalom reiterated Israel's objection to a Palestinian "right of return," saying no such "right" existed in international law.

"Even the Labor government objected to this," he said.

De Villepin replied that former prime minister Ehud Barak had agreed to accept 40,000 Palestinian refugees into Israel during the Taba talks, and asked whether Israel would agree to a similar arrangement in the future. Shalom did not respond directly, saying only the issue is problematic.

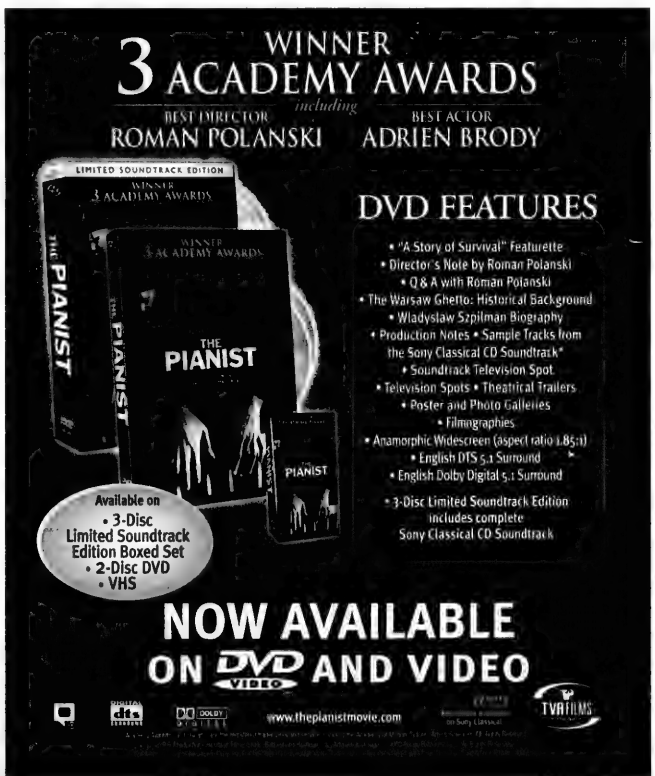
But despite these disagreements, progress was made in bilateral relations and the ministers signed a formal agreement to establish "a high-level committee to improve relations." The committee will examine joint projects in diplomacy, science, commerce, culture and education.

De Villepin told Shalom that in recent weeks, France has stepped up pressure on Syria to withdraw its forces from Lebanon and restrain Hezbollah. He suggested that in exchange, Israel should stop violating Lebanese airspace, which he said would make it easier to pressure Lebanon into restraining Hezbollah and accepting UN Security Council Resolution 425.

"Foreign Minister de Villepin came on a conciliation visit," said Danny Shek, head of the Foreign Ministry European desk. "The minister said he attaches great importance to improving bilateral relations. My impression is that the French very much want to change their image in Israel."

De Villepin sent a similar message in meetings with Israeli President Moshe Katsav and Labor MK Shimon Peres, stressing that France wants a rapprochement and to help with Israeli-Palestinian peace. He also gave Katsav a letter from French President Jacques Chirac, in which he wrote: "Israel knows it can count on France and the European Union."

Monday, as *The CJN* went to press, de Villepin was scheduled to meet Arafat and Abbas, scheduling half as much time for the former as for the latter.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UN body called a 'human rights charade'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Irwin Cotler has been a keen observer of international human rights issues for decades and has often warned of the disturbing rise of Jew-hatred expressed through vilification of Israel. But even he was taken aback by the institutional anti-Israelism and lack of desire to tackle global human rights issues at the recent meetings of the 59th UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) in Geneva.

"You have to be there to witness what is effectively an Alice in Wonderland human rights charade," said the Mount Royal Liberal MP, law professor and past legal counsel for Nelson Mandela and Andrei Sakharov.

Irwin Cotler

Beyond the fact that Libya chairs the commission, the UN body's lack of commitment to human rights can be seen through its discriminatory treatment of Israel, the denial of international due process, the implicit acceptance of terrorism as a legitimate means of opposing Israel and its turning a blind eye to human rights violations around the world, Cotler said.

In addition, when Israel is in the dock, "the conviction and sentence is pronounced before the hearing begins," he said.

Cotler, who spent about one week at the six week-long human rights forum, said, "Israel was the only country that was the object of a country-specific indictment before the commission hearings began."

The world's most egregious human rights violators – China, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Zimbabwe – "enjoy exculpatory immunity. This is a double standard at its zenith," Cotler said.

Cotler's critiques were echoed in part by Human Rights Watch (HRW), which stated in a news release that "an 'abusers club' of governments hostile to human rights has further consolidated its position and blocked several important country initiatives, while the United States and to a lesser extent, the European Union have not exerted positive leadership."

Cotler said the Jewish state is subjected to "a form of apartheid" in which it is disenfranchised, not able to vote on members of the commission, not eligible to be nominated to it and not entitled to participate in the drafting of resolutions that are aimed at it.

"It's the classic demonstration of denial of international due process," he said.

Illustrating the world body's discriminatory treatment of Israel was the decision to maintain an open-ended mandate for a special rapporteur for the West Bank and Gaza Strip while terminating the mandate of a rapporteur for Sudan, where "genocide by attrition" is occurring, he said.

Even when the UN body addresses issues of international concern, such issues as the rights of women, the rights of children or homelessness, the issue is hijacked and ends up turning into an indictment for alleged Israeli violations, he said.

A particularly disturbing development at the forum, he said, was the UN body's sanctioning of "the use of all available means" – codewords used to justify terrorism – in the Palestinian struggle against Israel.

Cotler said Canada, which takes its international commitments seriously, ought to forcefully oppose this misuse of an international body.

"By its participation, Canada gives this charade a certain implied legitimacy. I recommend that Canada speak out about a process that singles out one state for differential treatment. Canada should no longer involves ourselves in a process that engages in this kind of delegitimization of a member state and brings international law into disrepute."

Cotler said he is adding his name to a petition sponsored by the World Jewish Congress, of which he is a legal counsel, that is being circulated to Jewish institutions and to NGOs in the broader community. The petition calls on UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to take the necessary initiatives to end "this human rights charade, including anti-Semitic conduct being undertaken under the protective cover of the UN."

Cotler said he is also asking his parliamentary colleagues to support urgent UN reform.

Canada can also push to include Israel as a full fledged member of one of the UN's regional blocs (opposition from Arab states has excluded Israel from the Asian bloc).

The situation as it now stands "is not just prejudicial to Israel but it undermines the UN and international law," he said.

Jewish Agency prepares for immigration from Morocco

By YAIR SHELEG
Ha'aretz Daily News Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Jewish Agency office here is taking steps to prepare for a mass emigration of Moroccan Jews, following a string of terror attacks two weeks ago in the country and concern that Al Qaeda is planning to attack more Jewish targets there.

The agency is focusing on raising enough money to pay for the immigrants' benefits. Each immigrant is entitled to a rent subsidy of approximately $300 (US) per month for the first five years, a special "absorption grant," as well as a basket of benefits.

The decision to get ready for a wave of Moroccan immigrants was made even before last week's terror atrocities, at the last meeting of the agency's board of governors in February. The agency plans to raise the money by canvassing donors overseas, but because of the economic crisis, it was decided not to ask the government for help.

The chair of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, Aryeh Azoulai, told *Ha'aretz* last week that the number of immigrants will not exceed a few hundred. He added that several dozen Moroccan Jews arrive here annually and said there are no plans to send emissaries to Morocco to encourage the Jewish population to leave.

The Week in Israel

May 19

• Three people were killed and 18 wounded when a suicide bomber struck a shopping mall in Afula.

• A body that washed up off the Tel Aviv shore earlier this month was identified as the would-be British bomber, Omar Khan Sharif, in the April 30 suicide attack on a Tel Aviv pub. Sharif fled the scene of the attack at Mike's Place after his explosives belt failed to detonate.

May 20

• Hundreds of Palestinians in Beit Hanoun demonstrated against Hamas for firing rockets on Israel. The protest occurred shortly after the Israel Defence Forces pulled out of the Gaza town. Israeli troops entered Beit Hanoun last week in response to Hamas' launching of Kassam rockets on the Negev town of Sderot.

May 21

• The Knesset gave preliminary approval to a bill that would reduce the number of chief rabbis from two to one. Currently, Israel has both an Ashkenazi and a Sephardi chief rabbi. "The separation of Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews is no longer relevant," the bill reads.

May 22

• Mevakshei Derech, a synagogue of the Reform movement in Jerusalem, had some of its windows smashed in an act of vandalism.

• The Knesset's judges selection panel selected district court judges Miriam Naor and Asher Grunis as the newest additions to Israel's Supreme Court.

May 23

• An explosion near a bus carrying Israelis in the Gaza Strip wounded eight people. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack, which came a day after Hamas said that it was considering a limited ceasefire.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Jewish delegation meets with Pope John Paul II

CJN News Services

VATICAN CITY — Canadian Jewish Congress president Keith Landy was among a group of international Jewish leaders who met Pope John Paul II last week and expressed hope the meeting may lead to greater access to sensitive Vatican archives from World War II.

"The meeting with John Paul was a historic event for Canadian Jewish Congress," Landy said. "We were cordially received and the Pope spoke warmly of Catholic-Jewish relations. It is a testament to how far we have come in the past couple of decades."

Group presses Pope on WWII archives, anti-Semitism

Landy, who is also vice-chairman of World Jewish Congress, North America was part of a WJC delegation that met with the Pope and Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi during a stop in Italy after WJC executive meetings in Jerusalem.

In a private meeting last Thursday with WJC President Edgar Bronfman and the group's secretary-general, Rabbi Israel Singer, the Pope "gave his blessing" to a request to make more of the archives available to scholars, a WJC spokesperson said.

The Pope also endorsed a WJC plan to ask national bishops conferences to adopt public statements against anti-Semitism, as well as a WJC project to work with the Catholic charity Caritas to help needy children in Argentina, the WJC spokesman said.

After the private session, the Pope held a half-hour meeting with a delegation of a dozen international Jewish leaders. Those who took part in the larger audience could not confirm the Pope had endorsed the requests.

Those present at the larger meeting, said the Pope, in fact, did not respond directly when urged to open wartime archives from the pontificate of Pope Pius XII, who Jewish leaders say did not speak out strongly enough against the Holocaust.

The Pope's response caused "some disappointment" among the Jewish leaders, according to those present.

One member of the delegation said Singer and Bronfman also asked the Pope to speak out against suicide bombings and terrorism in Israel.

Bronfman and Singer left Rome immediately after the group audience, but Singer told Reuters that they and the Pope had "agreed on everything."

Bronfman raised the issue of the archives "in a friendly way," Singer told the news agency. "We were encouraging them to open the archives, but it's not like we came in with an aggressive approach. We came in with a negotiated approach."

The Vatican and the Jewish world have clashed over granting scholars access to Vatican archives, in order to clear the air about the Vatican role in the Holocaust. Some prewar archives from the time of Pope Pius XI were unsealed in February, but archives from World War II remain sealed.

In his meeting with the full delegation, the only issue the Pope touched on specifically was the Argentine charity project, for which he expressed "encouragement," the Jewish leaders said.

The Pope also praised Jewish-Christian relations and called for "courage and vision" to foster further "practical" co-operation, they said.

On anti-Semitism, it was suggested that a strong denunciation in a papal homily would help fight the problem, CJC said in a statement.

Those present said the Pope's failure to respond to specific points raised during the group audience disappointed some delegation members.

But Seymour Reich, who attended as past chairman of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, said the meeting was important nonetheless.

"Meetings of this nature are very important for the Jewish community," he told JTA. "They give us the opportunity to share directly with the Pope our concerns – about anti-Semitism, about Israel, about the Vatican archives.

"Even if there is not an immediate direct response, the hope remains that the Pope and his aides will act on it in a positive way, and if that occurs that is one more positive step in our relations with the Vatican," he said.

Last Tuesday, the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* called the recent spate of Palestinian suicide attacks against Israel a"vicious strategy against dialogue."

In a front-page editorial, the paper said the terrorists' intent was to wreck the U.S.-sponsored "road map" toward Israeli-Palestinian peace before it had a chance to be implemented.

The Vatican audience followed a meeting Wednesday with Italy's prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi, who told a WJC delegation that he would fight anti-Semitism, promote sympathy for Israel in Europe and work to broker Mideast peace.

Speaking less than two months before Italy takes over the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union (EU), Berlusconi said he planned to fly to Israel in early June to meet with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon – but not, apparently, with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, whom Israel and the United States accuse of having ties to terrorism.

The CJC's Landy described the meeting with Berlusconi as very fruitful. "He showed a genuine concern for Israel's safety and security. As Italy will assume the [EU presidency on July 1], it can play an important role in pressuring the Palestinian leadership to end terror and incitement," Landy said.

"He also told us that he views Israel as being close to Europe culturally, economically and politically and supports Israel's inclusion in an expanded European Union."

A source who attended the meeting said Berlusconi "agreed that Israel was not getting a fair shake" from Europeans in its conflict with the Palestinians and "said he would work vigorously to change that."

Still shaken by the suicide bombings after its Israel visit, the WJC group wanted to convey to Berlusconi Israel's dismay at what it views as a lack of sympathy on the part of the EU, European governments and the European public for Israel's losses and suffering from Palestinian terrorism.

Berlusconi made "incredible statements" of support for the Jewish state, the source who was at the meeting said.

"He told us that he would stand shoulder to shoulder with [U.S. President George W.] Bush to help broker peace," he said. "As far as I know, no other European leader has come out so unambiguously."

The delegation presented Berlusconi with a copy of the most recent WJC annual report on international anti-Semitism, which details a sharp rise in anti-Jewish violence and sentiment.

"Berlusconi said this was terrible and had to be fought," the source said. "He said we had to take it seriously."

He said Berlusconi also expressed interest in a series of Jewish cultural, educational and communal projects under way in Europe, and asked Cobi Benatoff, the Italian president of the European Council of Jewish Communities, to keep his office informed.

With files from JTA

35 silver treasures stolen from Tel Aviv museum

By RONI SINGER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — Thirty-five silver items worth tens of thousands of dollars were stolen last Thursday from Beth Hatefutsoth (Museum of the Jewish Diaspora) in Tel Aviv. The items are part of a temporary exhibit of a private collection belonging to collector Bill Gross.

The break-in was discovered last Friday morning when museum staff found the room in a shambles, with several items missing. The exhibition included 120 Judaica objects, all made of sterling silver, many of them from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

The exhibit, which opened in March, is displayed in two rooms, of which only one was broken into, apparently through a hole drilled in a drywall partition.

"We don't understand how they got in. The place is secured by day and night and motion sensors in the room are supposed to set off an alarm," the museum's public relations director, Asia Reuven said Sunday.

"This was not a highly sophisticated break-in, but it is clear the burglars knew exactly where they were going and what they intend to steal," said police officer Brig. Gen. Ezra Aharon.

The police searched the university grounds where the museum is located and found a backpack next to a fence with several Judaica items and tools that were probably used in the break-in. The police think the stolen items were tossed over the fence before the burglars themselves walked off the campus without raising any suspicion.

The police have no idea how the thieves entered the building, which is closed on Thursdays, but noted there had been a private event, and they plan on questioning the guard who was on duty.

The exhibit of Gross' collection, which he began 40 years ago, was scheduled to be open until October but will close for the time being.

"This is the first break-in we've had and we will have to learn our lessons," Reuven said.

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Exhibit zeroes in on Jerusalem, West Bank and Gaza

By MIRIAM CHINSKY

A young Palestinian girl stands in cramped quarters in Gaza's Sh'ati refugee camp while her mother carefully puts the finishing touches on her daughter's hair before she leaves for school.

At Gush Katif, an Israeli settlement, also in Gaza, a father protectively holds his small son's hand as he walks him to school in the watchful company of an armed Israeli soldier.

These two images are among some 40 on display in Holyland, a photographic documentary by Ethan Eisenberg, in the Justina M. Barnicke West Gallery, Hart House, University of Toronto, May 22 to June 19.

Zeroing in on Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, Eisenberg chronicles with his camera the period between 1994 and 2001 because it represents a mix of hope and conflict. Will there be a feasible compromise in the ongoing struggle – one that can bring statehood to the Palestinians with peace and security for Israel? At times it seems within grasp, yet deeply divided fundamentalists and other groups on both sides challenge that premise.

In numerous trips to the areas in question, Eisenberg explored the ways in which these societies have responded to their situations, some accepting and adapting, others deriving bitter satisfaction from fury and hatred. The photographer looks for answers by placing the contentious issues in the less eventful context of daily life.

His black and white photographs give immediacy to his subjects.

There are ingenuous scenes, youngsters celebrating Purim in Jerusalem's Mea Shearim, a Palestinian boy in a sunny field learning how to train a bird to perform.

There are wrenching photos of funerals on both sides.

A sense of spirituality infuses the faces of Israeli women praying at the biblical Tomb of Ruth in Hebron, but two soldiers stand guard on the stone wall behind them.

Perhaps most telling is the 6 a.m. lineup of Palestinian workers at the Erez checkpoint crossing from Gaza to Israel, their faces disclosing apathy, resentment, fatigue.

To realize these portrayals, Eisenberg spent days, weeks and sometimes months, over a seven year span, mingling where he was welcomed or just shooting wherever possible in the disputed sectors.

Eisenberg holds a BA in philosophy from the University of Toronto and a master of fine arts in photography from Concordia University. He is a former photography instructor at George Brown College and Concordia University.

For information about the gallery's hours, please call 416-978-8398.

A mother helps her daughter with her hair in a refugee camp in Gaza; one of a series of photographs by Ethan Eisenberg.

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True story about a Jewish neo-Nazi

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

A Jewish boy who turns his back on his background and joins a neo-Nazi group is the basis of the recently released video, *The Believer*.

What is even more startling is that the film is based on a true story.

This film stirred up quite a controversy when it was first shown at the Sundance Film Festival. Its subject matter precluded it from any significant theatrical run, as distributors shied away from it. It was finally picked up by a cable channel in the United States and received a limited theatrical run in Canada, but it never really hit the mass market.

In the Toronto area, *The Believer* was presented at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival in 2002, before it was released in theatres.

The film itself centres around the activities of Danny Balint and his hatred of his own people. There are repeated flashbacks to his rebellious and questioning behaviour while attending Jewish school as a child.

The film raises many questions about his neo-Nazi conversion and the ties to the Judaism he detests but cannot break away from completely.

A number of clues to Balint's behaviour are offered throughout the film.

As a child Balint seems to have had problems fitting in and his questioning mind appears to have never been fully satisfied.

In addition, the Balint character appears to be ashamed of the weakness of the Jews.

Continued on page 33

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Arts & Travel

Torontonian's budding career enhanced by film Spellbound

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ronnie Eisen never had any doubts about *Spellbound*.

"I was passionate about it, maybe a little obsessed," said Eisen, a Torontonian and one of the producers of this moving, highly appealing documentary.

"I felt very strongly about it."

As it turns out, Eisen's faith in *Spellbound*, which opened in Toronto last week, was not misplaced.

• It has appeared in more than 50 festivals, including last year's Toronto International Film Festival, and has won many prizes.

• It was nominated for an Academy Award in the best documentary feature category, being edged out by Michael Moore's *Bowling for Columbine*, the odds-on-favourite.

• It is doing well at the box office in North America, and in Canada, it is slated to open soon in Vancouver, Montreal, Calgary and Edmonton.

On the face of it, *Spellbound*'s subject – the 1999 National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. – might seem eminently forgettable.

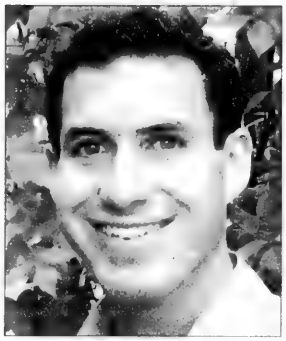
But on closer inspection, the film – which charts the lives and fortunes of eight of its contestants – is quite inspirational.

"There is a good deal of intensity and lots of drama," said Eisen, a 1988 graduate of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT). "It feels like a regular film with a strong narrative and a grand conclusion."

And, as he pointed out, *Spellbound* reinvents a timeless and beloved story line: the pursuit of the American dream.

Two of the spellers, Angela Arenivar and Ashley White, hail from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Angela's parents, from the ragged Texas panhandle, are struggling Mexican immigrants who do not speak a word of English. Ashley's African-American single mother is bringing her up in a cramped



Ronnie Eisen

apartment in Washington, D.C.

Two of the other spellers, Neil Kadakia and Nupur Lala, are of East Indian origin, the son and daughter of hard-working, ferociously motivated and upwardly mobile new Americans.

The sole Jewish contestant, an expressive and bubbly boy named Harry Altman, was raised in a leafy suburb.

Spellbound, which is scheduled to be screened at the Jerusalem Film Festival in July, is the brainchild of Jeff Blitz, a first-time director.

Eisen met him several years ago, when Eisen was working for the Fox television network in prime-time programming and development.

Blitz and his partner, producer Sean Welch, had shot thousands of feet of footage, but could not proceed because they had run out of money while going into debt.

At their request, Eisen tried to raise additional funds by showing potential backers a 10-minute trailer of *Spellbound*, but there were no takers. "People thought it was cute but that it had no commercial prospects."

Undeterred by the rejections, Eisen kept "pushing" until it got finished.

Once there was a film in hand, Eisen played an integral role in getting it into festivals and helped in getting the film distributed to theatres and TV outlets.

Eisen is cautiously optimistic that *Spellbound* will be profitable, enabling investors to recoup their investments.

"We're relying strongly on word of mouth," he said.

Most of the eight spellers have seen the film and were impressed, added Eisen, who grew up in the Bathurst-Glencairn area of Toronto.

The youngest of five children, he is the son of Isadore and Batya Eisen.

After graduating from CHAT, Eisen was a one-year exchange student at Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He also studied philosophy and economics at the University of Western Ontario.

In 1995, he joined his brother, Andrew, a film editor, in Los Angeles. "I had always been interested in the entertainment business," he said.

Snagging a job at the Creative Artists Agency (CAA), Eisen worked in its packaging department, which represents writers and directors and packages shows for network and cable television.

"I learned how shows are created and put together," he said.

No less important, Eisen also learned about the relationship between agents, agencies and TV networks.

After CAA, he moved to Fox and later joined the Endeavor Agency, representing writers and directors in new media companies.

While there, he joined forces with Blitz in the making of *Spellbound*.

Eisen left Endeavor to focus on independent projects. From a strictly legal point of view, agents are not allowed to function as producers.

He is currently involved in several projects, but is not at liberty to discuss them. "In this business, unless there's something, there's nothing," he said.

Eisen does not know what tomorrow will bring, but he hopes that a project of *Spellbound*'s calibre is in his future.

Believer is fascinating and challenging

Continued from page 32

While this is not always a comfortable film to watch, it is always fascinating and challenging.

Canadian actor, Ryan Gosling gives a brilliant performance as Danny Balint and seems to convey the thin psychological tightrope his character is walking. Billy Zane, Theresa Russell and Summer Phoenix provide strong support.

It has taken a considerable length of time for *The Believer* to make its way onto video but it has now arrived and in Canada has been released by Sony Music Video and should be on the shelves of most good video stores now.

Canadian actor Ryan Gosling gives a brilliant performance as Danny Balint, a Jewish boy who turns his back on his background and joins a neo-Nazi group.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

JEWISH BOOK AWARDS CEREMONY TO RECALL NAZI BOOK BURNINGS OF 1933

The 15th annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards ceremony gets under way in less than two weeks with a short memorial recalling the Nazi burning of books in more than 40 German communities 70 years ago.

The rest of the evening will be devoted to elevating books, authors and the literary and scholary arts to the usual high pedestal upon which all lovers of literature and civilization rightfully place them.

As usual, there will be few surprises and little – if any – suspense at the ceremony, the winners having been announced weeks in advance. For attendees, much of the joy consists in watching a diverse collection of under-unappreciated scribes and scholars from across Canada get the recognition they so richly deserve.

The evening's most prestigious award, the Martin and Beatrice Fischer Prize in Fiction, goes to Vancouver writer **Nancy Richler** for her novel *Your Mouth Is Lovely*, published by HarperFlamingo Canada.

(Eye on Arts has not yet determined whether Nancy is related to Emma Richler, whose first novel *Sister Crazy* bagged the fiction prize last year and who is part of the extraordinarily well-lettered clan sired by the late Canadian novelist **Mordecai Richler**.)

Ten other prize winners have been announced:

Montreal journalist **Henry T. Aubin** wins in the history category for *The Rescue of Jerusalem: the Alliance Between Hebrews and Africans in 701 BC* (Doubleday Canada) while **Theresa** and **Albert Moritz** win in the category of Canadian Jewish history for *The World's Most Dangerous Woman* (Subway Books), a study of **Emma Goldman**'s time in Canada;

CBC Radio producer **Karen Levine** captures the children's literature prize for *Hana's Suitcase* (Second Story Press) while Torontonian **Vivian J. Kaplan** collects the biography/memoir prize for *Ten Green Bottles: Vienna to Shanghai, Journey of Fear and Hope* (Robin Brass Studio);

Karen Levine captured the children's literature prize for *Hana's Suitcase*.

James A. Diamond, chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo, wins the award in biblical/rabbinic scholarship for *Maimonides and the Hermeneutics of Concealment* (SUNY Press) while University of Calgary professor **Adrienne Kertzer** takes the award in scholarship on a Jewish subject for *My Mother's Voice: Children, Literature and the Holocaust* (Broadview Press);

University of Toronto professor emeritus **N. N. Shneidman** wins in the category of Holocaust history for *The Three Tragic Heros of the Vilnius Ghetto: Witenberg, Sheinbaum, Gens* (Mosaic Press) while **Joil Alpern** wins in the category of Holocaust memoir for *No One Awaiting Me: Two Brothers Defy Death During the Holocaust in Romania* (University of Calgary Press);

Montreal Yiddish scholar **Pierre Anctil** takes the Yiddish translation prize for *Le Montréal Juif Entre les Deux Guerres* (Septentrion), his masterful translation into French of Montreal journalist **Israel Medresh**'s 1964 original, while Toronto poet-psychiatrist **Ron Charach** receives the poetry prize for his collection *Dungenessque* (Signature Editions).

The evening's MC is **Bernard Katz**. Guest celebrity reader **Evan Solomon**, host of the CBC's popular *Hot Type*, reads selections from Richler's winning novel.

The book awards committee, co-chaired by **Frances Mandel** and **Miriam Webb**, had a "very challenging, though rewarding" task in choosing the winners from more than 50 books submitted. "It was an embarrassment of riches that proclaims the vitality of Jewish writing and scholarship in Canada," Mandel said.

Everyone is invited to attend this notable free event, which takes place Monday, June 9, 7:30 p.m. in the Leah Posluns Theatre, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. A reception follows the ceremony, at which books may be purchased and possibly signed by their authors.

* * *

Names in the News

• A four-day conference at Britain's Cambridge University in April focused on the novels of **Aharon Appelfeld** on the occasion of his 70th birthday. The Romanian-born Holocaust survivor travelled from Israel to attend the conference, the first such gathering at Cambridge to focus on modern Israeli literature.

• New York's YIVO Institute for Jewish Research honoured **Imre Kertesz** and **Moshe Safdie** this month with lifetime achievement awards. Kertesz, a Jewish-Hungarian survivor of Auschwitz and last year's Nobel laureate in literature, is the author of *Kaddish for a Child Not Born* and other works of Holocaust fiction. The Israeli-born Safdie, who moved to Montreal at 15, is renowned for grand and innovative architectural projects such as Montreal's Habitat, Ottawa's National Gallery and the Western Wall Plaza in Jerusalem.

* * *

At the Galleries

• 3X3, an exhibition of new paintings by **Suzanne Dennis**, **Sheila Bedoukian** and **Janice Hurlbut**, is on view at Gate 403 Bar and Grill, 403 Roncesvalles Ave., June 5 through 29. Opening June 5, 6 to 9 p.m.

• Holyland, an exhibition of **Ethan Eisenberg**'s photos of areas affected by the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, continues at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House, until June 19.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• A few seats may still be available for Israeli violinist **Itzhak Perlman**'s concerts with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Roy Thomson Hall, May 28, 8 p.m. and May 29, 2 p.m. www.tso.ca.

• The Royal Ontario Museum is offering free admission to local health-care workers and half-priced entry to their guests as a means "of giving something back to the many people who worked so tirelessly during the SARS crisis," said ROM director **William Thorsell**. Until June 30; valid photo ID cards required.

• PEI author **J.J. Steinfeld** reads from *Would You Hide Me?* at the launch of this new collection of 10 short stories. Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments, free admission. Monday, June 2, 8 p.m.

• **The Shevchenko Musical Ensemble**, featuring the **Toronto Mandolin Orchestra**, **Kaniv Dancers** and **Shevchenko Choir**, performs its annual concert at Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Adults $20, seniors and students $18, children $10. Sunday June 1, 2 p.m. 416-533-2725.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.

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South African artist finds new home in Canada

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Leon Yehuda Soriano is practically in a class all by himself.

He is a charter member of an elite group of artists whose work hangs in a royal palace.

In 1979, when he was a resident of South Africa, one of his paintings was purchased for the palatial home of the king of Swaziland, a small, landlocked African nation.

It is hardly surprising that Soriano's painting graces a monarch's residence. He is a new immigrant to Canada, but he is among Africa's most distinguished artists.

He has exhibited extensively, and private collectors in Africa, Europe, Australia and the United States have bought his works.

Soriano's biography is listed in two standard reference books, *Collectors Guide to Art and Artists in South Africa* and *Art and Artists in South Africa*.

Last year, his solo exhibit at Harbourfront overlapped with the Ashkenaz festival of new Yiddish culture. Most recently, his work appeared at a Hummingbird Centre fundraiser for the Canadian Opera Company.

Something of a wandering Jew, Soriano was born in Harare, Zimbabwe, when the country was still known as Rhodesia.

The Soriano clan has deep roots in Africa. His maternal grandfather, Naphtalie Levy, was a pioneer in Rhodesia, and his mother was a native Rhodesian. His father, an Egyptian, immigrated to Rhodesia to join his family.

Troubled by the thrust of political developments in Zimbabwe, Soriano moved to neighbouring South Africa in 1978. For the same reason, he settled in Canada in 2000. Before his arrival in Toronto, he lived in Vancouver.

Although he has been here only a relatively short time, Soriano is already impressed by the artistic possibilities of Canada's varied landscapes.

"I am excited by Canadian scenery in all its seasons," said Soriano, who belongs to the Federation of Canadian Artists.

Influenced by Picasso, Matisse and Klee, as well as by ancient African traditions, Soriano is preoccupied with the human form.

"I frequently do not distinguish between the sexes, thus giving my work a universal appeal," he explained.

He works in mixed media and, recently, he turned to etching. " I particularly enjoy hand colouring the plates, using printing inks in a wide range of colours."

Leon Yehuda Soriano

Being a product of Africa, Soriano tends to infuse his paintings, collages, acrylics and gouaches with warmth and light.

As he likes to put it, he was drawn to "pictures" at a very early age.

"I always felt the need to express myself in colour. I didn't make a conscious decision to be an artist. I just painted and studied painting and drawing."

After attending the Michaelis School of Fine Arts at the University of Cape Town and the Durban College of Arts and Crafts, he continued his studies at the London College of Printing and Design.

In Zimbabwe and South Africa, he supported himself as a painter and a teacher. He takes pride in the fact that more than 80 per cent of his students found gainful employment as artists.

Soriano returned to teaching after his Harbourfront exhibition.

"Mainly as a result of this show, I was able to get my teaching studio going in Toronto. My classes are small and I concentrate on individual tuition. I allow each person to grow in their own direction rather than giving instruction to a class as a whole."

A strong colourist, he encourages students to use colour imaginatively.

He also urges them to frame their works. "It is important that they should not hide their work away but feel proud and experience the varied responses they evoke."

Soriano, who appeared in Rhodesia's last international art show, has not been back to Zimbabwe in about a decade.

Yet Soriano, whose sister still lives in Zimbabwe, has no regrets.

"The state of affairs in Zimbabwe at the moment is too ghastly for words," he observed. "There is no petrol available and food is sometimes hard to get. The cost of living has gone up 300 per cent this year, and the currency is worth so little. My friends and family are struggling."

He said he is glad to be in Toronto. "I am very satisfied with my decision to come to Canada." Next month, he will be eligible for Canadian citizenship.

Soriano can be reached via email at leonsoriano@yahoo.ca

Tenor with the voice of a soprano

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Erik Kurmangaliev, a Russian counter-tenor with a register almost like that of a mezzo-soprano, is making his first Canadian appearance in Toronto, June 9 at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St., 7 p.m.

Russian vocalist Erik Kurmangaliev

The internationally acclaimed soloist will also perform in Montreal, June 14 at the Théâtre National, 1220 Ste. Catherine E. at 7 p.m.

Kurmangaliev is in the *Guinness Book of Records* as a result of his unsurpassed ability to perform the repertoire normally reserved for the female contralto.

Frequently compared to the legendary Fedora Barbieri, his impressive vocal dynamics have won him innumerable awards.

Kurmangaliev will perform classical and popular music by Handel, Glinka, Tchaikovsky, Rossini, Bizet, Strauss, Offenbach and others. He will be joined by soprano, Iana Ivanilova from the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, with a string quartet and Marina Belova on piano.

The young Russian, who has a charming and serene stage personality, was born in Kulsary, West Kazakhstan. He did post-graduate studies at the Moscow State Conservatoire and made his first solo debut in 1980 in the Great Hall of the Leningrad Philharmonic. He was a laureate of the International competition in the Netherlands in 1987 and has performed throughout Russia, Belgium, Hungary, Yugoslavia, France, Greece and the United States.

He received the best actor of the year award in 1992 for his astonishing performance of the role of Song Liling in *M. Butterfly*, where he sang two arias from *Madam Butterfly* by Puccini.

"Erik is the most outstanding vocalist I have ever heard," said Ella Tcheloznova, one of the producers of the Toronto concert. "His range is phenomenal and we are thrilled that he is coming to Toronto."

Tickets for the concert are $20 and $40. For more information or to order tickets call 416-491-3014, 416-821-8322 or 416-574-4700.

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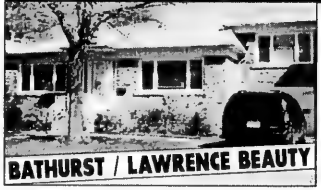

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Bright, south exposure 3 bdrm freehold townhome backing onto ravine! Part finished bsmnt, master bdrm ensuite bath. *Helen Gould

• • •

BATHURST-STEELES TOWNHOME
Price reduced! Large 4 bdrm townhouse with balcony, finished basement. Close to all amenities! *Larry Wronzberg

• • •

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-STEELES "TOWNSGATE"
Split 2 bedroom condo with huge solarium, eat-in kitchen, immediate possession or to be arranged. $269K. *Helen Gould

• • •

BATHURST-CENTRE "PROMENADE"
Large 2 bedroom condo, appliances, air, 2 car parking, recently painted and shows great! **Mark Waxman

• • •

BLOOR-AVENUE ROAD - WALK TO U. OF T.
Fabulous 1 bedroom, hardwood floors, underground parking, walk-out to 400 sq. ft. terrace! Close to Yorkville, restaurants, etc. $209,900. *Helen Gould

• • •

* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
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The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

HK HARVEY KALLES

REAL ESTATE LIMITED

BATHURST/LAWRENCE MASTERPIECE
Spectacular reno'd 2 bdrm Cape Cod, new maple kitchen, 3 baths, new basement apt w/sep entrance, garage, large lot, $389,900. June-July closing. Maxine Povering** ext. 308

BATHURST/CLARK $228,800
Renovated condo. 2 bdrm + solarium, split bdrm model, huge kitchen w/extra cabinets & windows, shows like model, fab ground floor, upgraded floors. Maxine Povering** ext. 308

BAYVIEW SOUTH OF STEELES $799,000
Just listed.Quiet cul-de-sac! Beautiful 5 bdrm, great modern kit & family rm, w/out to deck & gorgeous pool. Lot 51 x 203. Home for family & friends. Must see. Carol Lou Spiegel* ext. 316

BAYVIEW - YORK MILLS PERFECTION!
$769,900. This is the one you have been waiting for. Totally renovated, exquisite décor, custom built 4+1 bdrms, main floor family room, finished lower level with nanny's quarters, magnificent inground pool, gorgeous landscaping, truly a 10+++ Elaine Chelin* ext. 269

BAYVIEW & STEELES - NEW PRICE!
$899,000.Bayview Glen. Well maintained 4+1 bdrm home, 5 baths, finished basement w/nanny's rm, walk-out, recreation rm, 3 pce bath, formal living & dining rooms, magnificent lot. Michelle Noik* & David Zaikin** ext. 289/545

BAYVIEW GLEN MANSION
$1,388,000. Custom stone front home designed by David Wooldridge. 4+2 bedrooms, 6 baths, finished basement, 9' ceilings on 3 floors, designer kit, 3 car gar, extensive landscaping. Maxine Povering** & Michelle Noik* ext. 308/289

YORK MILLS - BAYVIEW TOWNHOUSE
$389,900. Move right in!! Newly renovated 3 bedroom townhouse in sought-after complex. Walk-out patio plus balcony. Won't last!! Corinne Kalles* ext. 555

BAYVIEW - EGLINTON / SOHO LOFTS!
New price! $369,900. Sophisticated condo residence. Top floor, SW exposure, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, 10' ceilings, 6 new appliances, ensuite laundry, custom broadloom, 1 parking spot. Close to all amenities. Michelle Noik* ext. 289

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Bathurst/Lawrence – Best Value at Crystal Towers, 1 bedroom suite, Approx 715 sq. ft., outdoor pool, 24 hour security, parking and locker. Asking $178,900.

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BATHURST / MILNER GATE Prime location! 3 bdrm. detached 2 storey home. New roof, new windows! Finished basement with nanny's room! $345,000.

BATHURST / STEELES CONDO, $309,900 2 split bdrms., 2 baths, 2 parking. Approx. 1,400 sq. ft. Fabulous luxury condo in desirable location!

CLARK / HILDA CONDO. Demand luxury building, 2 split bdrms., 2 baths, 2 parking. Approx. 1,200 sq. ft. $259,900.

HOUSE FOR RENT, BATHURST / HWY 7 New house, approx. 2,400 sq. ft., 4 bdrms., 3 baths, 2 car garage, $2,100 / mo. + utilities. Min. 1 year, credit check, first & last + 10 postdated cheques.

STEELES / NEW WESTMINSTER Detached 4 bdrm., 4 baths, 2 car garage, approx. 2,500 sq. ft. Finished bsmt. apartment with separate entrance. $395,000.

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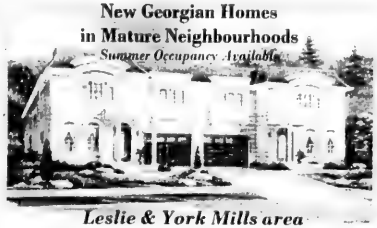

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Appointment

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CERC Relocation Specialist
Forest Hill Real Estate Inc.
(Central)
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David G. Moon, CRB - Managing Partner of Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. is pleased to welcome Heidi Nelson to the growing team of the company's third office located in the heart of the Avenue Rd. & Lawrence Ave. community at 1688 Avenue Rd.

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Super deal for 1st time buyers. Great 3 bedroom condo, 2 baths, asking $209K.
JUST LISTED
BATHURST/CHABAD GATE
Real dollhouse, 3 bd., 4 bths., fin. bsmt., w/jacuzzi, completely updated. See it - love it.
FRASERWOOD/LAWRENCE
6-plex, 5x3 bd., 1x1 bd., retro-fit.
SALLY ROSEN
Century 21 Heritage Group
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BATHURST/STEELES
Large 3 bedroom TH, corner, close to synagogues, schools, transportation. $289,000.
YALLY ROSS, Sales Representative
Remax Realtron Rlty Inc.
416-222-8600

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
416-633-7373

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
3 bdrm bung, mod kit, appliances, good size liv rm, 2 baths, fin bsmnt with 2 private entrances, garage, large lot, move-in condition.
FINCH/BATHURST
3 bdrm, 2 baths, 2 kitchens, fin basement garage, Steps to all!
BATHURST S. OF SHEPPARD
6 room bung, ideal for prof use, now used as doctors office, fin bsmnt, great location, Don't miss!
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10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Bath./Clark, 4 bdrm., 2.5 bths., fin. bsmt., close to shul. Private Sale. Call evng., no shabbos calls, 905-886-5491.

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$1,600 income from basement alone!!
Oversized bungalow. $399,000.
Vendor wants it sold!
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63 GARTHDALE COURT
Great Triplex. Great Income.
$435,000
Homelife/Bayview Rlty. - #1 ACROSS CANADA

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Bath./Wilson, beautiful 3 bdrm. bung., lge. lot size with huge backyard, close to shops & TTC, many upgrades, fin. bsmt., with 2 in-law apts. Call 416-785-7977.

PRIVATE SALE - 82 Palm Drive, Open House 12 noon-4 pm, Sun., June 1. Beautiful 6 room bung., dble. drive, bsmt. apt. + rec. rm., near Clanton Park shul. Call 416-633-2524.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Bathurst/Steeles- Townsgate. Reno'd. 2 bed. 2 bth. new kit., balcony. 416-726-1076.

CONDOS BELOW MARKET VALUE!!

268 RIDLEY BLVD.
Avenue Rd/Wilson. Seldom avail. Approx. 1500 sf. 2 bdr + den. Luxury corner ste w/open balcony. Rare 2 deeded pkg spaces. Steps to direct bus to subway. Only $379,000.

8 COVINGTON RD.
Bathurst/Lawrence. The Encore. Unbelievable value in centre of city! Lux. 2 bdrm corner ste. Approx. 1157 sf. Best value in bldg. Only $299,900.

7 TOWNSGATE DR.
Bathurst/Steeles. Best deal in area!! Rare 2 deeded pkg spots. 2 bdrm, 2 full baths, over 1400 sf, new beautiful hardwood flrs. Magnificent indoor pool. Only $309,900.

1131 STEELES AVE. W.
Bathurst/Steeles. The newest Primrose. Modern 2 bdrm. 2 baths, new appliances & blinds. Just painted. Direct bus to subway. Only $229,900.

1201 STEELES AVE. W.
Bathurst/Steeles. Seldom avail. "Courtlands" condo. Approx. 1400 sf 2 bdrm + den. New laminate floors. Large open balcony. Only $229,000.

3555 BATHURST ST.
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BATHURST/CLARK 2 BDRM. New kit., new appliances, new broadloom, 1 pkg., low floor, $249,900. **Call 905-709-7525.**

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate. 1550 sq. ft., 2 bed., 2 bth. 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371, 416-224-2837.

Bathurst/Wilson, large 2 bdrm. $1400/mo inclusive, 2 full bath. Days, 416-365-8003, evenings 905-771-9727.

3000 Bathurst St., lux. 2 bed., 2 bth, appl., 1400 sq. ft., quiet s/w corner unit, high floor, prkng. available immediately. 905-731-6382.

45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

Looking for a condo. at 3000 Bath. St., 2 or 3 bdr., closing negot. Call 416-880-2132.

55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Apt./house needed, min. 2 bdrm for frum family, July 1-30, please contact 416-780-9548.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Best Buy in Building! Just Reduced!!!

Bathurst & Clark, steps to The Promenade, 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Vacant. Spotless. Move right in. All appliances. Eastern exposure. Won't last long, asking $239,000.

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631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

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BELLE EWART,4 bedroom, furnished, walk to shul. Call 416-633-3151.

Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area. Lux. 4 bdrm., sandy beach, tennis. Seas./mo. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

Cottage for rent, lakefront, Bel Ewart, 4 bdrm., walk to shul, furnished. 905-763-7581.

115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE

BELLE EWART, lakefront co-op, 3 bdrm, equipped, perfect for young family. 905-889-8687.

120 COTTAGE WANTED

Wanted! Nice waterfront cottage for July & August. Preferrably between Roches Point & Jackson's Point - will consider west side of Lake Simcoe. 416-782-1500.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

HALLANDALE BEAUTY
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180 OUT OF TOWN PROPERTY

UWO STUDENTS! London, ON, 1-2 bdrm. condo for sale. Prime location (695 Richmond), new carpet, 5 appl., a/c, security, 1 un. pkg. 519-434-3292.

230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

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Cleaning lady available, Monday-Friday. Refs. available. Call 416-746-2547.

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275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

Jewish, 5'7" athletic, 42-yr. old male seeks slim 5'2"-5'6" 33-38 Jewish female for long-term relationship. Write to CJN Box #4576.

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Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

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The Canadian Jewish News
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North York, Ont.
M3B 3K4

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Antiques wanted: Furniture, china, silver, fine art. Call 905-764-1112.

315 CARS

1998 Plymouth Voyageur. Great condition. Under 50K, $10,000. 905-882-9251.

330 OBITUARIES

GILIS, Semyon – on May 8, 2003, late of 5 Fisherville Rd.
MUSKAT, Icek – on May 9, 2003, late of 10 Southbourne Ave.
HELD, Coloman – on May 10, 2003.
SNIDERMAN, Marvin – on May 9, 2003.
GONDA, Judit – on May 11, 2003.
LAPOWICH, Rose – on May 11, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
TOKAR, Shaiva – on May 12, 2003.
FASS, Zelig – on May 12, 2003, late of 78 Shallmar Blvd.
ALTER, Ana – on May 13, 2003, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
WALLENSKY, Rita – on May 14, 2003, late of 6040 Bathurst St.
BETEL, Rita – on May 15, 2003, late of 89 Regina Ave.
MIZEL, Jerry Lorry – on May 16, 2003, late of 57 Stacey Cres.
OROS, Julius – on May 3, 2003.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACKOB AVNI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 8th, 1:30 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ISIDORE (IZZY) HOROWITZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 1st, 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

330 OBITUARIES

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Joseph Jacobs ז"ל
loving husband, father and grandpa
will take place
Sunday, June 1st at 11:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
(986 Wilson Ave.)
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EDWARD LEIBOVITZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 1st at 12:30 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY RESNICK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 1st at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
(east side of Bathurst St., 2 blks. south of Steeles Ave.)
Linitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JACK SHUMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 1st at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Ostrovtzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVID KAYFETZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 1st, 11:00 a.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Mozirer Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BELLA SPRINGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 1st, 11:00 a.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Roselawn & Chaplin Cres.
Eitz Chaim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
WILLIAM (BILL) WITTENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 1st, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Stashover Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
PHILLIP ZIGELSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 1st, 2:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Judean Benevolent & Friendly Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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RUTH SCHATZKER ז"ל

We wish to express sincere and heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to all relatives and friends for their many acts of kindness, expressions of sympathy and for the many generous charitable donations made in her memory.

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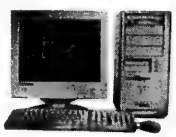

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Greater Toronto Area

Zaka raising its profile in Toronto

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Over the past few years, men wearing fluorescent yellow jackets have become all too familiar to viewers of Israeli news. First to arrive at disaster scenes, they provide first aid to survivors before turning to the grisly task of collecting for burial the human remains of terrorist victims.

Yet, for all the good work it does, ZAKA, a Hebrew acronym for Identification of Victims of Disaster, receives only minimal funding from the Israeli government. With its rescue services increasingly in demand, the volunteer organization has turned to Jewish communities around the world for financial support.

Two ZAKA representatives were in Toronto recently to address a small, by-invitation-only dessert reception hosted by philanthropist Rachelle Bronfman. A few dozen guests gave $100 each to support the volunteer group, but organizers hope the evening will do more than just raise money. They are looking to take the first step toward a more permanent organizational structure. Freelance journalist Marshall Shapiro, who has been working virtually on his own to create a local support system for ZAKA, hopes Canada will soon have a formal, permanent group of volunteers on the Toronto scene.

Bronfman said she became aware of ZAKA's work after viewing a documentary on suicide bombers and seeing the work of the men with white latex gloves and yellow jackets. "They are really out there," she said. "What they see is just unimaginable. They do it because they believe in it."

She met with Shapiro and agreed to host the information evening and spread the word about ZAKA among her contacts. She hopes some of them may form the nucleus of a ZAKA support group.

ZAKA spokesman Yisroel Stefansky, who visited Toronto last summer, said the organization is reaching out to Jewish communities in France, Germany, Belgium and Australia as well as Canada. It already maintains a more formal, incorporated support group in New York City, which has raised funds for ambulances and which involves Jewish schools in smaller fundraising efforts.

Currently, ZAKA can call on 800 volunteers across Israel to respond to disasters that have been instigated by terrorists or are the result of more mundane circumstances. Stefansky was recently called to Texas, where he took part in the retrieval of the remains of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon, who was killed this past February when NASA's space shuttle disintegrated on re-entry.

ZAKA volunteers are organized into various response teams, Stefansky said. These include a motorcycle unit (often the first to arrive on disaster scenes), a fire department unit, an ambulance unit, a rescue and recovery unit and a *chesed shel emes* unit (to identify victims). Stefansky belongs to the organization's sixth department, the recently inaugurated diving unit.

ZAKA was founded in 1995 after several bombing attacks. Describing its work to the assembled guests, sometimes in graphic detail, Stefansky said the group's founders felt the victims must be accorded the dignity of a full burial with all body parts interred. "We have to go out there, collect them, identify them and give them a proper burial," he said. "That's what people expect."

Doing so can be difficult, he said. Sometimes the body parts and blood are so embedded in surrounding objects, such as a bus, that "you bury half a bus if the blood and flesh won't come off. It's hard for us, but we know we have to do it," he said. "We do it because somebody has to do it and it is *avodat kodesh* [holy work]."

ZAKA's international reach was demonstrated last July when Stefansky and a colleague, who were visiting Toronto last summer, were called upon when David Rosenzweig was murdered outside King David Pizza, a midtown kosher restaurant.

ZAKA hopes to raise funds for an ambulance dedicated to Rosenzweig's memory. Speaking at the reception, Chavie Rosenzweig, David's widow, said ZAKA's "virtuous and noble tasks on behalf of David were a source of strength."

The presence in Toronto of Stefansky and his colleague at an excruciatingly trying time was divinely orchestrated, she said. "ZAKA epitomizes the unit of Jews through its heroic efforts."

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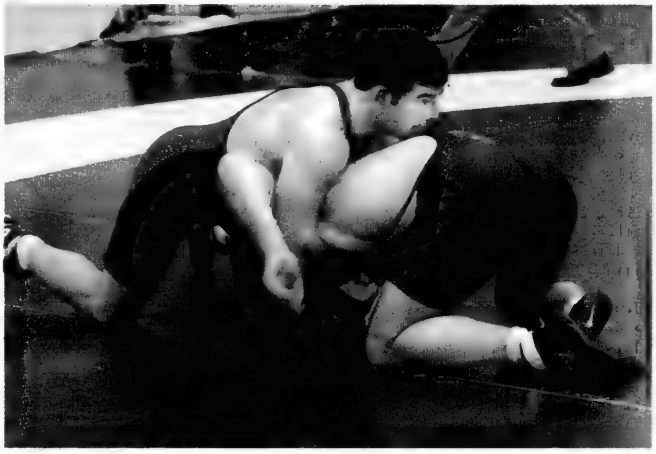
Wrestler gearing up for run at Olympic team

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Danny Einhorn has been grappling with Daniel Igali for a little while now and he thinks he can take the great one down.

Yes, it's true that Igali has been nursing a neck injury for some time and it's also true the 2000 Olympic gold medal wrestler isn't quite up to par. But Einhorn has been knocking on the door at the top of Canadian freestyle wrestling for a few years now and he is confident that he can eclipse the Nigerian-born sports icon.



In photo at right, Danny Einhorn (seen above) gets the upper hand on an opponent in a recent wrestling contest.

Trouble is, there's another hot young gun on the scene, Hungarian-born Zoltan Hunyady, who has bested Einhorn at the Canadian Senior National Championships in both freestyle and greco-roman just a few weeks ago.

Competition is tough, Einhorn acknowledges, but the 23-year-old refuses to be dissuaded from his long term goal: mounting the medal podium at the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

Heady stuff for a former student of Associated Hebrew Schools, but since Grade 9, Einhorn has been honing his skills and getting the expert training he needs to fulfill his dream.

A carded athlete – he receives $1,000 a month as a member of the national team – Einhorn attends Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., a suburb of Vancouver, where he studies molecular and cell biology.

He's also a member of the school's top-rated wrestling team, the Clan, which competes in the NAIA, U.S. college's second tier of schools behind the NCAA.

Simon Fraser also takes on Division I schools like Oregon State and Pacific Lutheran, and Einhorn has done very well at international meets.

The Clan also competes against Canadian schools and earlier in the spring, Einhorn won the gold medal at the CIS National Wrestling Championships in St. Catharines.

Even prior to that, his list of accomplishments is long. A former Junior National champion (18 to 20-year-olds), he was also the country's juvenile national champion.

In 1998, he finished 14th at the junior world's, wrestling in the 69-kg grouping.

Today he fights in the 74-kg (162-lb) class and at five-foot-eight, relies on the low centre of gravity afforded by his compact stature, his strength and his "explosive" moves to humble his opponents.

Being lower to the ground, he can "shoot to their legs more effectively" and take them down, he said.

Einhorn turned to wrestling at the suggestion of his teachers and he trained mostly at the Metro Toronto Wrestling Club. Earlier, he'd dabbled in judo and when his friends took up wrestling, Einhorn joined them even though at the time he didn't know the Olympic version from the WWF.

He excelled pretty quickly and when he was only 16, he joined the Canadian team at the Maccabiah Games in Israel, fighting in the 69-kg freestyle category against much older athletes. He finished fourth, eventually losing to a onetime NCAA champ who won the gold.

Towards the end of his high school days, he was recruited by U.S. and Canadian colleges. He chose Simon Fraser for its reputations both scholastically and in wrestling. He thrives on the three to four hours he puts in every day in the gym and he looks forward to the weekend meets.

"I like the competition," he said. "There's always a learning process. It's like chess. You can perfect one move, you can try to take someone down, but they can counter.

"It's a mentally taxing sport. It's mentally tough and it makes you a better person."

Jewish baseball cards available

NEW YORK — A set of Jewish baseball cards is being offered for sale. The 130-player sets, which cost $60 U.S., are said to feature every Jewish major leaguer ever. The cards are available from the American Jewish Historical Society. More information on the cards can be found at www.ajhs.org.

Saudi, Yemeni table tennis players refuse to play Israeli

By Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — Two Arab competitors refused to play against an Israeli at the Table Tennis World Championships in Paris last week.

On Tuesday, Saudi Nabeel Al-Magahwi, ranked 432nd in the world, did not show up at the table to play Israeli Guy Elensky, ranked 360th.

A day earlier, Hani Al-Hammani, ranked 985th, did arrive but refused to play when he learned Elensky's nationality.

"At this rate, I'll win a medal," Elensky quipped. The Israeli team has formally protested to the International Table Tennis Federation, which could throw the Saudi and Yemeni teams out of the tournament.

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FICTION AND POETRY

• ***Madame Proust and the Kosher Kitchen***, by Kate Taylor, Doubleday, HC, $34.95.

This remarkable debut novel, spanning the late 19th and 20th centuries, brilliantly entwines the life stories of three women of different generations.

• ***Would You Hide Me?***, by J.J. Steinfeld, Gaspereau Press, SC, $25.95.

The author of this anthology of stories that focus mainly on the lasting psychological effects of the Holocaust, is a master short-story writer, in company with contemporary Canadian literary giants. (J.J. Steinfeld will launch this new work, his 10th book of fiction, at Israel's, 897 Eglinton Ave. W., on Monday, June 2, 8 p.m. The public is welcome.)

Recommended Reading

• ***Catch As Catch Can***, by Joseph Heller, Simon & Schuster, HC, $39.50.

A wonderful collection of writings by the late, renowned author. Included are previously published and previously unpublished stories, a short play and several non-fiction pieces, mostly related to the famous *Catch 22*.

NON-FICTION

• ***Dangers of a Palestinian State***, edited by Raphael Israeli, Gefen Publishing, SC, $15.95.

This important collection of essays by leading Israeli political analysts demonstrates the extreme menace to Israel and to the world that would be posed by a Palestinian state alongside Israel west of the Jordan River.

• ***Memories of a Giant***, edited by Michael A. Bierman, Urim Publications HC $44.95

Published in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the passing of one of the greatest Torah giants and thinkers of the 20th century, this volume is the first publication of the Rabbi Soloveitchik Library under the auspices of the Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik Institute. Approximately half of the 42 eulogies in this collection are in print for the first time. From these writings by the most prominent Torah personalities, it becomes evident that the beloved Rav, famous as a great scholar and leader, was a man of integrity and deep compassion.

• ***Lessons for Dylan***, by Joel Siegel, PublicAffairs, HC, $38.95.

A heartwarming, beautiful gift from father to son. The author, an award-winning film critic who was diagnosed with cancer before the birth of his child, shares his fascinating, rich life, his heritage and his values. Written with honesty, humour and love.

• ***Jewish Weddings***, by Rita Milos Brownstein, Simon & Schuster, HC, $47.50.

This beautifully illustrated coffee-table book includes valuable information for organizing the perfect wedding. It provides explanations of the laws, traditions and rituals of the Jewish wedding, as well as a planning guide, creative ideas to enhance the event, delicious recipes for engagement parties and Sheva Brachot (the week of festive meals following the wedding), and even a few stories of couples who describe their courtships.

• ***The Enemy At His Pleasure: A Journey Through the Jewish Pale of Settlement During World War I***, by S. Ansky, Metropolitan Books, HC, $44.95.

In his struggle to help the unfortunate Jews caught between the armies of Russia, Germany and the Austrian Empire, Ansky witnesses the height of cruelty and evil. Originally published in 1925 following the passing of the famous Yiddish writer, this important documentation has been edited and translated by award-winning translator Joachim Neugroschel.

YOUTH

• ***When Everybody Wore a Hat***, by Willaim Steig, HarperCollins, HC, $26.95.

The Bronx-born author and illustrator, now in his 90s, affectionately tells the young reader about life "almost 100 years ago" when a movie cost five cents, people listened to music on wind-up phonographs and horses were the main mode of transportation. And, of course, everybody wore a hat. Ages 4-8.

• ***Classic Jewish Tales***, retold and illustrated by David Sokoloff, S.P.I. Books, SC, $12.95.

This wonderful introduction to Jewish literature includes tales adapted from Jewish folklore, the Talmud and chassidic tradition. Ages 5-10.

Recommended Reading is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

Asian Pear & Watercress Salad w/Sesame Dressing

Dressing:
1 piece sliced peeled fresh ginger (1/2" thick)
1/4 cup smooth peanut butter
3 tblsps. sesame oil
1/4 cup rice vinegar
1/2 tblsp. sugar
2 tblsps. water
1 tsp. chili paste with garlic
1/2 tsp. salt

Salad:
1 large Asian pear
2 bunches watercress
1 carrot, finely shredded

Dressing: Blend all dressing ingredients in a blender until smooth.
Salad: Peel pear and cut into 1/4" thick julienne slices, then transfer to a bowl.
Combine watercress and pear in a bowl, then season with salt and pepper and toss gently. Divide among plates, then drizzle with some dressing and sprinkle with grated carrot. Makes 4 servings.

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RANGES

DearKarilani

Dear Karilani,

I am trying to decide which university to attend. I have plenty of information about the academics at the universities I am considering. However, I have been hearing a lot about anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism on campuses and am wondering whether I should be taking this into consideration. I do not want to base my decision solely on this factor, as academics are important to me, but I am afraid of being in a situation where I have to face anti-Semitism daily. How can I get information on which universities are the most Jewish-friendly?

Fearful

Dear Fearful,

The fact that you are thinking about this issue shows it is something you should look into. I get the feeling that if you make a mistake and choose to go to a school that has a lot of anti-Semitism, you will be extremely unhappy. You don't have to worry about compromising the academic side of the university experience to accommodate your desire for a Jewish-friendly environment, because many schools are both academically excellent and Jewish-friendly.

Try to find Jewish students at each school you are considering and speak to them. It is best if the students are people you know at least a little bit, because they are likely to be more honest than someone you have never met before. However, if you don't know anyone at a particular school, ask your friends if they do. If you're really stuck, find out about where graduates from your school have gone and try to meet with one of them.

Ask what they have noticed about the general attitude toward Jews at their university. Find out whether they are involved in Jewish activities and organizations such as Hillel, because someone who is involved will probably be more interested and aware of what is really going on. Take a look at the Hillel Web site for each university – does it look like there are a lot of people involved? That's a good sign.

Most importantly, be as honest as you can be with yourself. If there is a university that looks good, but you get the feeling that anti-Semitism is going to be a problem, try to look for a similar academic program elsewhere. You don't want to spend four years defending yourself instead of studying.

About Teens

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

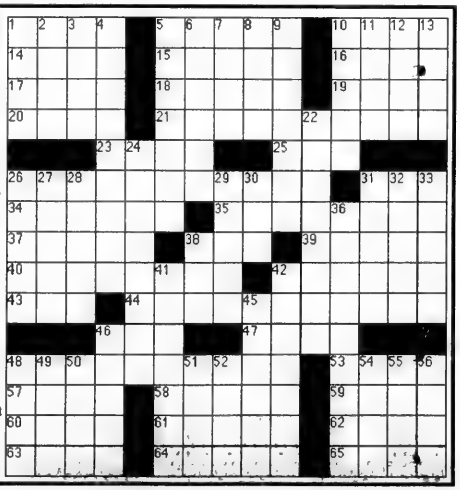
(Answers to the crossword are on page 34.)

The Canadian Jewish news

Map of Israel
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann/
Legacy Crosswords

Across
1. Appear in profuse numbers
5. Daub
10. Mound, heap
14. Palo ____
15. Father, in ancient Rome
16. Crowd expression
17. They rejoiced, in Hebrew
18. Robert Burns? (number, nationality)
19. "____ boy!"
20. Long-term or master
21. North coastal city et al
23. Side, in Hebrew
25. Curvy letter
26. Haifa's Heights
31. ___-cafe
34. Stage dir. for Hamlet?
35. Sailor __ make an apt pair (3 words)
37. British Prime Minister
38. Italian architect, Domus editor Ponti
39. Tive starter makes this a story
40. "Don't forget _____!" (2 words to a mover's assistant about the inclines)
42. Annex or arithmetic (abbrev.)
43. Yo! Hello, there!
44. Peak on which Saul and Jonathan were defeated (c. 1011 BCE)
46. Mons or gangs follower
47. Hebrew girl's name meaning "joy"
48. Tsipori-Nazareth area (first word in English, second in Hebrew)
53. Bird's abode
57. Hebrew for flock
58. Sharp, intense
59. Shower affection on
60. Frigid ending
61. These tell you how to play
62. Having privileged information
63. Jewish pop magazine
64. Stem aside
65. Compass points

Down
1. Water-repellent covering
2. This airline takes us there
3. Volcano
4. Man of the peaks, for short
5. What Popeye thrived on
6. Last-stand mountain
7. Do art on copper or glass
8. Polynesian word for love, also a resort beach on a Cook Islands atoll
9. What the JNF did where forests died out
10. Davens, entreats
11. Teensy-weensy bit
12. Carpenter's thin wood
13. Pitchers' stats
22. "Our knowledge is a little ___ __ a great ocean of nonknowledge." - Isaac Bashevis Singer
24. Decorative ribbon, nice in the wind
26. Irish county, birthplace of Duke of Wellington and Jonathan Swift
27. __ __ up-and-up
28. Stan ____, PGA winner of 1989 Chattanooga Classic
29. Dried grape, for short
30. L-P connector
31. "What! ____!" Adam may have said, checking his side, when Eve appeared
32. To check for distant horsemen, you put your ___ __ the ground
33. Rastislav ____, Washington Capitals NHL goalie
36. Bumpy jet touch-down (2 words, a bit slurred)
38. Chip on video card, for graphics processing
41. Fata _____, King Arthur's sister
42. Most spry
45. More hackneyed
46. Most areas of Israel have this tree-like shrub, a source of turpentine (abbrev.)
48. This matriarch's son settled lands north of Judah
49. Garfield's pal
50. Past of are
51. Sede-Ya____, Moshav given a patriarch's name
52. Late Biblical musical instrument
54. Very long periods
55. Stash away
56. Ment starter



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SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON PROSTATE CANCER

You are cordially invited to join us in a Tribute to

Dr. John Trachtenberg

Fleck/Tanenbaum Chair in Prostatic Diseases, Director, Prostate Centre, Princess Margaret Hospital
Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003

Toronto

See insert for exciting details!

Princess Margaret Hospital

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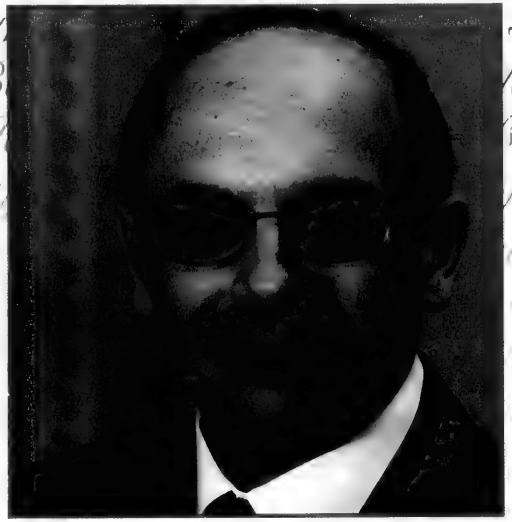

SHEDDING NEW LIGHT ON PROSTATE CANCER

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2003

Toronto

Princess Margaret Hospital
University Health Network

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DR. JOHN TRACHTENBERG

Fleck/Tanenbaum Chair in Prostatic Diseases
Director, Prostate Centre, Princess Margaret Hospital
Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto

Dr. John Trachtenberg was born in Montreal in 1949 and received his B.Sc., M.D. & C.M. from McGill University in 1973. He completed his urologic residency at McGill University and then a fellowship in prostatic disease at Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Trachtenberg is currently Professor of Surgery and Medical Imaging at the University of Toronto. He holds the prestigious Fleck/Tanenbaum Chair in Prostatic Diseases at the University of Toronto and University Health Network. He is the Director of the Prostate Centre at the Princess Margaret Hospital of the University Health Network and the Director of Prostate Services at the Murray Koffler Urologic Wellness Centre at the Mount Sinai Hospital. He acts as a consultant to the Urology Department at several other hospitals, as well as the Ontario Cancer Foundation. Dr. Trachtenberg has published numerous papers and books, and sits on many hospital, university and scientific committees throughout North America and Europe.

His accomplishments have earned him 18 awards, including Man of the Year in Sciences and Medicine from the Canadian Prostate Cancer Research Fund.

He has developed novel, minimally invasive surgical techniques for the treatment of prostate cancer and was instrumental in the development of the prostate specific Clinical Research Program at the Princess Margaret Hospital. He is currently collaborating with Weizmann scientists, Professor Avigdor Scherz and Professor Yoram Salomon, in conducting clinical trials on a prostate cancer treatment developed at the Weizmann Institute of Science.

GUEST SPEAKER

STUART E. EIZENSTAT

Chairman International Board of Governors
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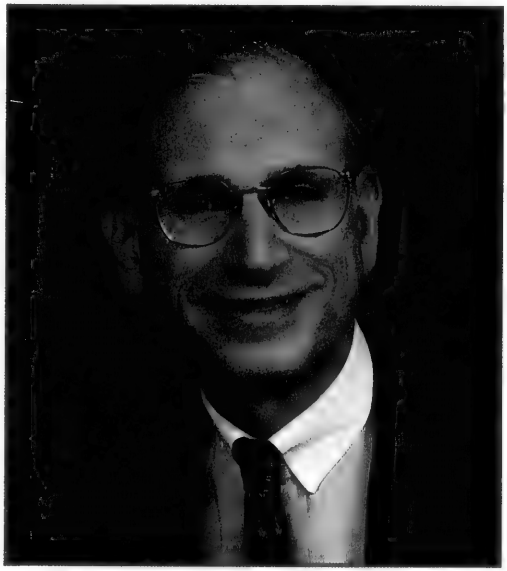


Stuart Eizenstat has been directing his considerable talents to public service roles for over 35 years. He has served in several positions in the administrations of United States Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Carter, Clinton and George W. Bush.

During the Clinton presidency, Eizenstat served variously as U.S. Ambassador to the European Union; Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Under Secretary of State for Economic, Business and Agricultural Affairs; and Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

As Special Envoy of the State Department for Property Restitution in Central and Eastern Europe and as Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Holocaust Issues, he helped secure the return of thousands of properties to the Jewish communities of newly democratic Eastern Europe. Through his efforts, Nazi-looted art was returned to its rightful owners from over 40 nations. He also negotiated a $5 billion settlement for Holocaust survivors with Swiss, German, Austrian and French banks and authorities.

In order to complete the implementation of several of his agreements, Eizenstat was asked by the Bush administration to stay on as Special Advisor to the State Department – a role he filled on an unpaid basis for six months.

Eizenstat now heads the international practice of the Washington-based law firm Covington & Burling.

Eizenstat has written a well reviewed book on his Holocaust negotiations, *Imperfect Justice: Looted Assets, Slave Labor, and the Unfinished Business of World War II.*

Associated with the Weizmann Institute of Science on local, national and international levels for many years, Eizenstat became Chairman of the International Board of Governors of the Institute in 2002.

In his inaugural address he stated, "We face new challenges but even greater opportunities because of the extraordinary contributions being made by Weizmann to Israel and the world. It is our responsibility to fulfil the dream of the founders of the Weizmann Institute: that this Institute would be at the centre of a peaceful Middle East, supplying scientific knowledge and know-how to improve the lives of the people of Israel, their Palestinian and Arab neighbours, and the world at large. We shall continue the work so many before us have done to convert their dream into reality."

Stuart E. Eizenstat will be the guest speaker on June 19 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto when Weizmann Canada and the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation honour Dr. John Trachtenberg.

Greetings on behalf of my Co-Chairs, our Honourary Patrons and the Tribute Committee.

I was honoured to have been asked to serve as Gala Chair and work with a dedicated team of talented volunteers and professionals in support of two outstanding institutions. The fruits of our labours and the generosity of many will be applied toward the establishment of a new research chair at the Weizmann Institute of Science and will help fund research and treatment initiatives at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Like many men and their families, I have a personal reason for wanting to honour John and support his work. I am not only an admirer of his, but a patient as well. I share this distinction with two of my Co-Chairs – Gerry Halbert and Leo Goldhar. With compassion and honesty, John has treated literally thousands of men with prostate cancer. Each patient was seen as an individual human being, not a disease, and their families were involved members of the treatment team.

So many of us owe a deep debt of gratitude, and sometimes our lives, to John and those with whom he works. This tribute to John comes not just from those involved, but from all his patients on whose behalf I wish to give my deepest thanks for his skills and his humanity.

Recognition must go as well to the dedicated healthcare professionals at The Prostate Centre, of which John serves as its first Chair.

The renowned American jurist, Oliver Wendall Holmes, wrote that the mind "once stretched, never goes back to its original dimensions." I believe the same can be said for one's heart. The fact that so many from different backgrounds have come together to honour John is proof of this.

Sincerely,

Ronald Appleby, Q.C.
Gala Chair

It is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Dr. John Trachtenberg.

Dr. John Trachtenberg, holder of the Fleck/Tanenbaum Chair in Prostatic Diseases and Director of the Prostate Centre, Princess Margaret Hospital, University Health Network, is deeply involved in researching and implementing alternative approaches to the treatment of cancer. By studying the effects of alternative treatments Dr. Trachtenberg and his colleagues positively impact the entire field of care for patients with cancer. Dr. Trachtenberg's devotion to investigating prostate cancer has a broad impact and his discoveries assist other specialists in tailoring treatments for all varieties of cancer.

As a member of the Prostate Cancer Alliance of Canada, Dr. Trachtenberg researches various methods of treating cancer, including hormone treatment, surgery and adjuvant therapy, or the use of additional forms of treatment to augment surgical therapy.

John Trachtenberg is an outstanding surgeon, researcher and leader. It is fitting that he is being honoured by The Canadian Society for The Weizmann Institute of Science.

On behalf of all his colleagues at University Health Network, congratulations.

Sincerely,

Tom Closson
President & Chief Executive Officer
University Health Network

As Chairman of The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science, and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I am very pleased to invite you to what, to my mind, will truly be an historic event.

Historic as it marks the first time that Weizmann Canada partners with The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation – a superb organization supporting a truly world-class hospital with which we are proud to be associated.

Historic as it will also recognize the first time that the Weizmann Institute and Princess Margaret Hospital have collaborated in a program of research and clinical trials – especially one that holds so much promise.

Historic because we will all come together to honour Dr. John Trachtenberg. John is as rightfully worthy of our esteem for his clinical expertise and dedication as he is for his humanity. I can personally think of no one more richly deserving of the honour we will bestow upon him.

Finally and most important, it is my hope and prayer that the evening will be an historic event because future generations will look back and acknowledge that on that night, in Toronto, two communities came together to support groundbreaking work that became the standard in the successful treatment of prostate and other cancers.

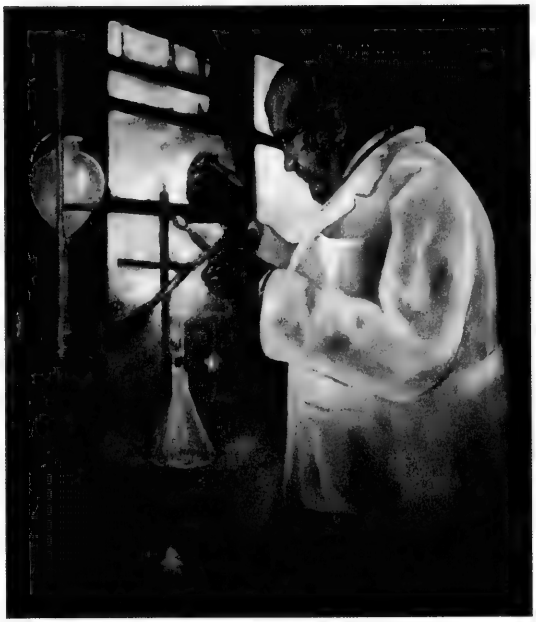
Sincerely,

H. Thomas Beck, C.M., O.Ont.
Chairman
The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science

THE WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Science for the Benefit of Humanity

Located in Rehovot, Israel, the Weizmann Institute of Science is one of the top-ranking multidisciplinary research institutions in the world. Noted for its wide-ranging exploration of the sciences and technology, the Institute gathers together 2,500 scientists from more than 32 countries, technicians and research students devoted to adventuring into the unknown. In their labs, located in a landscaped campus environment, they share a vision: To better understand nature and our place within it.



Doctor Chaim Weizmann

Inquisitiveness is their predominant trait. It is this curiosity that propelled homo sapiens up the slope of evolution. It is this driving curiousity that sees man and woman through their greatest discoveries. It is the force which pushed earliest civilization to develop agriculture, to learn how to build shelter, to create the written word, to harness electricity to the wagon of industry and commerce, to contemplate far-off galaxies, to find the cure for disease, to form new materials, and to decipher the genetic code stamped on all living things, be they plant or animal.

The desire to continue in this forward stride is the force behind every Institute scientist's efforts to penetrate realms formerly incomprehensible to humankind. And what dwells in these domains? The unknown. The only certainty: revelation encountered along their path.

THE BEGINNING

The present-day campus of more than 50 major buildings grew out of the modest Daniel Sieff Research Institute founded in 1934 by Israel and Rebecca Sieff in memory of their son. The driving force behind its establishment was the Institute's first president, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, a noted chemist who later became the first president of Israel.

On November 2, 1949, with the agreement of the Sieff family, the Institute was renamed and formally dedicated as the Weizmann Institute of Science.

A BROAD SCOPE

Today's Institute comprises 18 departments organized into five faculties: Biology, Biophysics-Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematical Sciences, as well as the Feinberg Graduate School.

The Institute has also established a series of interdisciplinary research centers to promote the wide-ranging collaboration characteristic of today's frontier fields.

A technology transfer arm, Yeda Research and

Development Co. Ltd., promotes the commercial development of Institute research.

A Record of Firsts

In a country driven by a pioneering spirit, the Weizmann Institute has forged ahead as a pioneer on the local science scene.

The Institute was the first to introduce cancer research in Israel, to design and build a computer, to establish a nuclear physics department, a research accelerator for the study of atomic nuclei, an academically linked office for technology transfer, and a science-based industrial park. Recent pioneering projects include the nation's first – and so far only – submicron research facility for sophisticated electronic component development, and an advanced solar energy research complex, one of only a handful in the world. The Institute has been – and continues to be – a pioneer in science education.

Closing in on Cancer

Much of all Weizmann Institute research is aimed, in one way or another, at conquering cancer.

The multipronged attack encompasses studies in cell differentiation, growth regulation, genetics, molecular therapeutics and diagnostic approaches. Geneticists, biophysicists, immunologists and cell biologists collaborate in this interdisciplinary effort.

It was just such an interdisciplinary effort that brought Professors Avigdor Scherz of the Institute's Plant Sciences Department and Yoram Salomon of the Biological Regulation Department to collaborate on the development of the experimental drug Tookad.

Among other seminal achievements of Weizmann scientists is the identification of the genetic origins of some types of leukemia as well as the discovery of genes that induce or suppress malignancies. Institute scientists also were among the first to demonstrate that cancer development is a multistage process and that certain cancerous cells can be made to revert to normal.

Today's research includes magnetic resonance spectroscopy to non-invasively detect and help treat breast cancer, photodynamic therapy for attacking melanomas, prostate and other cancers, development of a lung cancer vaccine, a bone marrow transplant technique for treating leukemia, as well as projects bearing on ovarian cancer and brain tumors.

Canadian Center for the Energies and Applied Research

Harnessing the Sun

The challenge of harnessing inexhaustible, pollution-free solar power remains a top priority in sun-drenched, resource-poor Israel.

The Weizmann Institute is equipped with one of the most advanced solar research facilities in the world, enabling Institute experts to pursue the development of new cost-efficient ways to harness, store and transport the sun's energy. Indeed, the Canadian Institute for the Energies and Applied Sciences, including The Beck Complex, is one of the campus's most prominent structures.

Current projects reflect ambitious goals: collecting sunlight in bright, arid regions and piping it as energy-rich gas to energy-consuming regions; producing hydrogen from water for use as a clean fuel; creating solar-pumped lasers with significant potential in satellite communications; building solar-heated gas turbines to generate electric power; and developing sophisticated solar cells.

Inside the Atom, Out in Space

Weizmann Institute physicists are part of the world-wide quest to unravel the secrets of our physical world. Institute physicists first proposed the existence of an elementary particle called the top quark and contributed to the identification of another particle called a gluon.

Teaming up with colleagues from around the world, they are conducting advanced experiments at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Geneva and at the DESY Electron Synchrotron Laboratory in Hamburg. Others are studying the mysterious origins of cosmic rays or harnessing lasers for a multitude of powerful new uses.

In the new field of submicron research, Weizmann physicists are investigating semiconductors in the hope of under-

standing the role of quantum mechanics in large objects. They are growing crystals in layers no more than a few atoms thick and hold the world record for purity of gallium arsenide crystals, which may prove essential for a new type of electronics based on quantum mechanics. Research in this field will result in stunningly smaller and faster computer chips for tomorrow's advanced electronics industry.

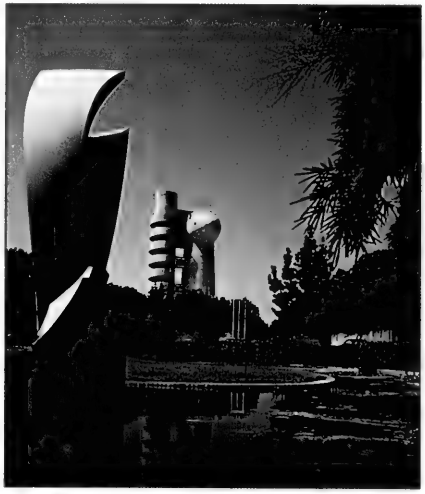
Atomic and sub-atomic particle research at the Institute is undertaken at the Koffler Accelerator at the Canadian Center of Nuclear Physics – also one of the most prominent structures on the campus.

Across the Life Span

Weizmann Institute biomedical research embraces the entire human life span, from prenatal problems to the infirmities of old age. Amniocentesis, now widely used to diagnose problems in the fetus, grew out of research originally carried out at the Institute.

Continuing Institute studies are leading to a greater understanding of embryonic development, low birth weight, Down syndrome, muscular dystrophy and lissencephaly.

The Bioinformatics Unit on campus is participating in the international Human Genome Project to decipher the 3 billion "letters" of the human genetic code.



A view of the Koffler Accelerator of the Canada Center of Nuclear Physics

Institute researchers are also developing treatments for auto-immune diseases, including lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and juvenile diabetes.

And two new substances for the treatment of multiple sclerosis have originated recently from Institute research. Other Institute-developed drugs are helping to arrest hepatitis B, a widespread viral disease.

The last word in biomedical research – physicists using their different perspective and tools to uncover the roots of biological phenomena – can be witnessed at the Weizmann Institute. It is hoped that this new approach will lead to drugs with increased precision and efficiency.

Inside the Brain

Basic research is elucidating brain structure and function and neurological disease. A brain tissue communication receptor suspected of involvement in both Alzheimer's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease) has been isolated at the Institute.

An effective treatment of spinal and optic nerve injuries may ultimately result from successful experiments with nerve regeneration.

Institute scientists developed new brain imaging techniques which have for the first time made it possible to visualize the activity of millions of interconnected groups of neurons, enabling researchers to literally observe brain function with unprecedented resolution in time and space.

Discoveries revealing how the brain stores memories of taste and flavor may one day help overcome appetite disorders and lead to the development of medications to strengthen memory.

Higher Nutrition, Lower Pollution

Weizmann Institute plant biologists are working on improving food crops while reducing the use of chemical fertilizers and herbicides.

Hybrid cucumber varieties with high resistance to viral disease have been developed at the Institute, as have the world's first hybrid melons based on specially bred parent plants.

Together with experts from Egypt and the United States, an Institute team is fighting devastating parasitic weeds that threaten staple crops in the Middle East and Africa, while other Institute plant specialists are using genes from wild wheat native to the Fertile Crescent to achieve dramatic improvements in the nutritional value of cultivated wheat.

Taking a global view, an Institute group is assessing the effect of the damaged ozone layer on the essential process of photosynthesis.

Computer Pioneers

Back in 1954, Weizmann mathematicians built WEIZAC, the first computer in Israel and one of the first computers in the world.

Accomplishments of the present generation include the development of special means to prevent unauthorized

access to confidential computer data and commercial satellite TV and the formulation of new high-volume fiber-optic communications methods.

Innovative techniques for studying human arm motions are influencing the design of artificial limbs, advancing our understanding of motor control diseases, and aiding in the design of controlled motion in robots.

Institute software facilitates the development of sophisticated systems such as those used in aircraft, space shuttles and nuclear power stations.

Weizmann scientists have twice won the prestigious A.M. Turing Award, regarded in academic circles as the "Nobel Prize" of computer science.

New Products and Processes

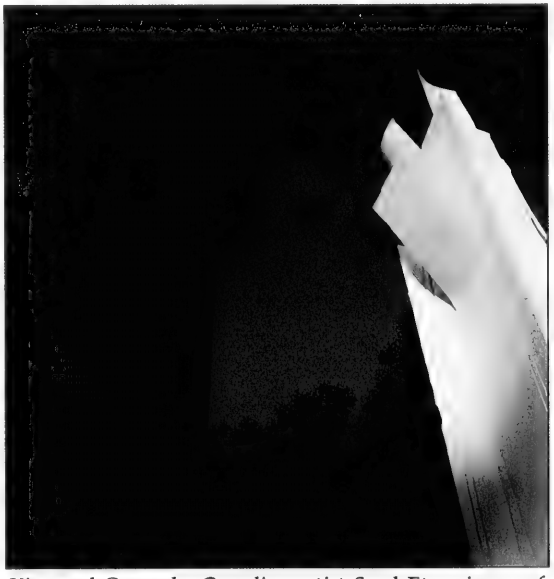
Chemistry was the first discipline at the Weizmann Institute. Weizmann chemists continue to make their mark in areas ranging from the elucidation of such basic structures of life as that of the ribosome (the body's protein factory) to the development of innovative industrial processes.

Among the everyday products and processes emerging from Weizmann labs are enzymes tied to synthetic resins that aid in the manufacture of synthetic antibiotics, corn syrup and other materials.

Brittle ceramic superconductors have been endowed with metal-like ductility, thus increasing the possibility of using them as frictionless ballbearings. Inorg-anic materials with soccerball-like structures, first identified at the Institute, may one day serve as novel solid lubricants.

Iron-binding, tailor-made organic molecules have been shown to hold potential as minute computer switches.

The familiar photochromic materials that reversibly darken when exposed to sunlight are the result of a Weizmann Institute discovery many years ago. A new development may allow relatively heavy spectacle glass to be replaced by lightweight, plastic lenses with a self-tinting coating.



King and Queen by Canadian artist Sorel Etrog is one of many sculptures that adorn the Weizmann campus

Training for Research

The Weizmann Institute's Feinberg Graduate School produces graduates uniquely qualified for top research positions in academia, medicine and industry.

In fact, one-third of Israel's Ph.D.s in the natural sciences and mathematics received their training at the Feinberg Graduate School. The highly selective graduate school also hosts students from 25 countries, who constitute some 15% of the student body.

The School is distinguished by its dual Israeli-American accreditation, its challenging research-intensive program, and its policy of covering the tuition and living expenses of its students.

English is the language of instruction. One of the school's most noteworthy features is its hands-on approach with emphasis on immersion in current research and laboratory work.

Supporting Committees

Gifts made by generous friends from around the world provide the Weizmann Institute with a significant part of its annual operating budget, and nearly all of its development resources. Donor support is the lifeblood of the Institute's most innovative endeavours on the far frontiers of science.

A network of well-established international committees worldwide builds awareness of the Institute and involves individual donors in support of its scientific projects.

The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science (Weizmann Canada) is a critical component of this network of support.

For more information on the Weizmann Institute of Science go to www.weizmann.ac.il.

PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL

As a member of the University Health Network and affiliated with the University of Toronto, Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH) has amassed an international reputation as a global leader in the fight against cancer. As one of the top comprehensive cancer treatment centres in the world, Princess Margaret Hospital and its research arm, the Ontario Cancer Institute, is also the only facility in Canada devoted exclusively to cancer research, treatment, education and compassionate patient care.

Established in 1952 by an Act of the Ontario Legislature, the Ontario Cancer Institute was officially opened by Her Royal Highness, Princess Margaret, on May 1, 1958. Named in her honour, the 87-bed facility was then located at 500 Sherbourne Street, Toronto.

It was on November 13, 1995, that Princess Margaret Hospital moved to its current location at 610 University Avenue, into the heart of Canada's greatest concentration of teaching and research hospitals.

HRH Princess Margaret was again on hand to officially reopen the hospital on July 12, 1996.

With the passing of the provincial Toronto Hospital Act on Jan 1, 1998, all oncology services at both Princess Margaret Hospital and Toronto General Hospital were merged as part of the province's health services restructuring initiative. In order to accommodate the new legislation, staff from both hospitals prepared to relocate all cancer services over to PMH. The first step involved renovating PMH to ensure that these services could be properly accommodated so that a seamless transition could take effect.

With the help of The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, a $15 million renovation program was completed in the fall of 1998, creating several new cancer treatment centres, within the hospital, for breast, prostate, head & neck, and brain tumours, as well as housing a world-class surgical oncology program.

The now 800,000 square-foot building accommodates 220 patient beds, 160,000 square-feet of research space, and 17 radiation treatment

machines in special concrete bunkers below ground. With the large number of radiation treatment machines, PMH is the largest radiation treatment centre in Canada and one of the largest treatment facilities in the world. As such, PMH can serve 10,000 new patients a year and treats approximately 190,000 outpatients annually for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.

Clinical and research staff at PMH represent many of the world's leading experts in oncology, with specialties including surgical oncology, bone marrow transplantation, chemotherapy, radiation oncology, psychosocial oncology, hematology, medical imaging and radiation therapy.

Princess Margaret Hospital's international reputation for excellence stems in part from its history of pioneering discovery. The Hemitron, a machine used to deliver full and half-body radiation, was designed and developed at PMH. The first research to determine that Hodgkin's Disease can be cured by radiation therapy was undertaken at PMH, boosting the disease's cure rate from 25% to 75%, and the world's first ultrasound device capable of producing images of the human eye at microscopic resolution was developed at PMH. The hospital's record of pioneering achievement continues today with the development of new innovative technologies and treatments for cancer, while expanding our scientific knowledge of fundamental biology of cancer cells for the next generation of treatments. PMH ranks among the top centers in the world for bone marrow transplantation, and has achieved a solid international reputation as having some of the longest surviving bone marrow transplant recipients in the world. The hospital's bone marrow transplant unit, established in 1971, was the first in Canada to perform allogenic transplants -- transplants between unrelated donors.

Princess Margaret Hospital Statistics:

- 10,000 new patients/year (approximately)
- 3,550 admissions/year (approximately)
- 130 open beds
- 172,000 clinic visits/year
- 21,200 chemotherapy visits/year
- 122,000 Radiation Therapy fractions/year
- 8,200 Radiation Therapy courses/year
- 271 bone marrow transplants/year
- 1,500 operations/year

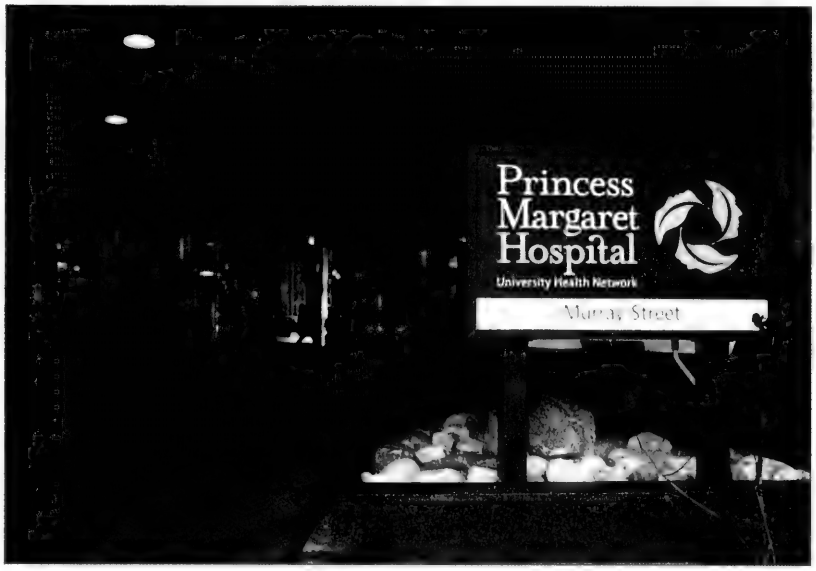
The roof-top garden is a popular place to relax for patients and staff

PMH Firsts

1951: Canada was the first country in the world to develop a radiation source stronger than the x-ray to treat cancer patients. Dr. Harold Johns, scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute (OCI), pioneered the first radiation machine called the "Cobalt-60" used to irradiate tumors. Today, radiation is still a primary treatment for cancer.

1954: Dr. Vera Peters at OCI found that lumpectomy paired with radiation treatment was as effective in treating early stage breast cancer as was mastectomy, prompting the motivation for detecting breast cancer earlier to dominate women's health care.

1958: The Hemitron, a machine used for whole and half-body radiation, was designed and developed at PMH. The hospital's first clinical physics department pioneered the use of computers in radiation therapy planning and developed techniques that have influenced radiation



therapy planning throughout the world.

1971: PMH ranks among the top centers in the world for bone marrow transplantation, and has achieved a solid international reputation as having some of the longest surviving bone marrow transplant recipients in the world. The hospital's bone marrow transplant unit, established in 1971, was the first in Canada to perform allogenic transplants -- transplants between related or unrelated donors, and currently performs about 80 allogenic transplants each year. Bone marrow transplants were made possible in large part because of the work of Dr. Ernest McCulloch and Dr. James Till, senior scientists at PMH. Their discovery of stem cells in bone marrow and the role these cells play in the production of blood has allowed the development of bone marrow transplantation as a method for treating cancer patients.

1984: World's first discovery of the T-cell receptor, widely described as the "Holy Grail" of immunology by Dr. Tak Mak at OCI.

1998: Research team led by Dr. Tak Mak publishes article in Cell, detailing the world's first discovery of the PTEN gene, whose mutations or changes are linked to several cancers including brain, ovarian, breast, prostate, thyroid and skin.

1999: PMH announces one of the world's first comprehensive educational CD Rom series for patients, families and physicians. The CDs feature various cancer sites and translate complex medical information into an easily understandable form for patients using interactive virtual reality, 3-D animation and video clips. This demonstrates PMH's commitment to educating and empowering patients.

2000: Doctors at PMH are first in Canada to use robotic laparascopic technology to perform a radical prostatectomy. The procedure, using a voice activated robotic arm, allows surgeons to remove a cancerous prostate without invasive surgery.

2002: Doctors at PMH are the first in the world to collaborate with the Weizmann Institute in Israel to begin Phase I/II clinical trials for photodynamic therapy of the prostate using TOOKAD, a photosensitive plant derivative developed by Weizmann scientists.

University Health Network's Oncology program is the largest of its kind in Canada. Based at Princess Margaret Hospital, our comprehensive program provides more patient visits and involves more cancer doctors and specialists than any other oncology centre in the country.

Oncology & Blood Disorders Care Areas

- Medical Oncology
- Surgical Oncology
- Radiation Therapy
- Psychosocial Oncology
- Blood Disorders

One Of The Top Comprehensive Cancer Care Centres In The World.

We recognize that coping with cancer is a difficult and sometimes confusing process for patients and families. To help simplify this process, UHN's Oncology Program offers comprehensive care from one main site, with most clinics and services available at our Princess Margaret Hospital location. Patients receive care from a team of surgeons, medical and radiation oncologists, nurses and allied health professionals, while an electronic patient chart records all information relevant to diagnosis and treatment in one place.

The four treatment elements (Medical, Surgical, Radiation and Psychosocial Oncology) may be combined in different ways to treat different "cancer sites":

- Central Nervous System
- Head and Neck
- Lung
- Skin and Sarcoma
- Breast
- Genitourinary (e.g. bladder, prostate)
- Gynaecology (e.g. ovary, cervix, uterus)
- Gastrointestinal (e.g. colon, liver, pancreas)
- Endocrine (e.g. thyroid, pituitary)
- Malignant Haematology (e.g. leukemia, myeloma)
- Lymphoma

PROSTATE CANCER: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

A diagnosis of prostate cancer occurs in approximately 18,200 men in Canada per year – a statistic that makes it the most prevalent cancer occurring in men over the age of 50. Unfortunately, the cause of this disease is unknown - a major hurdle that requires further study to provide a better understanding and form a basis to develop novel treatments.

Unlike some other forms of the disease, prostate cancer can go undetected for years, with no symptoms or signs of any illness. This fact has made prostate cancer one of the more difficult cancers to detect and diagnose in men.

A diagnosis of prostate cancer can have a profound effect on not just the patient, but also on his entire family. The emotional and psychological strain of fighting this disease is often compounded with the physical exhaustion that most patients and their families feel during the course of treatment. Ensuring that there is a sufficient support system and providing emotional support for patients and their families during their diagnosis and treatment is just as important as the actual physical treatment of the disease.

Despite great strides to expand our current understanding of prostate cancer, the best hope to beat the disease remains a combination of prevention, early detection and prompt treatment. Maintaining a well-balanced diet, low in fat and high in fibre may reduce the risk of developing prostate cancer. Furthermore, practicing early detection involves being armed with excellent knowledge regarding prostate disease, recognizing the signs of prostate cancer and routinely seeing a physician.

Discussing the potential benefits and risks of early detection testing with their physicians should be done by all men over 40 years of age. If detected early, the majority of prostate cancer cases are curable.

Researchers around the world, including those of the Weizmann Institute and Princess Margaret Hospital's research arm, the Ontario Cancer Institute, continue to investigate the causes of prostate cancer, assess current treatment methods and develop new treatment protocols. They realize that the hope of one day finding a cure lies in creating a better understanding of the disease.

The Prostate Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital

"A belief in treating the whole individual, not just the disease," is the philosophy behind the Prostate Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital. A specialized centre dedicated to patients who are receiving treatment for prostate diseases, the Prostate Centre combines the elements of patient care, education and research into a comprehensive program that caters to both the medical and psychosocial needs of our patients.

As the largest multidisciplinary prostate clinic in Canada, the focus is on the elements of cancer prevention, cancer diagnosis and cancer treatment. A number of patient education programs are in place to inform at-risk individuals how to modify their lifestyles, and numerous state-of-the-art methods are employed to accurately diagnose prostate cancer. An up-to-date patient resource library, counseling services and volunteers from Man to Man - a prostate cancer support group - also provide for the psychosocial needs of our patients and their families.

A leader in research of prostatic disease, our specialists and researchers work closely to ensure that patients receive the best care possible. A significant focus of the Prostate Centre is on the development of new treatment methods. Currently, clinical researchers, including the Director of the Prostate Centre, Dr. John Trachtenberg, are conducting international and North American trials on a number of new treatments.

One such treatment is intensity modified radiation therapy or IMRT. This new technique allows therapists to deliver higher doses of tumour-killing radiation while sparing healthy surrounding tissue. This method avoids some side effects of radiation while increasing the chances of successful treatment.

Interstitial microwave thermal therapy is another treatment that can cure the disease in patients who fit particular criteria. Interstitial microwave thermal therapy applies microwave energy to the affected area. This minimally invasive procedure uses directed heat to destroy all the cancer cells in the prostate.

Another exciting development is occurring in photodynamic therapy using Tookad, a plant derivative. Photodynamic therapy is the use of drugs that can be activated by light to treat tumour cells. Tookad is a drug that tends to migrate and stay in denser tumour tissues. The drug is "turned on" by infrared light and the otherwise harmless substance, then attacks the cancer cells.

In addition, one treatment that is also showing significant promise is brachytherapy. Brachytherapy is the placement of radioactive seeds within the prostate that are able to deliver high-dose radiation to localized areas. Patients who have undergone this specialized protocol have often shown immediate progress.

Through the continued dedication of its supporters, researchers and clinical staff, the Prostate Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital has established itself as one of the centres at the forefront of medical innovation and compassionate patient care.

For more information about the Prostate Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital, visit www.prostatecanada.net or contact the centre directly at 416-946-2100.

TOOKAD: THE DRUG THAT ALMOST WASN'T

Great science, like great art, often needs a visionary patron in order to come to fruition. Be it a Pope, king, duke or inspired philanthropist, patrons have been vital in order for many of the monumental achievements of humankind to have been painted, sculpted, erected or discovered.

Michelangelo had Pope Julius II; Christopher Columbus had Spanish monarchs Ferdinand and Isabella; and Weizmann scientists Professors Avigdor Scherz and Yoram Salomon had Murray Kofffler and Sharon Zuckerman.

Professor Avigdor Scherz and Doctor John Trachtenberg

Working in the Department of Plant Sciences at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Prof. Scherz was confronted with cancer in the very close family and became obsessed with finding the means to defeat it. Using, the plant-based elements which he knew so well from his studies of photosynthesis, he discovered, synthesized and modified bacteriochlorophylls into new entities that enable controlled destruction of abnormal tissues. Along with Prof. Yoram Salomon of the Department of Biological Regulation they turned these new molecular entities into spearheads in the fight against cancer.

When injected into the body, the new molecules, naturally migrate to the blood vessels supporting dense tumour tissues. They stay in the circulating blood for about an hour. Within this period of time, if activated by light (in the near infra-red domain), the otherwise harmless molecules attack the tumor blood vessels, cutting off the tumour's nutrients and oxygen supply.

On paper, and in the lab, the new drug seemed promising for breast and melanoma as well as other cancers where the tumours are either readily accessible to a fiberoptic light guide or are not so deep in the body's tissues that the light

waves cannot sufficiently penetrate.

In reality, a great deal of additional research and development were still required before these novel drugs could be used in critical clinical trials, but funding for these was very tight. Further opportunities for a full pharmaceutical development might have to be abandoned.

This is where the role of the patron as enlightened philanthropist comes in.

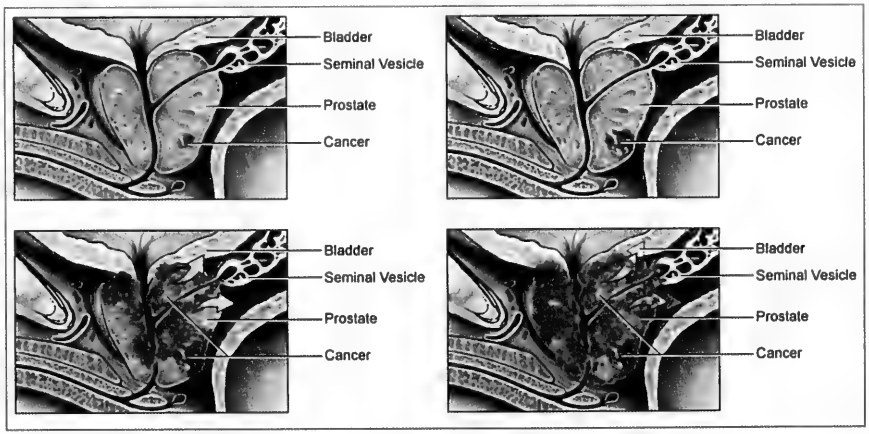
In 1996, Weizmann Canada President, Sharon Zuckerman, was leading a mission to the Weizmann Institute and met with Profs. Scherz and Salomon. She was extremely fascinated to learn of their research and dismayed that further research was imperiled due to funding constraints. Of particular interest was that the new bacteriochlorophyll compounds seemed most promising as a treatment of melanoma – generally referred to as skin cancer.

This struck a solemn chord with Sharon as her brother had died of the disease.

After consulting with Weizmann officials, Sharon decided to make a substantial donation in her brother's memory to be directed specifically to the continuation of the two scientists' work.

Research of the new drugs family continued to the point where industrial oriented research aimed at bringing it into pharmaceutically defined composites became imminent and, at this point, STEBA–BIOTECH a Netherlands based company in collaboration with Negma-Lerads, a French based pharmaceutical company, entered the picture. Motivated by the quest of the company owners to seek for cure to cancer, an intensive period of research and development on both the Weizmann and Company sides has started. Within two years, TOOKAD, a new and well-defined pharmaceutical composition was created from bacteriochlorophyll. Shortly after, it was ready to go into first clinical trials.

At this time, the Company and Weizmann teams discussed possible therapeutic avenues and sites that posses the know-how for such performance. The Canadian Institute for Biomedical Research headed by Prof. Brian Wilson where Avigdor Scherz had spent a short sabbatical and the Prostate Cancer Center at the Princess Margaret Hospital headed by Prof. John Trachtenberg, were definitely at the top of the list. On that point of time and development, Murray Koffler, founding President of Weizmann Canada and former Chair of the Institute's International Board of Governors introduced Prof. Scherz to Prof. John Trachtenberg. The Company teams for international drug development considered the advice of the three men of science and quickly saw the possibilities of using Tookad in vascular targeting photodynamic therapy of prostate cancer and set the two institutions – Weizmann and Princess Margaret – on a course culminating in the current Phase I/II clinical trials being conducted in Toronto and Montreal.



The spread of prostate cancer can be depicted in four stages

There is still much work to be done and many hurdles – often financial ones – to overcome, but Tookad and its currently "cooked" successors seem to be a charmed drug, destined to have its full potential discovered and used the world over.

The Daniel Sieff Research Institute was founded in 1934

The original entrance of the Princess Margaret Hospital now leads to the Prostate Centre

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE RESEARCH

AREAS THAT WEIZMANN RESEARCH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INCLUDE:

- The development of the drug Copaxone, approved for the treatment of **multiple sclerosis**
- The development of a **T-Cell vaccination** which shows promise against auto-immune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile diabetes, multiple sclerosis, lupus and myasthenia gravis
- Formulating **"synthetic" vaccines,** widely accepted by the pharmaceutical industry today.
- The conversion of malignant cells to benign cells in laboratory animals
- A **noninvasive diagnostic procedure** enabling oncologists to distinguish between malignant and benign tumors.
- A new procedure enabling bone marrow transplants from non-compatible donors used to save the lives of leukemia patients.
- Pioneering prenatal diagnosis which uses cells present in the fluid surrounding the fetus, making possible the clinical application of **amniocentesis** to humans.
- Demonstration that **cancer** is a **multi-stage process,** explaining why it often takes decades for malignancies to develop.
- A new kind of light-induced therapy for treating **prostate and other malignancies,** currently in clinical trials in Canada.
- Developing a production technology for **interferon-beta,** the natural antiviral agent, for use in treating a range of viral infections including shingles, genital warts and herpes as well as certain types of cancer.
- Genetically engineering an organism that produces the human enzyme SOD, used to prevent lung damage called **bronchopulmonary dysplasia,** which is common in premature infants
- Shedding new light on **female infertility** and advancing the development of more effective contraceptive drugs.
- Developing a new method that will result in **semi-conductor** chips vastly more compact than those available today, and many times faster.
- Discovering the correlation between severe, life-threatening attacks of **asthma in children** and sharp fluctuation in temperature accompanied by humidity
- Superior **solar energy collectors** used commercially for heating water around the world.
- Developing high-protein wheats with nearly **twice the protein** content of the standard varieties.

ADDITIONAL AREAS NOW BEING INVESTIGATED:

- Scientists at the Institute's solar tower – one of the most advanced installations of its kind in the world – are now experimenting with a technique for converting solar energy into a gaseous fuel which can be stored and transported over long distances.
- The possibility of preventing the spread of cancer by an innovative immune method is being investigated.
- An original approach to nerve regeneration has been shown to work in experimental animals and is being tested in humans.

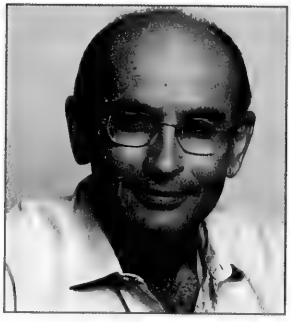
"If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants."

SIR ISAAC NEWTON

Like Newton, John Trachtenberg is the first to admit that his work with Tookad photodynamic therapy would not be possible without the pioneering efforts of colleagues at Princess Margaret Hospital and the Weizmann Institute. Professors Avigdor Scherz and Yoram Salomon of Weizmann and Dr. Brian Wilson at Princess Margaret, among many others, have been instrumental in bring the clinical trials to where they are today.

PROFESSOR AVIGDOR SCHERZ, PH.D.

Department of Plant Sciences
Weizmann Institute of Science



Receiving his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Prof. Scherz conducted his postdoctoral research at the Universities of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Washington in Seattle, where, introduced to primary reactions in photosynthesis, he developed a novel approach to clarifying and mimicking the way the photosynthetic apparatus tunes itself to prevailing light conditions. On his return to Israel, Prof. Scherz joined the Weizmann Institute.

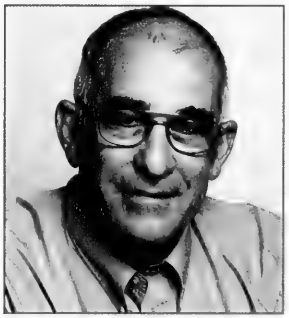
Prof. Scherz currently directs the Avron-Wilstatter Minerva Center for Research in Photosynthesis. In 1989, he received the Somech Sachs Memorial Award for his research into the optical spectroscopic qualities of photosynthetic pigments.

In addition to his work in photodynamic therapy, Prof. Scherz also studies structure-function relationships in proteins that control photosynthesis, and develops molecular "machines" based on photosynthetic pigments.

Prof. Scherz is the incumbent of the Yadelle and Robert N. Sklare Professorial Chair in Biochemistry.

Professor Yoram Salomon, Ph.D.

Department of Biological Regulation
Weizmann Institute of Science



Prof. Yoram Salomon received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1972 from Hebrew University. He worked at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, Maryland) as a Postdoctoral Fellow, studying the molecular basis of hormonal signaling. He joined the Department of Hormone Research at the Weizmann Institute of Science in 1975, studying the biochemistry behind the hormonal regulation of female and male reproduction. In 1980, he was appointed Associate Professor and in 1990, Full Professor. From 1982-1986, he was Head of the Department of Biological Services. Other appointments have included Chairman of the Department of Hormone Research (1986-1992), Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Weizmann Institute (1995-1996) and Chairman of the Professorial Promotions Committee of the Life Sciences Faculties (1999-2002).

In his early years at the Institute, Prof. Salomon studied hormonal regulation of reproductive systems and later, hormonal control of malignant melanoma. More recently, he has focused on the development of novel therapeutic approaches to cancer.

Prof. Salomon is the incumbent of the Charles W. and Tillie K. Lubin Professorial Chair in Hormone Research.

Brian Wilson, Ph.D.

Ontario Cancer Institute — Princess Margaret Hospital

Brian Wilson was awarded his Ph.D. in high-energy nuclear physics from the University of Glasgow in Scotland. He then embarked on a distinguished career as an academic and clinical physicist at various institutions and hospitals.

Dr. Wilson arrived in Canada in 1981 and became Head of Medical Physics at the Ontario Cancer Treatment Foundation at the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre. As Head of Research as well, Dr. Wilson was instrumental in developing and conducting significant research into the areas of biomedical physics. He is a Fellow of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery, a member of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine and an executive member of the International Photodynamic Association. He currently sits on numerous advisory committees, which include both the National Institutes of Health in the U.S. and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

His studies and research have been published in numerous international academic journals and he is sought after by institutions, such as Harvard and M.I.T., as a lecturer and presenter. He continues to contribute to the editorial boards of many of the journals he has been published in. He is also a member of an International Advisory Panel for Physics in Medicine and Biology.

As the current Head of Medical Physics for the Ontario Cancer Institute, the research arm of Princess Margaret Hospital, Dr. Wilson continues to conduct research into the areas of photodynamic therapy in diagnostics and translational research in laser biophysics. He also is an active participant in the education program at University of Toronto as a Professor of Medical Biophysics at the Faculty of Medicine, and continues to supervise doctorate and post-doctorate candidates in their research.

WEIZMANN CANADA

In 1964, philanthropist Ayala Zacks invited a small group of philanthropists to a reception to meet Toronto-born Meyer Weisgal, then President of the Weizmann Institute of Science. After exhorting the need for a Canadian Society of Weizmann, Weisgal appointed Murray Koffler its national president. "But you don't have a Canadian Society," said Koffler. "That's your problem now," was the response.

Always ready for a challenge, Murray Koffler set about to turn the problem into an opportunity. He did it so well that, years later, he was elected Chairman of the International Board of Governors of the Institute itself.

Weizmann Canada's mission is to mobilize support for the Institute's leading-edge research, to arrange exchange of scientists and scientific information between the Institute and Canadian scientific institutions, and to stimulate interest in scientific research. Today, the two landmark buildings at Weizmann are The Canadian Institute for the Energies and Applied Research, and The Canada Center of Nuclear Physics with its Koffler Accelerator Tower.

Founding members of Weizmann Canada were soon joined by a growing number of like-minded community leaders. They established chapters across Canada, raised funds for projects, scholarships and bursaries, fostered exchange visits among scientists and hosted numerous group visits to the Institute's campus in Rehovot, Israel. The first fundraising event in Canada was spearheaded by Henry Benson and Louis Bloomfield in Montreal to establish a Fellowship at the Weizmann Institute.

In 1988, Marvelle Koffler founded Weizmann Women and Science to mobilize support for research into women's and family's health concerns. Weizmann Women and Science has grown into a worldwide organization.

Since its founding, Weizmann Canada and its supporters have funded more than 50 individual projects, chairs and scholarships at the Weizmann Institute. The organization has been active in connecting Weizmann scientists with researchers in Canada and in promoting the work of the Institute to Canadians coast-to-coast.

To find out more or to get involved with Weizmann Canada, please call 416-733-9220 or e-mail weizmann@ca.inter.net.

The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation

With a mission to "raise and steward the funds necessary for breakthrough research, compassionate care, and exemplary teaching at Princess Margaret Hospital, Canada's Cancer Centre," the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation has built a solid tradition in facilitating philanthropy and community involvement.

Working together with healthcare and research professionals, patients, their families and the community, the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation secures the financial resources necessary to enhance and support groundbreaking research, primary patient care and education initiatives at Princess Margaret Hospital.

As part of University Health Network, the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation has recently partnered with its sister foundations, Toronto General & Western Hospital Foundation and the Arthritis & Autoimmunity Research Foundation, in a capital campaign to raise funds for medical research. With an overall goal of $400 million, the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation has committed to fundraising its portion of $147 million that will go directly to cancer research, patient care and education.

The ultimate aim of the Foundation is to fulfill its vision: "To conquer cancer." Through annual giving campaigns, special events, stewardship and other programs, the Foundation raises more than $30 million annually to support critical and ongoing cancer research and treatment protocols at the hospital.

For more information on how you can support Princess Margaret Hospital, please visit www.uhn.ca and follow the links to the Foundations. Or contact the Foundation directly at 416-946-6560.

Princess Margaret Hospital

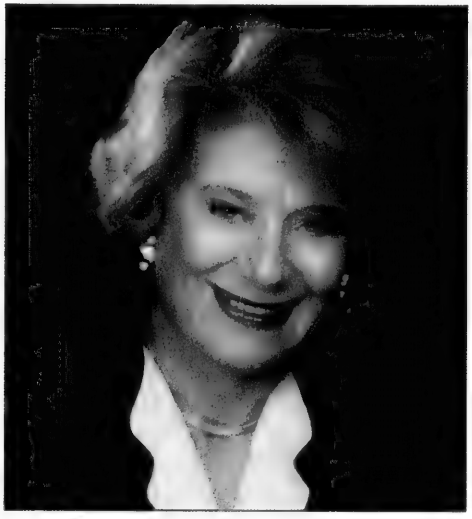
University Health Network

Science for the Benefit of Humanity · Science for the Benefit of Humanity · Science for the Benefit of

Mixing it up with Sharon Zuckerman

Past President, Weizmann Canada

Sharon Zuckerman is a woman who loves to mix it up!



Growing up in Toronto, Sharon Zuckerman feels she was very lucky to have been exposed to a broad mix of cultural and philanthropic influences. Her parents, Bertha and Joseph Kerbel had immigrated to Canada from, respectively, Russia and Poland at the ages of three and 17. Their sense of community and the value of helping others were instilled in Sharon from a very young age.

This influence continues to this day and helped establish Sharon as one of Toronto's many generous philanthropists.

More than just a "giver", Sharon is also a great "doer".

As a pre-teen, Sharon knew how fortunate she was to be able to spend summers at the family cottage at Lake Simcoe. It struck her as being unfair that inner-city youths did not have the same opportunity she had, to swim in clean water and breathe the fresh air of cottage country. She knew her sentiments were shared by others and saw The Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund as an excellent vehicle through which she could work to make a difference.

In a move that foreshadowed her future predilection to get involved, Sharon, from age 9 to 11, went door-to-door collecting items from neighbours at Lake Simcoe. Sharon then sold these at a bazaar held on the street each year. The following Monday, she would travel to Toronto with her father and give the money to The Toronto Star for the Fresh Air Fund. A picture would be published each year of Sharon handing over the funds she raised.

"The recognition was fun, especially for a young girl," recalls Sharon, "but it was knowing that I helped in some way and got others involved that kept me going."

From the ages of ten to twelve, Sharon also organized community plays with friends and contributed the admission receipts to the Fresh Air Fund.

Obviously this was a young lady with the determination to make things happen.

She was also determined to learn what she could from other people, cultures and religions. As she puts it, "to mix communities."

Attending boarding school, Sharon was compelled to attend church each Sunday, but was given the option of choosing which one. The local United Church of Canada seemed to fit best with her outlook and Sharon attended dutifully during her high school years. Upon graduation, she was fully qualified to teach Sunday School in the United Church.

As a young adult, Sharon followed in her mother's footsteps by joining the National Council of Jewish Women in the early 1950s. In the decade she remained involved, she helped the organization diversify into other activities, such as art instruction, and was there when they established the Meals on Wheels program.

For two decades, starting in the early 1970s, Sharon became a volunteer at the Royal Ontario Museum on both the committee level and as a docent. "I was fascinated with the Museum's ancient Chinese exhibits and took the museum course for docents," says Sharon. "I was drawn to ancient Chinese artifacts and history as the Royal Ontario Museum has the finest Chinese galleries in the world, outside of China itself. I also studied and toured the Egyptian and Islamic galleries."

"The recognition was fun, especially for a young girl," recalls Sharon, "but it was knowing that I helped in some way and got others involved that kept me going."

Prior to her involvement with the Museum, Sharon was introduced to The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science (Weizmann Canada) by the Society's then president, Murray Koffler. The world of science, research and education was a natural draw to Sharon's inquisitive mind and she quickly became a very active member. This started what she terms as a "love affair" with the Weizmann Institute.

At that time, and continuing to this day, the Weizmann Institute has a five-week summer science program that attracts the best and brightest students from around the world – accepting only 75 each year. Canada had not joined this group. Sharon seized upon this as her main priority and organized a group of Canadian students to attend as the country's first delegation to the program. Unfortunately, word came back that the students, as bright as they were, were just not up to the same level as those from other countries. A more rigorous selection process was needed.

Undaunted, Sharon connected with the organizers of the Canada-Wide Science Fair to send their winning students to the Weizmann Institute. They certainly were bright enough, but not all of them had the financial means to travel and live in Israel for five weeks.

Sharon's response was to establish a foundation in her Father's name for this express purpose.

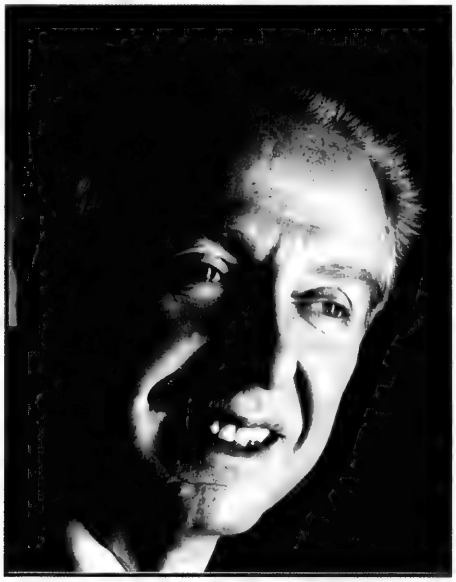
Today, the program is over-subscribed with hundreds of Canadian students having had the opportunity to be exposed to the Institute and its scientists thanks to Sharon's dedication.

Sharon's love affair with the Institute grew over the years. From 1995 to 2000 she served as President of Weizmann Canada. It was during this period that she had a fateful meeting with Prof. Avigdor Scherz at the Institute and learned of his work for melanoma. Sharon's brother had died of the disease and her determination to help was only fueled when she learned that the research could not continue without more financial support.

Sharon pledged the needed support and continued to bolster the work of Professors. Scherz and Yoram Salomon for two years until they were approached and funded by the French pharmaceutical company, Negma.

Sharon sits on the Weizmann Institute's International Board of Governors. She was a Co-Chair of this year's Brazilian Carnival Ball in benefit of the Critical Care Unit of the Mt. Sinai Hospital, headed by Dr. Tom Stuart. She continues to work with at least two organizations at once and delights in actively mixing communities.

Along with her husband George, Sharon has instilled her philosophy into the couple's four grown children. They have been brought up to respect other people's religion, to help those in the community that are less fortunate than they and to extend their help to Israel.



JOSEPH "JOEY" TANENBAUM,

C.M., K.M., D. Eng., B.A. Sc., P. Eng., FCSCE
Chairman & CEO, Jay-M Enterprises Ltd.

To understand what Joey Tanenbaum knows about business - and indeed, about how he lives his life – can only come from telling the story of his late and much beloved Grandfather (his "Zaida"), Abraham Tanenbaum.

Abraham Tanenbaum arrived in Toronto in August of 1911 with only eight dollars in his pocket. On board the ship from Hamburg to New York, he met two "landsmen" – two men from his own village of Parczew in Poland. When he asked them where they were going, they said, "To Toronto". Abraham inquired if Toronto was in America. When they replied positively, he said: "Then I will go with you."

The three travelers arrived at 2pm on a Friday afternoon, just before the Sabbath, at the southwest corner of St. Clair Avenue and Runnymede Road. This place was called "The Junction" because it was where all the rail traffic to Toronto from the east, west and the north joined together.

Choosing to stay and observe the Sabbath, Abraham started to search for a Jewish home with a mezuzah. Then, he thought he would proceed on Sunday to the Spadina and College Street area, where the small Jewish community was known to exist.

In 1911, the total Jewish population of the City of Toronto was 2,000 people. It was amongst this small community that Abraham found an enclave of immigrant Jews who were living and thriving. He became so enchanted with the place that he didn't just spend the weekend – he decided to settle down on Maria Street and made his home there for the next 40 years.

Abraham Tanenbaum started out as a peddler with a pushcart. After three years, he had saved enough money to bring his wife (Joey's grandmother) and their two children, 8-year-old Joe and 5-year-old Max, to Canada. The family

arrived on August 3, 1914 – the very same day that the British Empire declared war on Germany and the First World War began for Canada.

By 1917, Abraham was able to buy his first horse and wagon. Needing a piece of land to store all of his equipment and material, he was able to purchase the northwest corner of Runnymede and Dundas Street for $200 in cash and an $1,800 first mortgage at 3 per cent. Within a period of 4 years, a real estate agent came to purchase a 60 by 60 foot corner of the land. Abraham sold that piece of land for $16,000 cash to the Toronto Railway Commission, which today is the TTC. But The Mail, the predecessor of The Globe and Mail, reported in error that Abraham had sold the corner – the most westerly turning point for Toronto's streetcars at the time – for the princely sum of $96,000!

With this sudden new "fame", the banks approached Abraham with the offer of "anything you want, you can have." Abraham's reply was: "I'll give you $16,000 now and the other $80,000 at a later date, provided that you are good to me." In August of 1942, Abraham, with tongue-in-cheek, informed young Joey that the bank was still waiting for the other $80,000!

That "year of the horse", marked the beginning of Runnymede Metal & Salvage Company, which eventually grew to become the Runnymede Iron & Steel Company.

What Abraham taught his sons about business, he handed down to young Joey as well. Imparting his wisdom and principles, Abraham Tanenbaum gave Joey a philosophy of life.

Every Sabbath after lunch, Joey would sit with his Zaida to "vertatch a blatt gemarah," that is, "to study a portion of the Talmud." It was during these warm and meaningful discussions in Yiddish that Joey came to understand the importance for every individual never to forget from whence he came. Zaida taught Joey "to never make money your god; there is only one God and that is the God in heaven."

Zaida also told Joey that he must make business his science. He told him to "never get involved in a business you know nothing about." Young Joey would ask his Zaida, "How did you become so wealthy?" And Abraham's answer would be: "My son, I would buy for a dollar and sell for two dollars, and make one percent!" Joey was perplexed and informed his grandfather, "But Zaida, that is not one percent. That is 100 percent." Abraham looked at Joey in all seriousness and said, "My son, I made it. It's one percent."

This is the basic lesson in business that Joey Tanenbaum still adheres to today - to continue to make his one percent.

Joey Tanenbaum went on to graduate from the University of Toronto in Applied Science in 1955 - a critical time when an air of anti-Semitism existed within that notorious university department. He persevered, figuratively wearing the banner of his Jewishness with dignity and pride, while gaining the critical engineering skills that would assist him in his family's successful business pursuits.

Indeed, both Joey's grandparents have helped him understand, take pride in and honour his Jewish heritage. By their words, and by their living example, they taught Joey to love and to honour his faith, which holds for him his basic philosophy for life.

Known in wide and varied circles for his monumental philanthropy, Joey Tanenbaum is a well-known patron of the arts, higher education, religious causes and medical research in the community. He believes that Canadians live in the best country in the world and with that privilege comes a responsibility to set an example: the example of true Tzedakah. This Hebrew word literally translated means, not "charity", but "obligation"; that is, it is the obligation of every Canadian citizen who is financially successful, to share with others who are not as fortunate.

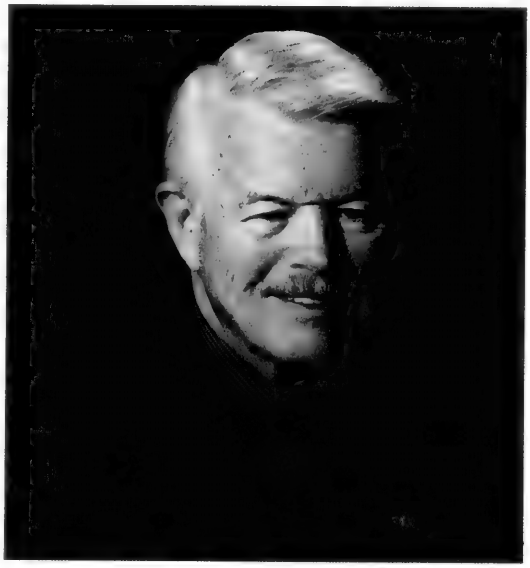
This is the example that Joey, and his wife Toby, have lived by and instilled within their own children, Michael, Alan, Marty, Rob and Susan, who have gone on to be very successful in their own lives.

Joey Tanenbaum has made a significant contribution to the long and generous legacy of philanthropy in our community. One of his many contributions has been to the Fleck/Tanenbaum Chair in Prostatic Disease at Princess Margaret Hospital, held by Dr. John Trachtenberg.

A survivor of prostate cancer himself, Joey Tanenbaum persevered over his condition with the same determination, humour and strength that he demonstrates in his everyday life. Through his relationship with Dr. John Trachtenberg, he recognized the importance of research into the causes of prostatic disease. His generous support of this Chair will pave the way for a better understanding of the causes of prostate cancer, in the hopes of providing new treatment methods.

Through his generosity, unfailing adherence to his family, the lessons of his "Zaida", and his unwavering commitment to his Jewish faith, Joey Tanenbaum continues to live his life through example and continues to inspire others to do the same.

JAMES D. FLECK, O.C.



James D. Fleck has carved a distinguished career. From his undergraduate days at the University of Western Ontario, where he graduated as a gold medallist, James Fleck began an eminent journey that saw him become a businessman, a civil servant, a professor, an author and a philanthropist.

Immediately after his triumph in his undergraduate education, James, or "Jim", became active in the business world. While most would casually secure themselves an entry-level position and assume a place on the corporate business ladder, Jim founded Fleck Manufacturing Incorporated and became its president from 1953 to 1960. During that time he was also was active in the Young Presidents' Organization and even became its International President for a term from 1972 to 1973.

Academia, however, was never far from his mind. Jim decided to enroll in graduate studies and was awarded a doctorate of business administration by Harvard in 1964, as a Ford Foundation Fellow. And then, from 1964 to 1966, Jim Fleck found himself in front of numerous classrooms of eager students. As a faculty member of the Harvard Business School in Cambridge, Jim taught fresh-faced MBA first-years in their prerequisite finance courses.

Caught with the "teaching bug", Jim Fleck has also taught, on a visiting basis, at the Keio Business School in Tokyo (Japan), at The European Institute of Business Administration in Fontainebleau (France), and at the University of Western Ontario. In addition to those initial finance courses, he has imparted his knowledge on business policy and government relations to students around the world

Returning to Toronto in 1966, Jim left his indelible mark on the Canadian business administration academic landscape by joining York University and helping to found the Faculty of Administrative Studies. He then became the Associate Dean of the Faculty and Director of both the MBA and MPA Programmes.

Now a distinguished academic and sought-after advisor, Jim became Executive Director and a member of the Committee on Government Productivity, which was responsible for carrying out a study that led to a major reorganization of the Ontario Government. Prior to that, he had also served on the Federal Department of Transport Task Force on their goals and objectives.

Intrigued by the world of government and the positive impact that his expertise could have on the province, Jim entered civil service. In 1972, he became Chief Executive Officer for the Office of the Premier, Government of Ontario. From 1974 to 1975, Jim was the Secretary of the Cabinet. The pinnacle of his civil service career came in January of 1976, when he became Deputy Minister of Industry and Tourism for the Government of Ontario.

In and amidst his numerous business and academic activities, Jim Fleck still finds time to engage in volunteerism and philanthropy, promoting causes in the arts, sports and medical research.

In addition to these full-time appointments, Jim was, at various times, appointed Coordinator for Ontario's Anti-Inflation Program, a member of the Special Program Review to suggest ways to reduce government expenditures, a member of the Ontario Committee on Inflation Accounting and Ontario's Coordinator for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

An invitation to assume the position of the William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Professor of Canadian Studies, Business and Public Management at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University persuaded him to leave the civil service in 1978.

Returning again to Canada after his academic sojourn, Jim Fleck picked up right where he left off, turning again to business as Chairman of Fleck Manufacturing Inc., a manufacturer of wire and cable, power cords and wiring assemblies for the appliance, automotive and electronic industries, until it was acquired by Noma Industries Limited in 1994. He was also Chairman of Alias Research Inc., a 3D computer graphics software company, until it too was acquired in 1995. And Jim was also a Director at other various companies such as CUC Ltd., a large private cable television company acquired by Shaw Cable in 1995 and Promis Systems Corporation Limited that was successfully acquired by PRI Automation in 2000.

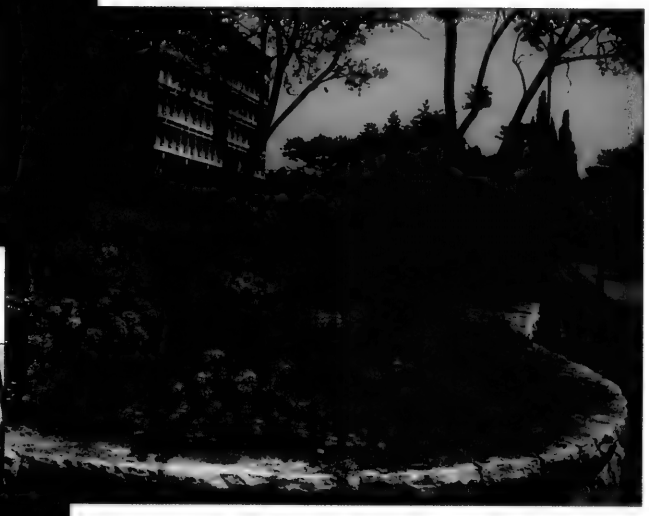
Currently, Jim Fleck is Chairman of Fleck Management Services Ltd., an investment advisory company and International Waterpillow Inc. He is also a Director of ATI Technologies Inc., Financial Models Company Inc., IE-Engine Inc., Rogers Multimedia Inc., tlContact inc., and Certicom Corp.

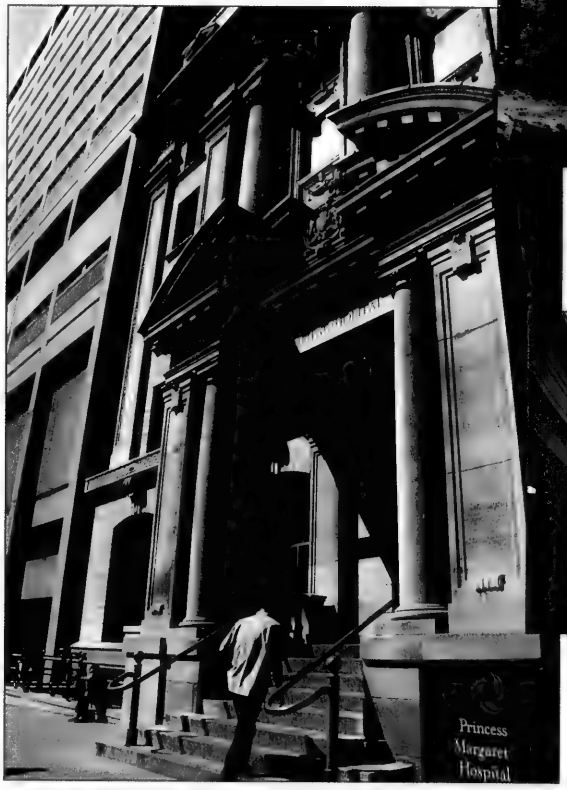
Jim is also the emeritus M. Wallace McCutcheon Professor of Business Government Relations at the Faculty of Management, University of Toronto and a Senior Fellow, Massey College. As an author, his publications include: *Business Can Succeed! Understanding the Political Environment* (with A. Litvak, Canada Publishing Corporation), *Canada Can Compete! Strategic Management of the Canadian Industrial Portfolio* (with J. R. D'Cruz, Institute for Research on Public Policy), and the Toche Ross Award winning article: *Yankee Canadians in the Global Economy, Strategic Management of U.S. Subsidiaries under Free Trade* (with J.R. D'Cruz, National Centre for Management Research and Development, University of Western Ontario). In addition, he has co-authored, with Professor J.R. D'Cruz, several articles for the Business Quarterly, including *"The Globalization of Manufacturing"* which received the Silver Medal in the Deloitte & Touche "Best of the Best" Awards covering the first 30 years of the *Business Quarterly.*

In and amidst his numerous business and academic activities, Jim Fleck still finds time to engage in volunteerism and philanthropy, promoting causes in the arts, sports and medical research. A Chairman for the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Harbourfront Foundation and past Chairman for Tennis Canada, Jim continues to be active in the community. He is also a Director of the Canadian Institute of Advanced Research and founding President of The Power Plant, Contemporary Art at Harbourfront, Toronto. He also led the private side of a public-private collaboration with the City of Toronto to create and build the Yo-Yo Ma Toronto Music Garden, inspired by the music of Bach.

But Jim's most recent philanthropic legacy is the Fleck/Tanenbaum Chair in Prostatic Diseases held by Dr. John Trachtenberg. His tradition of philanthropy and his genuine concern for the cause inspired him to support the superb research being conducted by Dr. Trachtenberg. He realized the magnitude of potential impact that this important research will have on thousands of men, and their families, who are suffering with cancer.

Jim Fleck is a pioneer and a visionary. His numerous contributions to the business world, to government, to academia and to his community will have lasting effects on the people and world around him. He is a true example of a full life that continues to be well lived.

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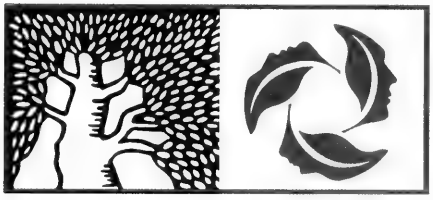

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This Week

National

Bill sets out to enshrine tax credit in law. *Page 5*

Sunny spirits dominate Walk with Israel. *Page 14*

Concert will assist guard who tried to stop bombing. *Page 20*

Party Planner

It's party time: See our 56-page supplement. *Section B*

Arts & Travel

There is hip-hop Beyond Eden. *Pages 46*

Sports & Leisure

Tae kwon do star vying for national title. *Page 54*

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Community institutions face latest SARS outbreak

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The Jewish community is coping as well as it can with inconvenience and danger from the latest outbreak of SARS.

In one recent case, an elderly woman who died at North York General Hospital, the epicentre of the current outbreak, was cared for by Steeles College Memorial Chapel and buried May 20 at Hebrew Memorial Park, Pardes Sholom in Maple.

It was only several days later that the Toronto Board of Health informed its counterpart in York Region that the woman had been a probable SARS case. As a result, two funeral directors and another staff person at Steeles, two staff at Pardes Sholom and the people who attended the funeral had to go into quarantine, Steeles executive director Carol Saucier told *The CJN*.

Fortunately, Saucier said, the members of the chevrah kadishah who prepared the body for burial followed standard procedures and used universal health precautions, including masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles to protect themselves from any infectious disease.

None of the staff at Steeles or Pardes Sholom developed symptoms, and they were all released from quarantine late last week.

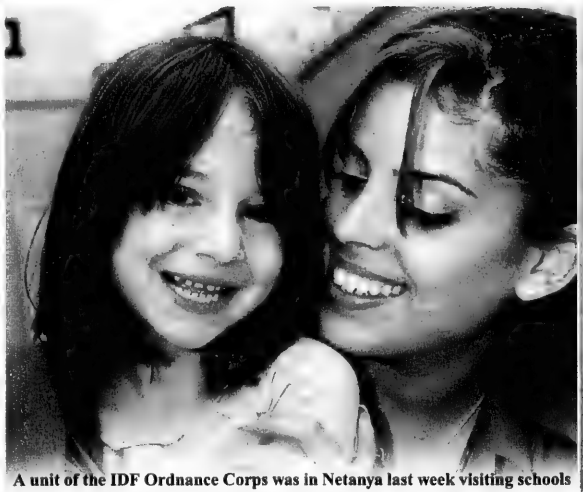
Stephen Speisman, executive director of Pardes Sholom, said cemetery staff use masks and gloves when they are notified that a body is a suspected or probable case of SARS.

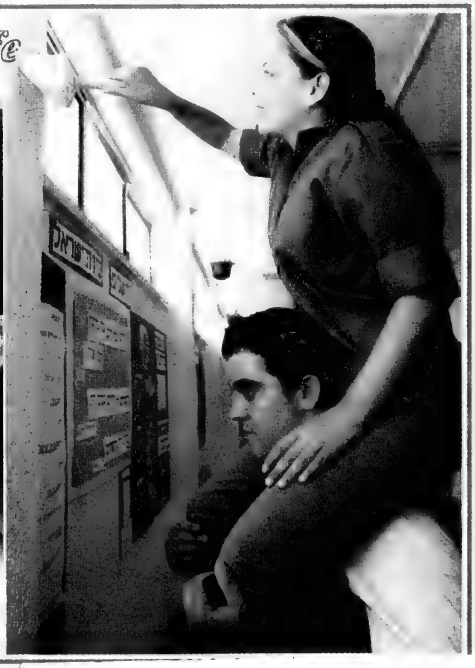
"There is very little danger when dealing with the casket [and a body]," he said. "The danger comes from contact with the family and friends attending the funeral."

A SARS patient, a close relative of the person who was buried May 20, was scheduled to be buried June 3 at Pardes Shalom and "staff [took] every precaution," Speisman said.

Continued on page 3

The lighter side of a soldier's life





A unit of the IDF Ordnance Corps was in Netanya last week visiting schools and community centres. The soldiers explained how to protect the environment and improve a neighbourhood's quality of life. Tidying up scruffy walls and hugging some of the local students were part of the soldiers' orders of the day. *Israel photos]*

Shabbat: Shavuot
Candlelighting: 8:36
Havdallah: 9:41

Greater Toronto Area

Cabinet decries portrayal of 'poverty-stricken Israel' — see page 37

The News in Brief

CANADA

Summer Mini-Ulpan

VANCOUVER — For the fourth straight year, the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver will be offering summer immersion ulpan courses in modern Hebrew. The three, week-long courses at beginners, "beginners-plus" and intermediate levels with Israeli instructors will be offered the weeks of Aug. 18-22 and Aug. 25-29. For details, visit www.jccgv.com/adult/mini_ulpan.htm.

ISRAEL

Children Shell Shocked

TEL AVIV — Almost half of Israeli children suffer from shell shock due to terror attacks, says a new study by the Adler Centre at Tel Aviv University and the Judea and Samaria College in Ariel. Symptoms include flashbacks, nightmares and panic attacks. As well, one-fifth have a relative who was a terror victim and more than 300 lost a loved one in an attack. The report is based on a poll of 3,000 children taken right after the wave of attacks around the 2002 Passover holiday.

Whitney Meets PM

JERUSALEM — U.S. pop singer Whitney Houston met last week with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and told him her relationship with Israel "is a friendship I've never had with any other country." Houston and her family were in Israel for a week as guests of the Black Hebrews, a group of black Americans in Dimona who say they're descendants of the lost tribes of Israel.

Citizenship Change

JERUSALEM — Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are backing a proposed amendment to Israel's Citizenship Law that would prevent children with one Jewish parent and one Palestinian parent from receiving automatic citizenship. Leftist politicians and human rights groups criticized the proposal, which comes in response to a suicide bombing last year in Haifa by a man with a Jewish mother and a Palestinian father. His citizenship made it easier for him to move freely in Israel and carry out the bombing.

WORLD

Belgian Court Boycott

BRUSSELS — Israel said it plans to boycott future proceedings of a lawsuit filed in Belgium against a senior Israeli official for alleged war crimes. A Belgian court is set to rule next month in a lawsuit filed against Gen. Amos Yaron for alleged war crimes in a 1982 massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps by a Lebanese militia. Israel says Belgium's universal jurisdiction law is heavily politicized. Belgium recently amended it so that suits against defendants who come from democratic countries where they could receive a fair trial could be returned to those countries. Using that argument, a lawsuit against former U.S. president George Bush and other U.S. officials over the 1991 Gulf War was sent to U.S. courts, but the suit against Yaron is still proceeding, which Israeli officials say is discriminatory. Yaron, who in 1982 commanded Israeli forces in Beirut, is now director general of Israel's Defence Ministry.

Best Actor Award

NEW YORK — Ohad Knoller of the Israeli film *Yossi and Jagger* won the best actor award at the second annual Tribeca Film Festival in New York City last month. *Yossi and Jagger*, directed by Eitan Fox, tells the story of two gay lovers serving in the Israeli army. The film also won the Gay Cinema Prize at the Turin Film Festival in Italy and received critical and public acclaim in Israel.

Djerba Pilgrimage

DJERBA, Tunisia — More than 1,000 Jewish pilgrims, including 450 foreigners, travelled last month to the site of an Al Qaeda-linked attack last year that killed 21 people at the Ghriba Synagogue, Africa's oldest, on the Tunisian island of Djerba. Last year's event, which took place two weeks after a suicide bomber blew up a fuel tanker outside the shul, attracted only about 200 Jews.

Complaint Dismissed

LONDON — Britain's press watchdog has dismissed a complaint that a Jan. 27 cartoon showing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon eating a baby was anti-Semitic. The Press Complaints Commission accepted the contention by the *Independent* newspaper that the cartoon was based on the Goya painting *Saturn Devouring One of His Children* and rejected the Israeli embassy position the cartoon referred to a blood libel against Jews.

Shul Leaves Orthodoxy, Adopts Mixed Seating

OTTAWA — As of the first Shabbat after Shavuot, the Beth Shalom Synagogue in downtown Ottawa will allow women and men to sit together and for women to read haftorot, two things that have up to now been forbidden at the shul.

The controversial move comes after 70 per cent of Beth Shalom's members voted April 30 to leave the Orthodox movement and affiliate the synagogue with the Union for Traditional Judaism, a group that is positioned theologically between the Conservative and Orthodox movements.

Synagogue president Jack Shapiro said he hopes the switch will help Beth Shalom attract young families and a more diverse congregation, as regular attendance is well below capacity and most members are over 50.

Ian Sandinsky, the president of Beth Shalom from 1996 to 2000, said the new rules will mean traditional Orthodox Jews like him can't daven there. "I joined an Orthodox shul. I want it to remain an Orthodox shul," he said.

Shapiro said the shul will set aside a separate area for men and women who don't want to sit together. He added that women will still not be allowed to have aliyot, and wedding and burial practices won't change.

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Community institutions face latest SARS outbreak

Continued from page 1

When cemetery officials were notified May 25 that Pardes Shalom had handled a probable SARS case, the assembly room where the funeral service was held was cleaned with industrial cleaners a second time.

SARS forces postponement of wedding

see page 27

"Hebrew Memorial Park took the situation very seriously from the beginning [of the first SARS outbreak]," said cemetery president William Draimin.

"We institute precaufions as soon as we are aware that there might be a potential problem. These precautions were never relaxed, even when the community was supposedly SARS-free."

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care was also touched by SARS when a man was transferred to its hospital May 22 from North York General for rehabilitation. He was well when he arrived, but the next night he developed a temperature and was moved the next day to Humber River Regional Hospital.

As a precaution, the western half of Baycrest's hospital third floor was closed to all but essential staff, and patients there were being monitored regularly. The ward was to reopen June 3, the centre's Web site said.

The rest of Baycrest stayed open as usual for visitors and private companions, and all regular services operated normally.

Access to the main complex is still being limited to one entrance on its western side, where all visitors are screened and no one who has visited facilities involved in the latest SARS outbreak is allowed in.

St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital is another health-care facility that has had to deal with SARS patients. Spokesperson Holly Bannerman said "patients come here to recover. Anyone with any symptoms [of any disease] is immediately transferred to an acute care hospital." As of Monday, no patients were being transferred in or out.

However, because someone with SARS was at the facility for a short time, St. John's is now closed to patient transfers and visitors, and staff are all on "working quarantine," Bannerman said.

"That means that they can come to work and then go home, and that's it. If they don't have their own car, we provide taxi service."

All staff must have their temperature taken before entering and leaving. They are also encouraged to wash their hands frequently and must wear goggles, masks and gowns when interacting with patients. Patients have their temperature taken every two hours, Bannerman said.

Except during therapy, which is now done on an individual, not a group basis, patients must stay in their rooms. They can be discharged if they have no symptoms, but they must go into home quarantine for 10 days, she added.

Much the same situation applies at North York General. Its Branson and Leslie divisions, as well as its seniors facility, have suspended all visits, transfers, admissions and discharges, and staff are also on working quarantine.

Hospital spokesperson Kara Miel said every effort is being made to comfort patients, including arranging for e-mail, television and newspapers, and providing frequent updates about what is going on.

Women who are scheduled to give birth at North York General are being sent to other facilities, Miel said.

Several other hospitals are also treating SARS patients, but since they have not been exposed to the general hospital population, they are not considered a threat to the health of others. However, all hospitals, including York Central and Mount Sinai, are screening visitors and staff upon entry.

Seymour Epstein, executive director of UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, said that while the BJE sends out board of health protocols to all the day and supplementary schools under its aegis, each school decides how to implement them.

He said he believes schools are emphasizing strict standards of hygiene, especially hand-washing.

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Dr. John Trachtenberg
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The conferral of goodness

From the editor's desk

The possible manifestations for implementing the rabbinic injunction of *hakarat hatov*, acknowledging the good someone has done for you – a concept about which I have written before in this space – are, of course, limitless. Perhaps the most elegant is simply uttering the phrase "thank you."

An expression of thanks by an individual, conveyed deeply, sincerely, from the heart, will almost certainly find its way to another heart. For that is the natural path of openly expressed honesties.

But institutions too are obliged to say thank you. After all, are not the large-scale benefits they bestow upon the public, merely the cumulation of countless individual acts of goodness conferred upon them?

Last month in Israel, I witnessed an especially memorable and moving manifestation of *hakarat hatov* performed by Tel Aviv University. It was the time of year, as it is for all western universities, when it said thank you to a select group of individuals by conferring upon them the degree of *Doctor Philosophiae Honoris Causa*, (an honorary doctorate.)

Fourteen individuals from around the world were selected by the university to receive honorary doctorates. Among them were:

- Edgar Bronfman, "in recognition of his unparallelled standing and influence in the international community as spokesman for Diaspora Jewry;"
- Steven Pinker for, among other reasons, "his pioneering of new insights into the functioning of the mind for the benefit of humanity;"
- Michael Walzer for, among other reasons, "his exceptional achievement in shaping the field of contemporary political philosophy."

The Israeli media paid particular attention to the university's conferral of an honorary doctorate on the Iraqi Muslim Kanan Makiya for "his remarkable life-work as a scholar, thinker, writer, filmmaker and activist devoted to exposing the brutality and oppression of the Iraqi Ba'ath."

I was at the Saturday night ceremony, along with a large contingent from Toronto and Israel, to see our longtime friend Marty Goldberg also receive an honorary doctorate from the university. It was a thrilling and touching moment. Even hardened cynics agreed that the honour bestowed upon him by the university held special merit.

I once heard it said about Marty –and I have no reason to doubt the truth of the statement – that there are as many stars in the sky as there are individual acts of kindness, generosity and goodness that Marty has conferred upon others.

The extent to which he gives of himself to people and to causes is legendary in his home community and abroad. And the manner in which he gives is legendary too: in secret.

Marty on stage

Impassioned and always well-intended, his giving is usually accomplished in the following pattern. Without being asked, he arranged for the delivery of a *parochet* (a covering for the Holy Ark) to a shul after he noticed that it did not have an adequate one. Most of the congregants, to this day, do not know how their synagogue received its new *parochet*.

He is as big-hearted as he is broad-shouldered. No burden is too little; nor is any too great for him to carry.

One of the causes Marty has championed for more than a decade, has been that of Tel Aviv University. And the university last month acknowledged this.

Thus, he was awarded an honorary doctorate degree by the university "in recognition of his position as an esteemed figure in the Toronto Jewish community... and in special recognition of his warm and devoted friendship toward Tel Aviv University, his exceptional contributions to the success of the Toronto Friends association as its president and driving force for many years, his generosity in supporting Friends' activities and boundless energy in promoting the association's status in Canada, his inspired initiative in fostering co-operative ties between Tel Aviv University and institutions in Canada."

Moments after Marty and the other honorees received their degrees, the late Col. Ilan Ramon's wife and father – Rona Ramon and Eliezer Wolferman – were called to the stage to accept for the fallen astronaut an award that was designated for him before his death, the George W. Wise Medal for International Academic Co-operation. The moment was electric with emotion.

Father and daughter-in-law stood side by side, tightly clasping each other's hand. The audience rose in long, sustained applause and thunderous ovation.

We felt a strange mixture of sadness and triumph as we watched Ramon's kin bear up under the rising canopy of overt, bittersweet affection. No one saw as tears streaked our cheeks. From my vantage, however, far from the stage, I happened to notice that Marty was crying too, a final acknowledgement perhaps from him, from us all, of the good that Ramon had conferred on us. Seeing Marty that way seared the moment much deeper into my memory.

Marty's friends are planning to further celebrate his achievement on Aug.13.

—MBD

SeeJN

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Gen. Wesley Clark, centre, former supreme allied commander of NATO, recently addressed a group of UJA Federation's leading donors at Toronto's Four Seasons Hotel. His address focused on world safety after the war in Iraq. Clark is pictured with Richard Venn, left, and Allan Silber, right, chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2004. [Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photo]

Ontario bill sets out to enshrine tax credit in law

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

The provincial government last week introduced legislation aimed at formally unfreezing the private school tax credit and extending it through its originally intended schedule.

Community observers say Bill 53, which passed first reading by a vote of 45 to 38, entrenches the credit in law. But they say that will likely do little to sway Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty, who has promised to repeal the credit should he become premier.

If passed, the bill will place the Equity in Education Tax Credit (ETC) back on its original schedule, right through to 2006.

When introduced in late 2001 by then-finance minister Jim Flaherty, the measure entitled parents of children in private and faith-based schools to a tax credit of up to $700 per child, or 10 per cent of the first $7,000 of tuition fees. To be phased in over the next five years, the credit was to rise 10 per cent per year, and by 2006, be worth up to $3,500 per child annually.

But a year ago, Premier Ernie Eves announced the province could not afford that, and he froze the credit at 10 per cent for two years.

However, in March, Eves reversed the freeze, meaning the ETC, as intended, will be worth 20 per cent, or $1,400 of the first $7,000 in tuition fees, for this year.

Bill 53 aims to formalize that in legislation, and to fully implement the credit's rise through to its maturity.

"It is legislation that supports parents' educational choices," finance minister Janet Ecker told the Legislature.

"This credit will assist those parents who choose an education for their child that may better reflect their religious or cultural heritage, or that may respond better to their child's special needs," she said.

Ecker said parents of children at more than 580 of the province's 733 private schools are eligible to claim the credit. But these schools must do a criminal check of employees and disclose the contents of their curricula.

Critics say the credit will drain up to $500 million a year from the public and separate school systems.

In the Jewish community, parents of students at Associated Hebrew Day Schools are grousing that a 14 per cent increase in tuition beginning in September all but nullifies the benefits of the ETC.

McGuinty "could freeze the credit at 20 per cent" instead of repealing it outright, said Simon Rosenblum of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region. "But I don't think he can just let it go at that.

"The tax credit is at risk. That wouldn't be an overstatement," Rosenblum said.

The bill unfreezing the credit "will make no difference, unfortunately," said Yisroel Janowski, founding president of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools. "I wish Liberals will take into account they will be hurting a significant number of children."

Asked if he thinks whether Bill 53 would change McGuinty's steadfast commitment to dump the ETC, Janowski said, "I just have to believe him."

Janowski also expressed disappointment that Liberal MPPs Monte Kwinter and Michael Bryant voted against Bill 53.

"They can no longer tell the Jewish community they're in favour of the ETC."

Synagogue membership case reaches settlement

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

A settlement was reached last Tuesday in the trial regarding a membership dispute at the Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation.

Longtime synagogue member Barbara Rotberg and her husband of three years, Allen Mayer, had sued the congregation and three board members for $20,000 in damages for alleged loss of social standing as well as for membership for Mayer and the right for him to be buried in one of the plots held by his wife.

As part of the settlement, the synagogue agreed to admit Mayer as a member, the defendants' lawyer Arnold Zweig told *The CJN*. Mayer was already entitled to a burial plot, according to the statement of defence. All other claims were dismissed.

The previous day, Rotberg's claim for loss of reputation and social standing was dismissed by Judge Abraham Mandel of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, civil division.

An earlier attempt to reach a settlement during the trial was not successful.

Zweig said that from his point of view, settling was the "right thing to do. The parties have to live together [because Rotberg is a member], regardless of what happens." He stressed that the settlement does not constitute an admission of wrongdoing.

Jeffrey Silver, the lawyer for Mayer and Rotberg, said he was pleased with the decision.

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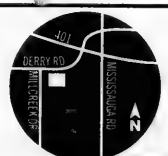

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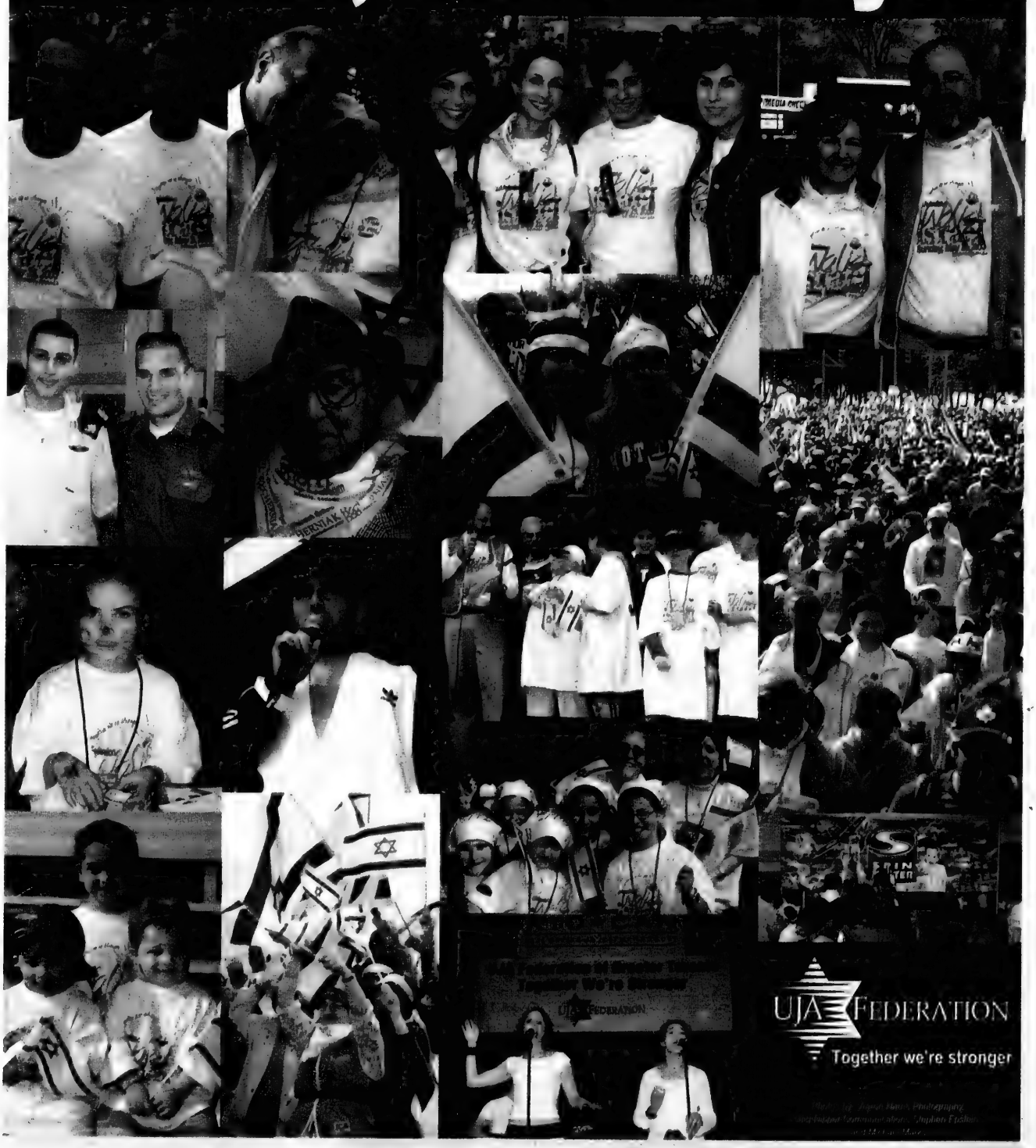

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Concerning our federal leaders

A number of news items concerning federal politicians caught our attention last week. Leaders were travelling, opining and getting elected. What they said and what they did were not without significant implications for the Canadian electorate.

Jean Chrétien: Perhaps it was because he is the senior head of government of the G-8 member states and he knew it was to be his last G-8 meeting. Perhaps he wanted to show his G-8 colleagues one last proof of his fearless Canadian independence. Perhaps it was because he was simply feeling vindictive. Or perhaps it was a combination of all of these reasons that Prime Minister Chrétien, in the airplane on the way to the G-8 summit, publicly and of his own initiative, decided to belittle George W. Bush, one of the more "junior" leaders in the G-8 panoply.

Whatever the prime minister's motivation, his unprovoked criticism of the American president was wholly inappropriate.

Set aside the fact that his diatribe likely harmed Canadian interests by complicating a speedier resolution of important bilateral trade, security and other issues between the two countries. The key offence of the prime minister's remarks lay in the fact that they demonstrated a manifest lack of respect for the president as an individual and for his office. Despite the prime minister's subsequent efforts to justify his actions, his boastful belittlement of Bush painted more of a self-portrait than it did one of the president of the United States. And what Canadians saw was the unflattering image of a spiteful individual trying to raise his own stature by standing upon the ephemeral heap of unsolicited, petty observations about his "friend," George Bush.

Jack Layton: In an interview that appeared in *The CJN*, the leader of the NDP said, "I think I'm feeling a warming beginning to happen" [with Jewish Canadian voters]. Layton is wishfully rather than realistically thinking.

There is no discernible evidence of such "warming." Nor will there be unless and until he repudiates the outrageous calumnies spread against Israel by some of his caucus colleagues. In many parts of the world, anti-Israel rhetoric of the left has transmogrified into brazen, ugly anti-Semitism. The vast majority of Jewish Canadian voters will spurn his party, despite historic and other ties to it and to some traditionally labour-oriented policies, as long as NDP foreign policy fails to demonstrate even perfunctory, let alone meaningful, understanding of Israel's plight.

Peter Mackay: *The CJN* congratulates the new leader of the Progressive Conservative party. Parliament is strengthened and the Canadian people are better served when all the parties are vigorous and better able to responsibly and reasonably challenge the government of the day. We therefore wish him well as he attempts to bring greater vigour to Canada's oldest federal political party.

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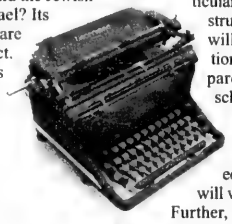
To Jack Layton: Thanks but no thanks

Re "NDP leader seeks Jewish vote" (*CJN*, May 29), I could not believe my eyes. A puff piece in the *Canadian Jewish News* for the NDP. I realize Jack Layton is a politician and therefore will say and do anything to get elected, but this is ridiculous. Why in the world would the Jewish community support a party that is anti-Israel? Its union leaders bosses (particularly CUPE) are anti-Israel and pass resolutions to that effect.



The only party that consistently supports Israel and the Jewish people is the Canadian Alliance.

Time to tell Jack thanks, but no thanks.

Edward Sweet
Toronto

* * *

Jack won't get my vote

Re "NDP leader seeks Jewish vote" (*CJN*, May 29), all thinking people understand exactly where Jack Layton and the NDP party stand. Accordingly, I would like to advise Layton not to hold his breath while waiting for my vote. He will black out before he gets it.

Bernice Korman
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Associated responds to fee increase

The sacrifices made by many Jewish parents to provide their children with a Jewish day school education are apparent to all of us. Associated Hebrew Schools continually tries its best to keep tuition fees as low as possible and to accommodate families in financial need. Our school strongly believes that no Jewish child should be denied a day school education for financial reasons. Registration at day schools is declining in Toronto, and regrettably, recent newspaper coverage and misinformation being circulated by some individuals in the community about tuition fee hikes is not helping matters.

Tuition fees are rising in day schools across the system for a number of reasons. Enrolments will likely decline in the next few years for demographic and financial reasons, and operating costs – with salaries as the largest component – will rise. Unfortunately, funding by UJA Federation to families in need has been frozen for more than a decade. During this time, there has been a proliferation of new day schools that require significant financial commitment. In addition, parents in our schools justifiably want us to invest in quality programs in both Judaic and general studies.

While Associated has cut more than $800,000 in operating costs next year, none of these cuts compromise the quality of our programs. Our tuition fees have gone up $1,800 between 1998-99 and 2003-04, but during that time, we have introduced new programs for the enrichment of our children at a cost of $3.7 million.

At a recent town hall meeting, our school executive went to great pains to explain the need for a $1,000 tuition increase that still keeps us below the costs of other day schools. Our tuition committee has been advised to be particularly sensitive to the needs of families who are struggling. Our school, along with many others, will continue to make necessary budget reductions to cover costs. We cannot only look to our parent body to cover the cost of funding the school.

Hopefully, increases of $1,000 will not be required in the future, and parents should rest assured that schools such as Associated, in conjunction with the community at large, will work to ensure that proper funding continues.

Further, all of us must also take steps to encourage our elected officials to preserve the provincial education tax credit.

Jewish continuity is best achieved by a strong Jewish day school system that can provide a superior education at a fair cost. To keep children in the system, we must continue to enrich programs and provide remedial teaching assistance.

It is time for our leaders to get behind the schools. Our system is the envy of many other communities, we should be proud of it, and we should continue to support Jewish education.

Sheldon Carr
President, Associated Hebrew Schools
Toronto

* * *

On 'the miracle of modern Hebrew'

Allow me to congratulate *The CJN* on its initiative to commission essays commemorating the 55th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. The article discussing modern Hebrew, written by Channa Pinchasi provided interesting insights on the language's development in the last century ("The miracle of modern Hebrew," *CJN*, May 15).

While the article made appropriate and well- deserved reference to the contributions of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, it failed to make reference to Reuven Brainin, one of the leading popularizers in Hebrew of ideas current in European literature. This omission by the author is all the more disappointing in light of Brainin's strong Canadian connection as a co-founder of the Jewish Public Library in Montreal and editor of the *Kanader Adler*.

I believe that contributions to Israel made by members of the Canadian Jewish community would be of particular interest to *CJN* readership and should be highlighted.

Robert Brainin Issenman
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Locating Mount Sinai

Shavuot, the holiday commemorating the Jews' receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, begins tonight. The CJN *asked archeologist Emmanuel Anati to write about an expedition he has been leading in the Negev Desert that has found much evidence to indicate that Har Karkom is the Mount Sinai of the Bible. The team's research is sponsored by the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici, Italy, in co-operation with the Antiquities Authority and the Archeological Survey of Israel, and supported by the cultural relations department of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The second part of this essay will be published next week.*

Since 1980 the plateau-shaped mountain, Har Karkom in the Negev Desert and the surrounding valleys have been under study. Twenty-three years of archeological expeditions have allowed a thorough survey of 200 square kilometres.

By EMMANUEL ANATI

Each expedition has provided fresh evidence, and now, nearly 1,300 archeological sites are known in the surveyed area. Many of them belong to the Late Chalcolithic Age, the Early Bronze Age and the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age, a period dating back to the fourth and the third millennia BCE that is referred to as BAC, or Bronze Age Complex. Remains of numerous villages of this period are found in the valleys surrounding the mountain, while the high plateau is covered by sites of cult and worship.

The archeological investigation in this area has produced an immense documentation on the way of life, the social structure, the economy, the habits and the beliefs of ancient desert people. It was clear from the beginning of the survey that Har Karkom was a paramount cult centre in the fourth and third millennia BCE where large groups of people came and built their camps at the foothills. Some of them climbed to the plateau to perform worship activities. Pillars, stone circles, geoglyphs or large pebble drawings on the ground, tumuli (mounds of earth), altar-like structures, peculiar round platforms with "altars" on top of them, are clear indications of religious activities. The enormous amount of religious rock art (more than 40,000 figures), alignments of pillars, the remains on the plateau of a small temple (a structure with a rectangular altar-like platform facing east) and at least five more at the foot of the mountain, indicate the paramount importance of this mountain for the Bronze Age inhabitants of the desert. Har Karkom presents a unique aggregation of evidence of religious activities.

Although Har Karkom's religious character was quite evident, no connection was made at first between that mountain and Mount Sinai. The team had never before questioned the traditional belief that the Exodus had occurred sometime around the 13th century BCE, assuming this to be an established "fact." There is no evidence of any human occupation at Har Karkom in the 13th century BCE, or for centuries before and after. Indeed, the usual date accepted for the Exodus is right in the middle of a long archeological gap at Har Karkom, a gap that concerns most of the Sinai Peninsula if military and trading stations aside are left. In fact, the description of daily life of Midianites, Amalekites, Amorites, Horites and other tribes appearing in the Bible, if not pure mythology, must refer to either before or after the second millennium BCE.

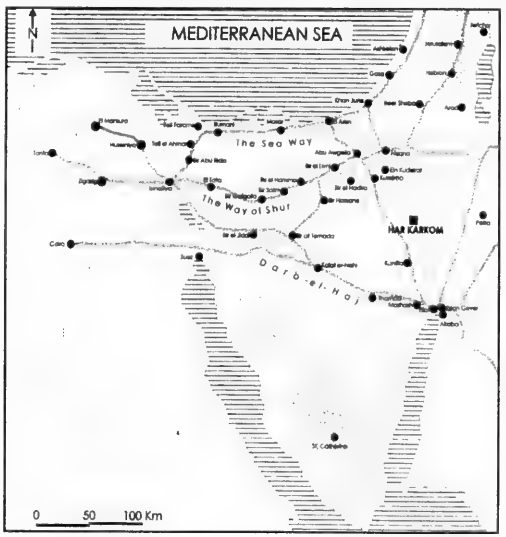
Another factor that at first prevented scholars from considering any relationship between Har Karkom and the Exodus was the location of this mountain on the edge of the "Promised Land," along a desert route from Egypt to Palestine, facing the area named Paran Desert, but far from any previously proposed itinerary of Exodus. Since Byzantine times, the biblical Mount Sinai was believed to be in the south of the peninsula, although this view is not corroborated by biblical accounts.

Some scholars viewed the wanderings of the children of Israel in the desert as random movements from one well to another. Others saw it as a route used to travel from Egypt to the Byzantine St. Catharine, and from there to Ain Kudeirat, which is believed to be Kadesh-Barnea in the north of the peninsula, not far from Har Karkom. There were several other hypotheses, but none considered the Har Karkom area. And, of course, there are a number of authors who claim that the account of Exodus is just a mythical story with no historical basis. In any case, the itinerary described must have been topographically meaningful to people from the first millennium BCE who were acquainted with the region. In 1989, and again in 1992, we surveyed various hypotheses on the itinerary of the Exodus in the Egyptian Sinai. We verified that several names and descriptions of the Exodus stations were identifiable and we reconstructed the itinerary in the book *Esodo tra mito e storia* (Capo di Ponte, Edizioni del Centro, 1997).

The idea that Har Karkom might be identified with the biblical Mount Sinai came after four years of surveying the mountain and 30 years after our discovery of rock art there. So on the basis of topographic and archeological evidence, it was proposed that Har Karkom may be identified with the holy mountain referred to in biblical narrations as Mount Sinai (*The Mountain of God*, New York, Rizzoli, 1986; *The Riddle of Mount Sinai*, Capo di Ponte, Edizioni del Centro, 2001).

Several scholars had previously thought that Mount Sinai should be located in the north rather than in the south of the Sinai Peninsula. But the identification of a specific site, one that relied on pertinent archeological findings, was a new fact that scandalized some, was accepted by others and stimulated wide debates.

The new proposal immediately found itself under fire from two directions. On one side were those who simply accepted a well-established cathechism on the location of Mount Sinai. Their comments were nonfactual, like: "Everybody knows that Jebel Musa is Mount Sinai, there is no reason for discussing the matter," or, "Mount Sinai must be the highest mountain in the Peninsula," or, "Since the site of the Burning Bush is at St. Catharine, the mountain cannot be far away." Others claimed that "a bunch of nomads in the desert do not leave traces." This last statement is simply wrong. At Har Karkom and in other areas of the Negev and Sinai, we found traces of numerous camping sites belonging to nomads, from Paleolithic times to Islamic times (though none from the Late Bronze Age).



On the other side were those who could not agree with our chronology. They said, "Since the Exodus took place in the 13th century BCE, Mount Sinai should have at its foot [the] remains of 13th-century camping sites." Should the date be as certain as some believe, this rule should apply to any site candidate for Mount Sinai, not just to Har Karkom. It is probable that not a single mountain in the Sinai Peninsula would fit because the 13th century BCE is part of a hiatus in settlement.

But we found other kinds of hostile reaction. Some scholars simply did not like to admit that they may have been wrong. An eminent biblist said, "I have been teaching for 30 years that Mount Sinai is Jebel Musa. How would one expect me to change my position at my age?"

To the best of our knowledge, besides the Greek Orthodox Church, no other denomination so far has taken an official position about Mount Sinai's location. The debate among theologians, biblical scholars and archeologists remains open. Nevertheless, the immense wealth of cult sites at Har Karkom proves that it was a paramount holy mountain in the Bronze Age. No such evidence has been found at any other Mount Sinai candidate.

In the books of Exodus and Numbers, Mount Sinai appears to be located between the desert of Sin and the desert of Paran, between the land of Amalek and the land of Midian, between Eilim and the "Hill Road of the Amorites." Other passages in the Bible provide information about the location of the above-mentioned deserts, and about the territories of the Amalekites, the Midianites and the Amorites. In the story of Moses in Midian, Mount Sinai is described as being on the edge of the pasture land of Midian and on the way between Jethro's residence and Egypt.

At the beginning of Deuteronomy, it is written, "It takes 11 days from Horeb, by the way of Mount Seir, to Kadesh-Barnea." For many scholars, even among those who do not agree with the identification of Har Karkom, Kadesh-Barnea is identified with Ain Kudeirat (or with the nearby Ain Kadis), and Mount Seir with Jebel Arif el-Naqa. In fact, there is a good trail between Har Karkom and Ain Kudeirat, by the way of Jebel Arif el-Naqa; along it there are 10 groups of wells at distances of seven to 14 miles from each other. Therefore, if Har Karkom is Mount Sinai, it takes a person who walks on foot exactly 11 days from Horeb by the way of Mount Seir to reach Kadesh-Barnea.

The Bible describes deserts and tribal areas around Mount Sinai. One of the main emerging points is that Mount Sinai, according to the narration, must be located on or near the border between the land of Midian and the land of Amalek. The Bible indicates that the Amalekites occupied the highlands of the central Negev and the area of Kadesh Barnea, and the Midianites were on both sides of the Araba Valley. Mount Sinai, according to the biblical narration, should be located between these two regions, meaning in the Har Karkom area.

Emmanuel Anati is the head of the Har Karkom Archaeological Survey and the director of the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici.

The logic of suicide terrorism

I attended a conference in Ramat Gan last month. For me, this visit to Israel, like so many others before it, was filled with positive expectation – that combination of nostalgia and a special sense of excitement that always seems to define my mood as my departure date approaches.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

But, perhaps even more intensely with this trip than with previous ones, my inevitable reality check came when people I work with expressed anxieties about whether it is even safe to go to Israel right now. After all, a terrorist bomb could go off just about anywhere, they said, so why take the risk?

And while it is relatively easy to dismiss well-intentioned concerns about where not to go and what not to do when there, it is nonetheless troubling to recognize that the pervasive uncertainty created by suicide bombers has, in fact, become almost as important a factor in their overall strategy as the actual carnage that they've been able to get away with.

What is apparent in today's Israel is that the fear factor permeates many aspects of daily life. Seemingly simple tasks often require intricate planning – as just getting from point A to point B might have dire consequences if sufficient care is not taken.

In the June issue of the *Atlantic Monthly*, Bruce Hoffman, the author of the book *Inside Terrorism*, had the following to say about what he describes as the "logic of suicide terrorism:" "First you feel nervous about riding the bus. Then you wonder about going to a mall. Then you think twice about sitting for long at your favourite café. Then nowhere seems safe. Terrorist groups have a strategy – to shrink to nothing the areas in which people move freely – and suicide bombers, inexpensive and reliably lethal, are their latest weapons".

Hoffman's insights are accurate. With armed guards at the entrances to most public places and with obvious signs of heightened security at the airport and in the form of roadblocks near population centres outside major cities, there are certainly enough reminders in Israel that the situation is far from normal in that part of the world.

But aside from its human toll, the ongoing terror campaign continues to have a devastating effect on Israel's economy in general and on tourism in particular.

It is sad, though not especially surprising, that so many potential visitors have chosen to remove Israel from their travel itineraries. However, what is especially unfortunate about is that the promoters of terrorism would have us believe that this, in itself, reflects the victory for their cause. If so, what a hollow and tragic victory it is.

Shame on Israel for ignoring Armenian genocide

Some things just don't get easier with time. A few weeks ago, for the 13th time since immigrating to Israel in 1990, I again grappled with the abrupt switchover from the sadness and solemnity of Memorial Day to the unbridled festivities of Independence Day.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

But this year, it was not just the emotional somersault that left me uneasy. As I watched on TV the official ceremony that kicked off Israel's 55th birthday, something else disturbed and disappointed me. It still does.

Call me naive. Call me myopic. Call me a misguided party-pooper. Call me whatever you like, but I expect better from my country.

Every year, shortly after Memorial Day ends at sunset, Israel begins its Independence Day celebrations with a moving open-air ceremony, televised live from Jerusalem's Mount Herzl. It includes the traditional lighting of 12 torches, representing the 12 tribes of the biblical Israelites. A ministerial committee selects the torchbearers in recognition of their contributions to society and to represent different segments of the population.

This year, Naomi Nalbandian was one of the 12 honorees. An Israeli of Armenian origin, she was selected in appreciation of her work with terror victims at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital, where she is a senior nurse.

Torchbearers prepare a few sentences to introduce themselves at the ceremony and to put in the event program. Initially, Nalbandian wrote that her grandparents fled Armenia and settled near Haifa in 1920 after passing through Lebanon and Syria. She described herself as "a third-generation survivor of the Armenian genocide, which took place in 1915."

But just before Independence Day, the Turkish Embassy in Tel Aviv learned that an Israeli Armenian was chosen for the ceremony and that, horror of horrors, she intended to refer to the genocide of the Armenians. In customary fashion, the country threw a temper tantrum.

Turkey is especially sensitive about the Armenians, having long denied its role in their mass murder. Armenians charge that between 1915 and 1923, the Turks killed some 1.5 million of their people through executions, starvation and forced marches. Most historians – including Jewish Holocaust experts – agree and recognize this as genocide. For its part, Turkey maintains that while some 600,000 Armenians may have died, it was an unfortunate result of war for which it was not responsible.

The Turkish ambassador in Israel was furious over the decision to have an Armenian light a torch even though she didn't plan to cite Turkey by name in her genocide reference. Turkey demanded a clarification from Jerusalem on whether Nalbandian's text represented a change in Israeli policy, which has always avoided blaming Turkey for the atrocities, or even fully acknowledging them.

The Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry and the Knesset all tried to placate Turkey. Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin and other officials entered the fray, persuading Nalbandian to delete the word "genocide" and instead refer only to "the suffering of the Armenian people." Nalbandian said she was disappointed but added she did not want to create problems for Israel.

On government orders, organizers scrapped the 4,000 programs already printed for the event. New ones were quickly printed at the last minute. The offensive words were also hastily erased from a plaque created for the ceremony. In the end, Turkey could rest easy as Nalbandian lit the torch and kept to the sanitized script. I cringed.

Admittedly, Turkey is a key regional ally of Israel. It's the only Muslim country with which Jerusalem enjoys warm relations. It provides strategic military co-operation and may one day even supply some of our fresh water. This is all highly important and should not be discounted.

Still, Israel should not deny another people's tragedy just to placate Turkey. Surely, if there is one country and one people that should be sensitive to this, it's Israel and the Jews who are justly outraged by the obscenity of Holocaust deniers.

Lamentably, Israel's caving in to Turkey's intimidation on the eve of Independence Day is only the latest episode in Jerusalem's consistently spineless, evasive policy over the years. Such a suppression of truth and history is a blight on Israel's name. By our failure to recognize this genocide, we are helping victimize the Armenians again. We should know better.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Canada's confused Middle East policy

What is euphemistically referred to as the "road map for peace in the Middle East" has been, at least so far, the latest version of diplomatic theatre, in which words and action are entirely disconnected.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

After the Oslo disaster, few Israelis expect to see a positive result this time. While the new Palestinian Authority prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, chairs meetings and greets dignitaries, PA President Yasser Arafat continues to pull the strings and orchestrate terror attacks. And although the United States, Europe, the United Nations and Russia have formed a "quartet" to co-ordinate policy, they remain hopelessly out of tune.

As is often the case, Canada is caught in the middle. Ottawa's policies do not reflect consistent principles or national interest, but reflect a course mid-way between the major powers.

In the Cold War, this meant membership in NATO while keeping lines open with Moscow and Havana. But after the collapse of the Soviet empire, a new cold war has been developing between Washington and Brussels (the headquarters of the European Union).

The fight erupted in full force over Iraq and has spilled over to postwar projects including Arab-Israeli issues. The continuing pilgrimages to Arafat by Europe's political leaders are designed to spite the United States (and Israel) rather than to achieve substantive goals.

In this environment, Canada's foreign minister, Bill Graham, with the backing of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, is again trying to please all sides – the Americans, the Europeans, the Palestinians and, perhaps, the Israelis.

A few weeks ago, Graham was planning to join the European migration to the remnants of Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah. When he belatedly realized that this would be understood as Canadian support for Arafat's continuing involvement in terrorism and would undermine regime change in the Palestinian Authority, Graham postponed the visit indefinitely.

This episode is sadly symptomatic of Canadian policy in the region.

While couched in lofty terms such as "peace making" and "human security," Canada's actions in the Middle East reflect far more parochial considerations.

The reflexive anti-Americanism of Canadian academics, journalists, and the political left is also entrenched in the foreign policy bureaucracy and leads to anti-Israel positions. In addition, the media image of Palestinian victimization that is central to the BBC's Mideast coverage and is often reflected automatically by the CBC has an enormous impact on Canadian government policy. The single-minded focus on Israeli "settlements and occupation," ignoring history before 1967 and decades of terrorist attacks, is fundamentally wrong-headed.

For all of these reasons, Canada's role in Israeli-Arab peacemaking efforts is in urgent need of a thorough overhaul. Clearly, the effort to make policy based on an emotional need to show independence from Washington (meaning adopting an anti-Israeli position) is foolish and destructive.

Furthermore, the concept of even-handedness that many Canadian policy-makers and academics believe to be necessary for effective mediation has also been shown to be without foundation. Instead, this artificial balance has destroyed Canada's claim to a moral foreign policy based on opposition to violence and hatred. And, in any case, Canada is not a major party in Arab-Israeli negotiations, particularly after the self-destruction of the United Nations around the issue of Iraq.

Instead, Canadian foreign policy-makers and politicians, including Graham and his successors, should be encouraged to develop a realistic policy independent of the new U.S.-EU cold war.

Canada can do its bit by funding Palestinian textbooks and television shows that support the acceptance of Israel's legitimacy, and halting funds to so-called "human rights" groups that actually promote hatred and terrorism. In Geneva, the Canadian delegation has distanced itself from the ridiculous excesses of the misnamed UN Commission on Human Rights (headed by Libya!), but in other areas, Canada is silent when the UN is continually misused to promote anti-Israeli propaganda.

Most importantly, to play a serious role, Canada's foreign policy-makers need a strong dose of realism. The myths that start history in 1967 and the propaganda map that focuses on "settlements," "occupation" and Palestinian victimization need to be replaced by a map that reflects the threats to Israel's survival from a very hostile Middle East.

In these ways, Canada can provide modest help in trying to prevent the latest "road map" to peace from sharing the catastrophic fate of all its predecessors.

The Kirshner File

Where are all those weapons of mass destruction?

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

What ever happened to Iraq's proscribed weapons of mass destruction? This burning question is posed with increasing frequency now that Saddam Hussein's Baathist regime has been consigned to the dustbin of history.

Nearly three months after the United States and its allies – Britain, Australia and Poland – invaded Iraq, Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, and the long-range missiles capable of delivering them have yet to be found.

That the United States has come up empty is a major disappointment and embarrassment. After all, the most compelling rationale for the invasion and the regime change hinged on these fearsome weapons. As Ari Fleischer, President George W. Bush's press secretary, succinctly put it, "This is what this war was about."

But as of last week, the United States had yet to uncover a "smoking gun" – hard, concrete, irrefutable evidence that such weapons were, in fact, in Iraq's possession.

This contentious issue has been on the international agenda since the first Gulf War.

After a coalition of nations, spearheaded by the United States, drove Iraq out of Kuwait in 1991, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 687.

Under its terms, the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) was charged with tracking down and destroying what was left of this deadly arsenal.

Iraq was expected to co-operate, but its co-operation was at best spotty and at worst non-existent.

In some instances, Iraqi officials grudgingly led inspectors to arms caches. But in other cases, they manifestly tried to obstruct their mission, which was never easy in a country the size of California.

Luck was also a factor. When Saddam's son-in-law – a towering figure in Iraq's military industrial complex – defected, he told the UN where a significant biological weapons storage was located – a chicken farm on the outskirts of Baghdad, of all places.

As a result of continuing Iraqi interference, the UN pulled its inspection teams out of Iraq in 1998. By then, Iraq had been largely defanged, in the view of UNSCOM.

From 1998 until the resumption of inspections last November, Iraq had a completely free hand in rebuilding its arsenal of unconventional weapons. By all accounts, Saddam took full advantage of this situation, the UN's array of economic sanctions notwithstanding.

In the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in Manhattan and Washington, D.C., the Bush administration began singling out Iraq as a threat to its security and that of its allies in the Middle East.

The claim, as it related directly to the Mideast, was plausible, given Iraq's aggressive policies and its expansionist designs. Iraq deployed mustard gas and other banned chemicals against Iranian soldiers in the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War. Iraq gassed its Kurdish citizens in the late 1980s. Iraq fired Scud missiles at Israel, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait during the 1991 Gulf War. And as Saddam himself acknowledged, he was animated by megalomanical visions of a greater Iraq.

Bending to relentless pressures, Iraq agreed to re-admit UN weapons inspectors. The job of monitoring Iraq was conducted by UNMOVIC, the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission. It was co-headed by Hans Blix, a former Swedish foreign minister and director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Under the division of labour, Blix hunted for chemical and biological weapons while his colleague, Mohamed El Baradei, an Egyptian, searched for nuclear weapons.

The mission was plagued by an intrinsic disagreement.

The United States, working on the assumption that Iraq had acquired new weapons in the interval from 1998 to 2002, expected Iraq to lead the inspectors to the caches, or, at the very least, to prove it had no illegal weapons. Vehemently denying it had any such weapons, Iraq adopted a basically passive role, much to Washington's ire.

From November 2002 to March 2003, UNMOVIC inspectors carried out more than 700 surprise visits to hundreds of Iraqi sites and interviewed a few Iraqi scientists. Nothing of value emerged from these inspections. The United States claimed that Iraq had refined concealment to a fine art and that only Saddam's ouster could finally establish the truth.

In his State of the Union speech this past January, Bush claimed that Iraq had upwards of 30,000 warheads, 500 tons of chemical weapons, 25,000 litres of anthrax and 38,000 litres of botulinum toxin.

He also said that Iraq was trying to build nuclear bombs.

On Feb. 4, in an attempt to rally world opinion, Saddam told a British interviewer that Iraq had "no weapons of mass destruction whatsoever."

The following day, Colin Powell, the U.S. secretary of state, presented the Bush administration's definitive case for going to war to disarm Iraq. He displayed satellite photographs, intercepts of conversations between Iraqi army officers and data from Iraqi defectors. Despite his suggestion that military action might well be unavoidable, Security Council members such as France and Russia insisted that UN inspections should continue. Blix and El Baradei agreed with this assessment.

With the eruption of war on March 19, the United States dispatched the 75th Exploitation Task Force to search for banned weapons. It concentrated its efforts on 90 high-priority sites, from the headquarters of Iraq's Military Industrialization Commission to the Amiriyah Serum and Vaccine Institute.

Colin Powell

But at many of these sensitive sites, looters and intruders had already sacked and burned evidence. What material of interest that did turn up, from dual-use biological equipment and nerve gas antidotes to gas masks and artillery shells, failed the test as "smoking gun" exhibits.

Compounding the frustration was last week's disclosure that two mobile laboratories found recently did not contain traces of biological agents.

Several high-ranking Iraqi scientists have given themselves up or have been captured. They include Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash, a senior biologist in Iraq's biological warfare program; Abd al-Khaliq Abd al-Ghafir, Saddam's scientific research minister; Hossam Mohammed Amin, Iraq's chief liaison with UN weapons inspectors; Amir al-Saadi, Saddam's senior weapons advisor; and Emad Hussein Abdullah al-Ani, a scientist instrumental in Iraq's drive to develop the nerve agent VX.

It remains to be seen whether they will be helpful, but if al-Saadi is typical of this bunch, they will not readily pass on incriminating information to the United States. After he surrendered to U.S. Marines, al-Saadi repeated the mantra that Iraq is clean of weapons of mass destruction.

Subsequently, *The New York Times* reported that an important Iraqi scientist had informed the United States that Iraq had destroyed its stocks of chemical weapons and biological warfare equipment in the days before the outbreak of the latest Gulf war and that Iraq had sent unconventional weapons and technology to Syria in the mid-1990s.

Bush also raised this possibility a month-and-a-half ago.

Still, as a senior U.S. army commander said last month, American forces have collected a pile of evidence suggesting that Iraq had an active weapons program. According to Donald Rumsfeld, the U.S. secretary of defence, the pieces will fall into place only with the active assistance of Iraqi scientists and military officers. Judging by a newly announced rewards program, they will presumably be paid for talking.

There is much to be done.

Gen. Tommy Franks, the outgoing commander of allied forces in Iraq, has said that 2,000 to 3,000 possible weapons sites have been identified. Cognizant of this awesome challenge, the United States has reorganized and upgraded the 75th Exploitation Task Force, which, in the future, will be known as the Iraq Survey Group.

Scott Ritter, a former UN inspector and a vocal critic of U.S. policy, claims that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction no longer exist.

But the United States is adamantly sticking to its story. "We know [Saddam] had them, and whether he destroyed them, moved them or hid them, we're going to find out the truth," Bush has declared. Gen. Richard Myers, the chair of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has said that finding them is "just a matter of time."

Amid this debate, the Central Intelligence Agency has launched a review to ascertain whether the United States overstated the Iraqi threat. Whatever the outcome of the investigation, Washington really has nothing to fear. Iraq was a clear and present menace to the region, and if the United States had not intervened, Saddam surely would have destabilized the Middle East, sooner or later.

He had to go.

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Perle urges Palestinians to scrap 'culture of death'

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The road map, the internationally sponsored Mideast peace plan supported by the United States, may not endure unless the Palestinians scrap their "culture of death" and stop demonizing Israel, neo-conservative American foreign affairs analyst Richard Perle said here last week.

"If this doesn't happen, we may end up with an agreement that doesn't last," he told an Israel Bonds/ UJA Federation luncheon meeting at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.

Perle, who served as U.S. assistant secretary of defence during the Reagan administration, warned that the prospect of "stable peace" will be stifled unless the Palestinian Authority ceases its Jihadist incitement against Israel.

Throughout the now-defunct Oslo peace process, he observed, Palestinians were indoctrinated in the "culture of death." They were taught to hate and kill Jews, and official Palestinian maps omitted Israel.

If peace is to prevail, these practices must stop, said Perle, a consultant to the U.S. department of defence and a member of the Defence Policy Board and a resident fellow of the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, both based in Washington, D.C.

Richard Perle

Perle said that within three weeks of the first Oslo accord in September 1993, PA President Yasser Arafat violated the letter and spirit of the agreement by delivering a speech in which he called for jihad, or holy war.

If the road map is to succeed, Perle said, such violations must not re-occur.

It is too soon to pass judgment on the new Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, despite his flirtation with Holocaust denial. He should be given a chance and not be dismissed based on what he wrote in the past, Perle said.

Backing calls for Arafat's exile, Perle said, "I'd rather see him on the French Riviera than in Ramallah. He'd be much more comfortable there."

Perle said the weight of international law sanctions Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

"But the occupation has gone on too long," he asserted, implying that Israel should withdraw from the territories in exchange for peace and secure and defensible borders.

A future Palestinian state must be demilitarized, Perle said. But he predicted the Palestinians will resist demilitarization.

And they consider the "right of return" an article of faith, he added.

"What troubles me is that it is a card – a very dangerous card – that can be played in any number of ways to prevent an agreement."

The issue, therefore, should not be left to the tail end of negotiations.

Perle said "some formula" for resolving Jerusalem's final status can be found once the other central issues are settled.

"If there's a will to peace, something can be done on Jerusalem."

Blasting the European Union for having coddled Arafat and for being "too biased" in its approach to the Arab-Israeli dispute, Perle said Israel erred in agreeing to the EU's sponsorship of the road map and participation in talks.

Perle said that peace and democracy in the Middle East are inextricably linked because authoritarian Arab regimes encourage hostility against Israel and breed xenophobia.

So the attempt by the United States to bring democracy to the region is well worth the effort.

Describing the allied invasion of Iraq as a "war of liberation," Perle said Iraqis can look forward to an era of freedom, but patience will be required before Iraq is transformed into a democracy.

Accusing Iran of being "up to its eyeballs" in support of terrorism, Perle said that Iran is "a threat to all of us."

The United States will continue to isolate Iran by diplomatic means, he said.

But within 12 to 18 months, he forecast, "peaceful change" will sweep through Iran because most young Iranians are fed up with theocratic rule.

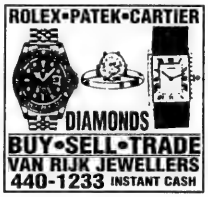
Perle castigated the Saudi Arabian government, saying it feeds terrorist organizations around the world and tolerates the extremist Wahhabist doctrine of holy war against "infidels" and the United States.

He was also critical of the United Nations, saying it must be reformed to deal with the spectre of state-sponsored terrorism.

The UN, he said, was founded to cope with 20th century threats and advised that it should change its charter so that state sponsorship of terror is considered inadmissable. He also urged Canada to take the lead in bringing about such reform.

The lesson the United States has learned from Sept. 11 is that it must not wait too long before responding to a clear and present danger, Perle said.

"Everything we did after Sept. 11 we could have done before Sept. 11," he said, referring to the American invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq and the campaign against terrorism.



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I felt starved and deprived. Once I stopped the program, I gained my weight back plus more.

I was easily insulted in those days. People told me, "You have such a pretty face." I knew what they meant: *Too bad you're so fat.*

I was desperate, yet I couldn't stop eating. I craved and binged. Every day I'd hide a sleeve of chips in my desk drawer.

One day I saw a story in the newspaper about a woman who had lost 47 lbs. I wanted to look like her. I called to schedule my free weight loss consultation.

Glimmer of Hope. I told my consultant about my past failures. How my weight was hurting my marriage. She understood.

Choosing hypnosis was the best decision of my life. I lost my weight at an average of 10 lbs. a month: 49 lbs. in all. When I first started, I was stretching the seams on my size 16 jeans. I recently bought my first pair of size 6's!

Easy and Fun! I noticed a change in my eating habits after my first session. When I'm full, I stop eating. I don't feel like I'm depriving myself. I don't fight it with will power. *It's automatic.*

Passport to a New Life. I used to let the scale determine my mood in the morning. Now, I just wake up in a good mood. I no longer think about my weight. If I'm thirsty, I reach for a glass of water. If I'm hungry, I eat a well-balanced meal.

AFTER

Before hypnosis I stayed home all the time. I didn't want people to see me. Now I'm out and about all the time.

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One night my husband gazed into my eyes and said, "Stacey, I think you're the sexiest woman alive." The best part was that I believed him. I actually felt sexy. Our passion has been sizzling ever since.

I have not been paid to write this. I believe in hypnosis. It's given me my life back.

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Sunny spirits dominate Walk with Israel 2003

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

For some, it was their first time. For others, UJA Federation of Toronto's annual Walk with Israel is a family tradition.

Brian Cohen, 14, of the Community Hebrew Academy's Richmond Hill campus said he has been coming for at least seven years with his family. This year, he volunteered to pick up litter on a downtown street corner.

"Somebody's got to do it," said fellow litter scooper Mark Rootenberg, 15, who visited Israel several years ago. He said he enjoyed seeing "the Western Wall and...the past of Jerusalem."

Jacob Steinfeld, 15 and also on trash detail, attended this year for the first time. "I didn't expect this many people!" he said.

The turnout for this year's walk, on Sunday, May 25, was around 20,000, nearly the same as last year.

According to UJA Federation spokesperson Howard English, that makes it the largest Israel solidarity walk in the world.

"New York has a parade, but as far as a walk goes, there is no community in the world that shows as much support. To be able to get 20,000 members of our community out for one event is an outstanding achievement," English said.

"So much for 16 millimetres of rain!" one man cheered as the sun dissolved the fog, brightening what had promised to be a third straight rainy year for the event.

Though most walkers were parents with young children, many extended families walked together.

Gloria Howard brought her granddaughter, Jennie, 12, and a friend, Zoë, from West Preparatory School, where the two girls are in Grade 6. "It's fun to do it as a family thing," Howard said.

English said the walk has become a tradition over its 33-year history. "It began... as the UJA Walkathon, but over past few years, it's been designated as a solidarity walk with Israel."

This year's walk, he said, raised about the same as last year, $500,000 – out of a total of $65 million raised by the UJA for its Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. Funds raised from walk pledges go "specifically toward victims of terror and other vulnerable Israelis."

Toronto's Jewish community is unique, English said.

"Toronto's Jewish community is so important to the Diaspora... Around the world everyone knows the connection of our community with Israel," he said. "Despite everything going in the world, and despite the fact that it turned out to be a beautiful sunny day [which] people could have spent... doing many other things, they put Israel first – they showed the world."

This special bond was also felt by many native Israelis.

Around 20,000 people turned out for this year's Walk with Israel.
[Jennifer Paquette photo]

Isaac Pessah, who came to Canada 30 years ago, said "it's great to see the atmosphere." His wife, Anat, who's arrived four years ago, said she saw a lot of her students from the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School. Events like these, Pessah said, benefit Israel, but also strengthen us as a community.

"It's nice to see the community come together," shouted Rabbi Jay Kelman of Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz Congregation over the music and din of a super-sized wrap-up event, with clowns and inflatable amusements, at the National Trade Centre at Exhibition Place.

"It's so important, we even came with five kids."

He added that even when his now 5-year-old daughter "was born on the Friday before the walk... we came on Sunday."

Other attractions for those who finished the nearly 5-km, three-checkpoint walk included a drumming workshop, kosher cotton candy and a seven-foot Magen David crafted out of more than 200 individual balloons by entertainer Sean Rooney.

Continued on page 15

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About 20,000 turn out to show support for Israel

Continued from page 14

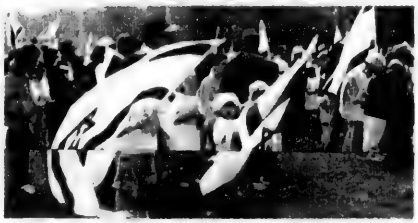
"Aren't you dizzy?" a boy asked, as he watched Rooney delicately pinch off the balloons and link them together. "I'm dizzy most of the time," Rooney said, with a grin.

Even those without young children were getting into the spirit. "We've come the last three years," Ed Yuditsky said. "We're here on our own," said his wife, Evelyn.

"We come down every year to support Israel with this

Other walkers showed that you don't even have to be human to support Israel. Devoted canine companions trotted alongside walkers, many decked out, including Licorice, Jackie Valmont's five-year-old Yorkie-Poo, in Walk bandanas and blue-and-white flags.

"We do this every year," Valmont said. Though Licorice was born and raised in Toronto, in his heart, Valmont said, "he's an Israeli dog."



Left: Waving the flag for Israel. Right: Chabad representatives offer walkers a spiritual boost.

[Jennifer Paquette photos]

Leora Mietkiewicz (left) and Kelsey Glaser, both 9, brighten the walk with their grins.

Jackie Valmont, Lee Wagman and Licorice, the "Israeli dog."

Evelyn and Ed Yuditsky: "We love it!"

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ERRATUM

The Canadian Jewish Book Awards Committee regrets any embarrassement or inconvenience caused to JUDY GORDON regarding a misunderstanding on the awards status of her recent book, *Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters.*

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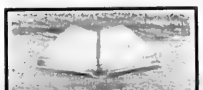
By RABBI MORDECAI E. ZEITZ

Think about any Jewish holiday and you will think of a significant Jewish symbol. Symbols and symbolic acts are a major part of every Jewish holiday celebration. There's a shofar on Rosh Hashanah; fasting on Yom Kippur; a Sukkah, etrog and lulav on Sukkot; and matzah and all the seder trappings on Pesach. Even the post-biblical holidays of Chanukah and Purim have unique symbols and practices, with each one reflecting the story and special message of that occasion.



Rabbinic Reflections

But what about the upcoming festival of Shavuot? What mitzvah or practice really depicts the very essence of Shavuot – the time of our receiving the Torah? The tradition of staying up all night studying Torah is laudable, but not necessarily unique to Shavuot night. Many people study Torah at night throughout the year. Decorating our homes or shul with greenery symbolic of Mount Sinai is a practice most people are unaware of. Initially, there doesn't appear to be anything that we do on Shavuot on the shofar or matzah level.

But of course there is! We eat dairy foods, notably blintzes and/or cheesecake. That's Shavuot, the essence of the time of the receiving of the Torah. It seems ludicrous and highly non-spiritual, but let's give it some serious consideration: Torah, a blintz and lessons from Sinai.

Allow me to give this "blintz" a face. Let's call it Chaim. Chaim loved blintzes. He and his wife were very poor, but Chaim was rich on dreams. One day, he was walking on the street when he smelled the fresh aroma of something wonderful. He followed his nose and there on the ledge of a window was a tray of amazing blintzes. He was tempted, but he was a righteous man and dared not touch. Then the woman who made the blintzes reached for the tray and Chaim seized the moment to ask for the ingredients. She obliged and said: fine flour, eggs, oil and of course, fresh cheese.

Chaim ran home and announced that this Shavuot there would be blintzes because he had the recipe. He could hardly wait for the holiday and spoke about his blintzes every day for a month.

Erev Shavuot, he nudged his wife all day as to when she was going to start the process. To make it easier, he volunteered to help. He would read out the instructions and she would just follow through.

First, he said: "Pour in the fine flour." "But, we have no flour, fine or otherwise," replied his wife. "So use whatever you have and then blend in the eggs and the oil," Chaim said. Said his wife: "but we have no eggs nor oil." An anxious Chaim replied: "Use whatever and stir it and fill it up with cheese and bake them. It's almost Yom Tov."

She did her best. Instead of flour, she used some stale bread crumbs; instead of eggs and oil, she used water and some leftover tea essence, and having no cheese, fresh or otherwise, she just left out that part.

Chaim sat in the other room salivating just thinking about his blintzes to be. He heard the bustle in the kitchen and finally smelled the aroma. They were ready, and after kiddush, so was Chaim.

His wife brought these terrible-looking, hollow things to the table and Chaim took the first bite. They tasted worse than they looked, which was frightful enough.

In disbelief, Chaim turned to his wife and said: "I just don't understand what people see in blintzes. It's just not what it's cracked up to be."

To appreciate the full extent of the "time of the receiving of the Torah" and thus the values of the Torah itself, we need all the ingredients. When and if we have substituted or replaced some of the core ingredients, it's hard to find a reason to celebrate. It's just not the real thing.

While scholarship and knowledge are crucial, it is the resulting value system and lifestyle flowing from Torah that Shavuot celebrates. The ingredients for a meaningful Matan Torah – a celebration of Torah on Shavuot – requires ongoing mutual respect, honesty, integrity and tolerance, of not only knowing and performing mitzvot, but applying the values of those mitzvot in other aspects of our lives. The most significant ingredient for the Sinai experience was six million people feeling and acting as one. Can we possibly celebrate Shavuot without that sense of unity?

There is nothing like a real blintz on Shavuot or anytime. You just need all the original ingredients.

Rabbi Zeitz is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Tikvah in Montreal.

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Words have power. They sing. They hurt. They teach. They sanctify. They were early man's first immeasurable feat of magic. They liberated us from ignorance and our barbarous past. For without these marvelous scribbles that build letters into words, words into sentences, sentences into systems and sciences and creeds, we would be forever confined to the self-isolated prison of the scuttle fish or the chimpanzee.

The accumulated wisdom of the past has been transmitted through words down through five millennia, since the Sumerians first began to scratch cuneiform symbols on clay tablets in their walled cities along the Tigris-Euphrates plain.

Without words there could be no conversation, and conversation is the oldest form of human instruction – and still an indispensable one. Books, scientific discoveries, works of art and perceptions of truth and beauty in any form all require words to explain and complete their meaning; without them they are *abracadabra* – color to the blind or music to the deaf. Conversation is the handmaid of learning, true religion and free government.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel once said we should choose our words as we would write a cheque. Each additional zero makes a huge difference. We should take as great care with forming the vowels and the consonants that fall from our lips as we do with each number that flows from our pen onto the cheque.

There are words that soothe hurt, that help us face loss. There are words that stir souls, that capture and quicken imaginations, that give us wings. There are words of all colors and hues, and from every land and tongue and time.

Words are a paradox. They are both a curse and a blessing. The Talmud tells of Tobi, the servant of the famous sage Rabbi Shimon Ben Gamliel, who was told to go to the marketplace and buy the best piece of meat he could find. Tobi brought back a piece of tongue. The next day he received the opposite instructions: to bring back the worst piece of meat he could find. Again, Tobi brought back a piece of tongue.

His master was confused. "When I asked you to bring back the best piece of meat, you brought back a tongue," he said. "When I asked you to bring back the worst piece of meat you also brought back a tongue. Please explain your logic!"

Tobi answered, "There is nothing better than a good tongue and nothing worse than a bad one."

How important is the right word? Mark Twain asserted, "The difference between the right word and the almost right word is the difference between lightning and the lightning bug." The Book of Proverbs reminds us, "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pitchers of silver."

Political campaigns, especially, subject us to the multiple dangers of ugly and mendacious rhetoric. A lawyer confided to me that when you have the facts, you pound the facts; when you have the law, you pound the law; when you have neither, you pound the table. A lot of our political campaigns are just exercises in pounding the table.

We denude words and pauperize ourselves by draining them of their deeper significance. "Talk is cheap," we say, and we do our part to keep it so. Perhaps "verbicide," the killing of words and their meaning, is symptomatic of the greater crisis of values and purposes which runs through so much of modern life. Responsibility in our use of words would be a valiant beginning toward a more mature and serious understanding of ourselves and our world.

Jewish Life

Shavuot and the Seven Species – part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

"A land of wheat and barley, of grapes and figs, and pomegranates; a land of olive and honey." Deuteronomy 8:8. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?H2CA22F74]** As Shavuot approaches, we continue our look at the Seven Species, the special grains and fruits associated with the holiday: wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.

One of the fruits offered when the Temple was standing was the fig (*t'aynah*). The fig holds the distinction of being the first fruit mentioned in the Torah, one whose leaves allow Adam and Eve to cover up. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?D6B7242B4]**

If you prefer eating figs to wearing them, check out some of the creations by Jerry Parsons, professor of horticulture at Texas A&M University, whose fig-centred recipes include stuffed fresh figs, poached figs, fig jam and fig ice cream. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?C37A210A4]**

According to the Midrash, the pomegranate (*rimon*) has 613 seeds, corresponding to the number of mitzvot. The fruit was held in such high esteem that it was hung on the Temple's columns and used widely on coins. These days, you can hear silver "rimonim" jangling on the Torah's ornamental finials when the scrolls are carried in shul. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?W12242294]** You can ponder the fruit's importance as you dine on pomegranate soup, followed by pomegranate lamb and topped off with pomegranate ginger muffins. **[http://homecooking.about.com/library/archive/blmuff16.htm]**

When the Torah mentions "honey" it doesn't mean bee honey, but rather honey made by boiling dates with sugar and scooping out the sugar that rises to the top. **[http://www.gemsinisrael.com/e_article000039885.htm]** Israel exports nine varieties of dates, including medjoul, halawi and zahidi. **[http://www.hadiklaim.com]** Use them in date pecan bread, lamb tajine with dates and almonds, or in the more than 100 other date recipes at Just Fruit Recipes. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?L18B212B4]**

"I am like a green olive tree in the House of God; I trust in the love of God for ever and ever." (Psalms 52:10) In "Olives, Judaism and the Land of Israel," Rabbi Jo David looks at the importance of the olive in Judaism, from its use as a symbol of peace in the story of Noah to that little jug of oil in the story of Chanukah. **[http://www.imakenews.com/gems/e_article000008954.cfm]** The Olive Tree World Web site has articles about olives and their importance in world history, Mediterranean cooking and healthy eating. **[http://www.olivetree.eat-online.net/]**

Beyond familiar tastes and uses, each of the Seven Species is said to have special kabbalistic attributes. The Lubavitcher Rebbe suggests that for most of us, "life" is synonymous with "struggle... We struggle to find a partner in life, and then we struggle to preserve our marriage; we struggle to raise our children... The 'olive' in us is that part of ourselves that thrives on struggle, that revels in it, that would no more escape it than escape life itself. 'Just like an olive,' say our sages, 'which yields its oil only when pressed,' so, too, do we yield what is best in us only when pressed between the millstones of life and the counter forces of a divided self." To find out why the date embodies "perfection," and the pomegranate represents "deeds," check out Yanki Tauber's article "Seasons of the Soul: The Seven Kinds." **[http://chabadonline.com/scripts/tgij/paper/Article.asp?ArticleID=2776]**

Although each of the Seven Species has its own unique quality, I don't think ancient Israelites ever considered that mixing them together would deliver something pleasing to the palate. But one company has done just that with its "Bible Bar," whose packaging features the unique slogan: "Contains the Foods of Deuteronomy 8:8." The bar's creator says God became the first nutritionist when He commanded, "You shall not eat of every tree in the garden." **[http://www.newhousenews.com/archive/feran042403.html]** (If you know of a kosher product or recipe that incorporates all Seven Species, please pass along the information.)

Have a very happy Shavuot.

* * * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

A good teacher can transform a life

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

It's the end of another school year. By June, most teachers are, beneath their goodbye smiles and words of praise for overachieving students, frazzled to the bone. So in tribute to the job done but often not fully appreciated, I offer some thoughts regarding the teaching profession.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

From Donald Quinn: "If a doctor, lawyer or dentist had 40 people in his office at one time, all of whom had different needs, and some of whom didn't want to be there and were causing trouble, and the doctor, lawyer or dentist, without assistance, had to treat them all with professional excellence for nine months, then he might have some conception of the classroom teacher's job." Amen.

The singular irony of the relationship between a teacher's power and their significance is acutely perceived by Tracy Kidder: "Most teachers have little or no control over school policy or curriculum or choice of texts or special placement of students, but most have a great deal of autonomy inside the classroom. To a degree shared by only a few other occupations, such as police work, public education rests precariously on the skill and virtue of the people at the bottom of the institutional pyramid."

Although Quinn and Kidder refer to public schools with massively overpopulated public school classrooms, their thoughts will still resonate for many soldiers on the Jewish educational battlefield.

What is the goal of education? Regarding the ongoing controversy over teaching information versus inspiring young minds, Robert Shaffer notes, "We must view young people not as empty bottles to be filled, but as candles to be lit." George Bernard Shaw adds, "What we want is to see the child in pursuit of knowledge, and not knowledge in pursuit of the child."

Ultimately, however, it is not the intelligence or the organizational skills or the humour or the logic or the creativity of the teacher that cuts the deepest. Teachers who reach the student's vulnerability and are able, through the magic of a warm and caring personality, to transform the student's year and sometimes their life, are the ones who are truly remembered, as Carl Jung asserts: "One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. The curriculum is so much necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child."

For the teacher of Jewish studies, special challenges abound, as the task is not just to nurture hearts but to pierce souls. This is a unique test and requires a distinctive response. Perhaps no one frames the task better than Rav Aharon Lichtenstein: "It is difficult to nurture values of faith and trust in an environment dominated by secularism. Faith and trust are not the most marketable merchandise. I am convinced that students can easily distinguish between a teacher who is truly devoted to his or her calling, whose soul is bound up with that which he or she teaches, and one who only goes through the motions and regards teaching as merely a livelihood."

As we pray each evening, the Torah is our life and the length of our days. May our students feel the same way, long after they leave us.

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Next generation gives back to the community

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

For the first time, three twentysomethings are leading a fundraising committee for the Baycrest Centre Foundation's annual campaign.

David Rosmarin, Jesse Kaufman and Evan Cooperman are co-chairing the Next Generation Committee, which is made up of young volunteers whose task it is to target donors in the $1,000 and under category.

"It's very meaningful for young people to get involved," said Rosmarin, 24. "It's an amazing opportunity for young people to give back to the community."

The committee's goal is to raise $500,000. Forty volunteers between the ages of 18 and 25 staffed the group's first fundraising event, a one-day telethon this past April. The telethon raised $75,000 in six hours.

"The telethon was so successful because of the generosity of the community – that's both the people that made the phone calls and the people that made the donations," said Kaufman, 25.

Rosmarin said, "You can make a tremendous difference to the community in very few hours. People want to give."

The Next Generation Committee plans to hold at least two more telethons this year, with the next one planned for this summer.

Kaufman said the group provides young people with the opportunity to get involved in the Jewish community.

"Some young Jews are cut off from the community and it's very tough for young people to know how or where to start," he said. "This is a great institution… Everyone in the Toronto Jewish community benefits from [Baycrest] at some point."

Kaufman said after the first telethon, some of the volunteers who had initially been reluctant to make calls ended up asking how they could become more involved with the committee.

"There are a lot of young people that are looking for good things to do," he said.

This year's campaign is also significant because a group of Baycrest supporters established a matching fund. The group will donate up to $2 million for the campaign by matching every donation from a first-time contributor or any increase from a prior donation. For example, if you gave $50 last year and donate $100 this year, an additional $50 will be donated.

Frances Bigman, a development officer for the Baycrest Centre Foundation, said it is important for young people to get involved in Baycrest.

"It is wonderful to see young people paying tribute to those same seniors that built the community from which they now benefit," she said.

Here in Jerusalem I've found a community of seekers. The air is charged with our debates as we try to assimilate into our lives all that we've learned. I feel energized by the opportunity to support Israel. **Marla Bennett**, Masters degree student in Jewish Education. Murdered at the Frank Sinatra Student Center, July 31, 2002.

The founders of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem knew that an institution of higher education, representing the greatest values of the Jewish people, was central to the creation of a sovereign Jewish homeland.

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ONLY LOVE: Popular Israeli singer Sarit Hadad recently performed at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto. The Eurovision Song Contest 2002 finalist performed songs from her ninth CD *Only Love Will Bring Love* and from her other multi-selling albums.

[Perry Blatt photo]

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Concert to assist guard who tried to stop bombing

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When young Canadians venture to Israel, they naturally seek a dose of Canadiana and have frequently found it at Mike's Place, a popular Tel Aviv rock n' roll bar.

In late April, Mike's Place was hit by a suicide bombing that killed three people and left dozens injured. The death toll could have been much higher had security guard Avi Taviv not lunged at the bomber before he detonated himself.

Now, two Toronto men who have spent countless days revelling in the fun of Mike's Place are trying to assist with Taviv's recovery by holding a benefit concert.

"I can't imagine the thought going through [Taviv's] head... He knew this guy was the bomber and physically threw himself at him. It's just incredible," said Steven Devor, who is organizing the concert with friend Michael Dacks.

Taviv is reported to have undergone three surgeries after suffering a broken neck and various other injuries in the blast, but he is on the road to recovery.

"It's a miracle he's alive. It's a miracle he survived," said Dacks, 27, who spent two years as a paratrooper in the Israel Defence Forces and intends to return this summer to Israel to complete his law degree.

The benefit concert, which will be held June 9 at 9 p.m. at The Silver Dollar, 486 Spadina Ave., will help foot the bill for Taviv's medical expenses, and school tuition.

Proceeds will also go toward other victims of the attack.

Two local bands and other musicians will join in the jam, recreating the sounds of Neil Young, the Rolling Stones and the other rock artists whose music is played at Mike's Place.

Dacks said he chose the Silver Dollar as the venue because it has an ambience similar to Mike's Place.

"We wanted to bring the atmosphere [of Mike's Place] here," Dacks said.

Dacks and Devor, two former classmates at Leo Baeck Day School who re-established their childhood friendship in Israel in the late 1990s, often spent time at the original Mike's Place in Jerusalem.

"The beers were waiting for me when I walked in the door," Dacks recalled.

"Everyone has the exact same story."

The popularity of the Jerusalem location prompted the opening of a second Mike's Place in Tel Aviv a few years ago, despite the spate of bombings in the coastal city.

A week after the suicide bombing, the bar was up and running again.

"If they can put their lives back together in a week, we can surely organize a benefit concert," Dacks said.

"Jews in Toronto feel very strongly about Israel... and we want to do something concrete [for Israel]. This is a nice, small way to begin doing that," added Devor, 27, a York University student.

For details on the "Mike's Place Toronto" benefit, e-mail eyesoftheworld03@hotmail.com.

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Group for South African Jews to be launched

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

While Canada's South African Jewish population grows steadily, fewer and fewer relatives and friends are left behind to care for those who can't leave – the elderly, people living in poverty, orphaned children.

Now, Canadians have a way to help, through a new organization called Canadian Friends of the South African Chevrah Kadisha (CAFSACK).

Concert set for July 2

CAFSACK will formally celebrate its launch with a concert on Wednesday, July 2, 8 p.m., at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. The event will feature Oshy Tugendhaft and the Sydenham Choir, names CAFSACK executive member Mel Rom says will resonate with any Jew from South Africa.

The event is "a great opportunity to experience first hand how South Africans feel about their country and… do something to alleviate a great financial burden," Rom says.

Although most Jews associate the term chevrah kadishah (literally, "sacred society") with death and burial, Rom says, particularly in Johannesburg, its mandate is far wider.

"The Johannesburg chevrah kadishah is by far the largest," says Rom, who volunteered with the organization when he lived there. "It used to be just a burial society, but over a 10- to 12-year period, its annual budget has increased to 75 million Rand ($12-13 million Cdn)."

"To put this into perspective," Rom adds, "United Way's budget is $70 million for all Canadians, which is equivalent to $30-$40 million there… Given that the Rand to Canadian dollar is five to one, our dollar can actually go a long way over there; $100 gets you R550.

"And it's an unbelievable cause," he adds, noting that the Johannesburg organization alone supports more than 2,000 people in nursing homes each month for food, housing and medical care.

"They rely and depend on the chevrah kadishah income," says Rom. Previously, they were living in "run down, crime-ridden, unsafe places."

In addition to caring for an aging population, the chevrah kadishah is responsible for Johannesburg's Jewish orphanage, providing all the children's physical and medical needs. It also offers scholarships and other educational opportunities for young adults, and helps them meet other young Jews.

Rom says CAFSACK supports burial societies throughout South Africa. "A lot of Jews have left smaller towns and congregated in larger cities, and each small town had its Jewish cemetery… [If] the synagogue is closed down, that cemetery needs to be maintained."

Canadians wishing to show support through CAFSACK can either make a general donation or direct funds to specific cemeteries or communities.

"People here had parents, grandparents, scattered across the country," Rom says. "Donations can be made to CAFSACK to maintain a specific gravesite or to honour a specific individual. We also accept donations in honour of an event [or] dedicate them to a specific need."

The large chevrah kadishah organizations with which CAFSACK is affiliated remit funds in turn to smaller organizations, so donations will trickle down to where they're needed most, he says.

CAFSACK is also inspiring Jews from other communities. People tell Rom it is amazing that they haven't forgotten about the cemeteries and the gravesites in South Africa.

"Everybody living here… has that responsibility [to see] that gravesites are maintained, that elderly people are cared for," one person told him.

In the 1970s South Africa's Jewish population peaked at around 120,000. Today, Rom says, "you've probably got a population of about… 80,000. Every year we're seeing just a huge immigration. If you think about the population that left, those are the ones who have the means to go somewhere else."

When they leave, they take with them "not only what they've accumulated but what they would have earned in the future," leaving behind "a population who's a lot older, with greater needs for welfare… The burdens become enormous; year after year, these institutions have to go out and raise funds from fewer and fewer people living in the country."

Rom, who's been in Canada about two years, says he is thrilled at this chance to make a difference with CAFSACK, an organization he founded with six or seven other expatriates.

He's excited about CAFSACK's launch, not just as a fundraiser, but as a unifying community event. Tugendhaft, he says, is a chazzan at one of South Africa's largest congregations, and along with the Sydenham choir, recently filled London's Royal Albert Hall with a crowd of 2,500. Here, CAFSACK is hoping for a sellout crowd of 1,800 on July 2. "They'll feel an incredible amount of nostalgia."

Rom estimates that there are about 20,000 South African Jews in the GTA alone, with many more spread out across Canada. "This organization isn't just set up for Toronto; we want people from all areas across the country involved in helping to market and spread the word about CAFSACK… it has to extend to Vancouver, Hamilton, Edmonton… everywhere South African Jews are living."

For ticket information, e-mail info@cafsack.org, go to CAFSACK's Web site, www.cafsack.org, or phone 416-761-6060.

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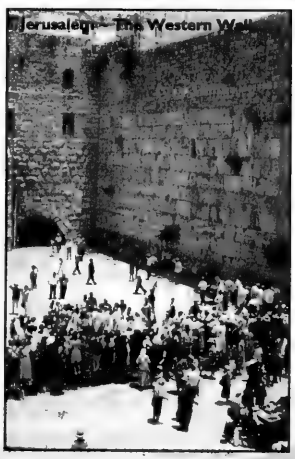

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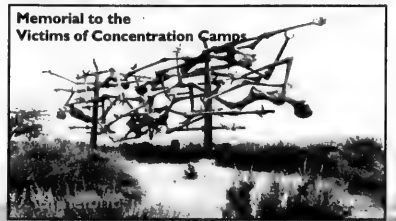

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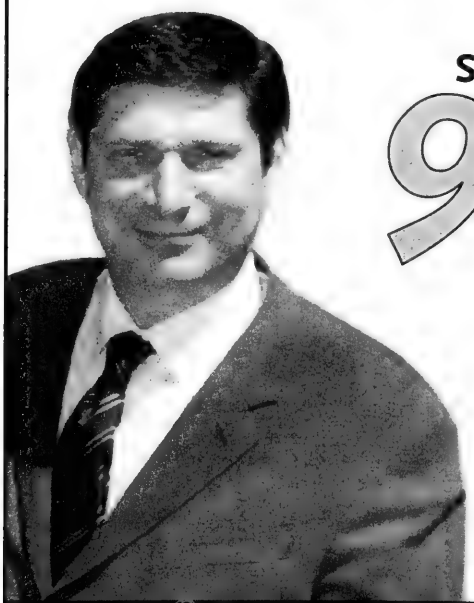

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Greater Toronto Area

Palestinians want Israel dead: Prager

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Peace has eluded Israel and the Palestinians for one good reason, says American radio talk show host and author Dennis Prager.

"The Palestinians want Israel destroyed," he said at the Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg lecture at Holy Blossom Temple last week. "That's the only obstacle to peace."

And the world does not want to recognize this, said Prager, who is based in Los Angeles. But if the Palestinians came to terms with Israel's existence, they could attain statehood within a week, he said.

The Palestinian leadership, however, denies Israel's legitimacy, and covets Haifa, Tel Aviv and Eilat, in addition to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Prager suggested that Jews are wasting their time endlessly debating the rights and wrongs of Israel's communities in the West Bank and Gaza because the Palestinians "want Israel dead."

He expressed concern that U.S. President George W. Bush, whom he said he trusts, seems unaware of the Palestinians' real goal.

That is why, Prager said, he is worried about the "road map," the internationally-sanctioned and U.S.-supported peace plan to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Prager accused Arab states of using the Palestinians as a "battering ram" against Israel.

He also denounced Palestinian suicide bombers, whose prime objective, he said, is to enjoy the promise of virgins in heaven.

Or, as he put it, "Blow up a Jew and get laid."

In a swipe at press coverage of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Prager condemned newspapers for labelling "terrorists" "militants" and using morally neutral headlines to describe terrorist incidents.

By engaging in these practices, he charged, the media obscures the moral clarity of Israel's cause.

In a biting reference to Jews who mercilessly criticize Israel, Prager said, "We produce a lot of sick people."

Citing two examples, he mentioned U.S. scholar and critic Noam Chomsky and Canadian columnist Rick Salutin.

He said their judgments are clouded by "moral confusion."

Prager counted Christian fundamentalists in the United States as Israel's only "true friends," and said that if Jews believed in the Torah as much as some Christians, the Messiah would appear.

PEACEMAKER'S CARNIVAL: USDS Bathurst campus students recently held a Peacemaker's Carnival to demonstrate their commitment to peaceful problem solving and Derekh Eretz. Peacemakers are students, identified by bright orange vests, who undergo special training to find positive ways to solve disagreements. At the carnival, students participated in activities which involved problem solving or conflict resolution. Seen here around the Peace Pond are (from left) Nicole Himelfarb, Lee Gold, David Stern and Joshua Tenenbaum.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto

OUR FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Agudas Hamishpocha Philanthropic Fund

How a caring family planned for the community's future

What started out as an informal social club for a close-knit family has grown into a full-fledged breakfast club that has donated tens of thousands of dollars to Jewish charities.

This year, members of Toronto's Rubinoff, Naftolin and Arnoff families will celebrate the 75th anniversary of that day in 1928 when a group of Russian immigrants new to Toronto decided to form an official family club.

"Our parents were extremely poor and nobody could afford entertainment," recalls Norman Rubinoff, president of Agudas Hamishpocha (which means united families) and son of one of the founders. "So instead they decided to meet in different people's houses once a month and have a party."

But fun wasn't the only item on the agenda. They enjoyed their gatherings immensely, particularly the summertime picnics in High Park and the many events held in their building in the heart of Toronto's downtown Jewish neighbourhood, yet were committed to the Jewish community and always looked for ways to give of themselves.
In its early years, says Mr. Rubinoff, the family formed the Agudas Hamishpocha Loan Syndicate to provide its members with interest-free loans, and by the 1940s the family's Ladies Auxiliary began holding teas and rummage sales to raise money for charity.

As the community moved north, the family sold its original downtown headquarters and purchased a place near the corner of Wilson Avenue and Bathurst Street. They sold it in 1988 and set up the Agudas Hamishpocha Philanthropic Fund with most of the proceeds. A small amount was set aside to fund the clan's breakfast meetings, now held seven times a year at the Borochov Centre.

"It didn't feel right to just divvy up the money amongst ourselves," says Mr. Rubinoff, whose 80 members pay $25 in annual dues. "Rather, we felt better about putting the money towards some worthy causes."

"Way back when Agudas Hamishpocha was founded, its members were very poor, yet they always managed to give back to the community because they saw the need," says Mr. Rubinoff.

Mishpocha Executive from the 1930's

The $100,000 endowment fund, administered by the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, supports numerous charities including UJA Federation's annual campaign, the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre's Hebrew Club for the Blind and day camp scholarships, Baycrest Centre, Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel Cancer Research Fund, Jewish Camp Council, and Reena Foundation, among others.

"Over the years our family has stuck together, and despite tough economic times we've continued to devote our time and money to charity. We learned this important mitzvah from our parents, and through the fund we're teaching our next generation to do the same."

THINKING AHEAD

We talk a lot about continuity—about the importance of creating a sustainable, vibrant Jewish community for the generations to come. For years, your annual gift to the UJA Federation Annual Campaign has helped to fill so many vital Jewish needs. You can help to ensure our Jewish future by establishing a Perpetual Annual Campaign Endowment (PACE).

Once you create a PACE, it makes an gift to the annual campaign in your name forever. It can be funded in a number of ways, all of which offer financial and tax advantages. When considering your estate plan, please consider adding a PACE or LOJE (Lion of Judah Endowment).

For more information about planned giving opportunities, please contact Carol Kassel, Director of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, 416-631-5674 or ckassel@ujafed.org.

ask PAC...

This is a new feature from the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto's Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) to help you with financial and estate planning issues. We welcome your questions.

Q My spouse died some time ago, and I have remained alone in our home. Our children are well provided for and I am thinking of gifting our home to charity. A friend has suggested that I can do so and remain in my home for the balance of my life. Is she correct, and how does this work?

Robert Cohen, Q.C.
Blaney McMurtry LLP

A Yes - she is correct - and there are a number of ways that this can be done:

- You can choose to donate your home to a charity now while you are alive.
- You can choose to donate your home to a charity by way of a bequest in your will to take effect upon your death..
- You can make the donation now and defer the granting of possession until your death.
- You can make the donation in your will and defer the granting of possession until a subsequent event. This often happens when both spouses are alive and the owner chooses to donate the home by way of will bequest, but defer possession until the death of the surviving spouse.

The last two examples are described as gifts of "residual interest". The only difference in each of the above situations is the calculation of the tax receipt that you or your estate will receive from the CCRA. In all cases, the property vests in the designated charity at the time of the transfer, and the transfer is irrevocable, or permanent.

If you are donating your principal residence, there is no issue of a capital gains liability. If the gift is an outright gift, either during your lifetime or by will, it will be deemed to be disposed of at fair market value. However, if the gift is a gift of a residual interest, a calculation must be made beginning with fair market value, and then discounting the value based upon an actuarial calculation of the life expectancy of the person gifting the residual interest.

In summary, there are different ways to make a gift of your home to charity that can be advantageous to you, and meaningful for the charity.

Note: *"The material in this article is provided for general information purposes only. Please speak to your personal legal and/or financial advisor to work out a plan tailored to your needs.*

Send your questions to: "Ask PAC" c/o the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, 4600 Bathurst Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M2R 3V2, via fax: 416.631.5701, via email: jewishfoundation@ujafed.org or call us directly at 416.631.5703.

Jewish Toronto

UJA Federation readies for major mission to Israel

UJA Federation is currently planning its largest Israel solidarity mission since September 2000.

Dubbed *B'Yachad* (Together), the mission - which is expected to send 300 people to Israel from November 11 to 19 - has already attracted dozens of participants.

Chaired by Michael Buckstein, Stephen Goldhar and Barry Zagdanski, *B'Yachad* will offer mission participants the opportunity to meet Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"Prime Minister Sharon and the people of Israel are looking forward to this upcoming mission," says UJA Federation's Emissary from the State of Israel, Yossi Tanuri. "When they heard that we are expecting to send 300 members of Toronto's Jewish community to Israel, you could feel their excitement and sense of anticipation. Israelis know how Toronto has always supported them in the past, and this mission is being looked at by Israel as an extremely important show of solidarity."

Barry Zagdanski, dubbed "Mr. Mission" chats with former Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on a past UJA Federation Israel Solidarity Mission.

After their arrival in Israel, the Toronto contingent will be joined by many more Canadians from coast-to-coast, already in Israel at that time. They will come together for a unique event called *Canada Salutes Israel*, at the Palmachim Air Force Base near Tel Aviv.

During the *Canada Salutes Israel* festivities, the Canadians will be joined by two thousand pilots and soldiers from the Israel Defence Forces, as well as Prime Minister Sharon.

"It's going to be the most incredible mission, in terms of the numbers of people going, and the show of solidarity Canadians will make," says Buckstein. "It's important people realize that although there will be hundreds going, we're not sacrificing the individuality and intimacy people need."

"This is the mission that proud, Jewish Torontonians simply cannot afford to miss," says Goldhar. "Participants will make a direct impact on the lives of Israelis, not simply by being there, but by volunteering at various social service agencies. What a wonderful opportunity."

Dubbed "Mr. Mission" for his relentless recruitment of mission participants, Barry Zagdanski knows that *B'Yachad* is not a typical Israel mission.

(l-r) Stephen Goldhar, Israeli PM Ariel Sharon and Michael Buckstein.

"Absolutely not," he insists. "This mission is a classic case of strength in numbers. The itinerary is completely different than the norm. For one thing, we will be spending more time with Israelis, living like Israelis, doing what Israelis do day to day. People should take advantage of this mission. They may not have a better chance to express their love and support for Israel."

For more information about the *B'Yachad* Mission and other UJA missions, contact Elana Barrett at 416.635.2883 ext. 177 or ebarrett@ujafed.org

legacy of life

Barbara Frum 1937 - 1992

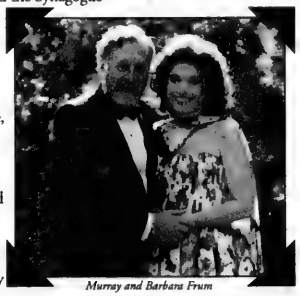
Barbara Frum may have been one of Canada's most well-known and respected personalities, yet fame didn't faze her. To those who knew her best, Barbara was a giving and gracious woman who cared deeply about others and never missed an opportunity to show it.

How many of her TV viewers knew that the famous CBC news anchor never charged a speaker's fee for her lectures or appearances, choosing instead to donate the money to charity? Or that she and her husband Murray were so devastated by the plight of Soviet Jews in the 1970s that they encouraged community leaders to make hundreds of dollars worth of overseas telephone calls from their own home so they could arrange swift travel to Israel? Or that for many years Barbara was the largest female donor to UJA Federation's annual campaign and was a role model for women in the community.

"My mother's big mantra was, 'I want to be a good person,'" says daughter Linda Frum. "And she devoted herself to that cause by giving of herself, caring about the world, being informed about the world, and simply being a very loving person."

These are qualities Barbara came by naturally. She was raised in Niagara Falls, Ontario, the eldest of Harold and Florence Rosberg's three children. The family, which owned the area's popular Rosberg's department store for more than 50 years, was steeped in Jewish communal life. Their home was always open, with Jewish community leaders stopping in when they needed a place to stay, and they regularly donated clothing and other items from their store to those less fortunate. Barbara's grandfather Jacob was one of the original members of Niagara Falls' Beth Jacob Synagogue and Harold and his brother Joe were instrumental in creating a Jewish area in the city-run cemetery to ensure proper Jewish burial. Florence was president of Niagara Falls' Hadassah-WIZO chapter.

For her part, young Barbara attended a Jewish overnight camp and the Synagogue youth group, and at the age of 18 she enrolled at the University of Toronto's largely Jewish University College. During her first year there, she met Murray Frum, a man she was instantly attracted to for his intelligence, confidence, wit and energy, and they married soon after. Barbara was passionate about art and together with Murray they supported Toronto's arts community, including the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Stratford Festival. And says Linda, Barbara's sense of *tzedakah* (charity) and *chesed* (acts of kindness) was an integral part of her life.



Murray and Barbara Frum

"My mother had this fearless questioning of things," says Linda. "She had curiosity, a love of learning, a profound respect for the written word, and a deep sense of justice. These were critical parts of her character, and I believe she would say they were informed by her Jewish education."

Barbara cared deeply about Israel and showed it at every turn. It was she who maintained the connection with Murray's cousins in Israel so that Linda and her brothers David and Matthew would know their extended family. And even when she became Canada's most recognized journalist, she never missed a chance to stand up for Israel on air.

"As host of CBC's *The Journal* during the Lebanon War, my mother fought very hard to ensure balanced coverage of Israel," says Linda. "That sense of fairness at the CBC is one of the many things that has suffered since her death."

But although she was good to life, life had a funny way of showing its appreciation. Barbara was struck with leukemia when she was just 36 and spent the rest of her life battling back. She lived each day with a tremendous sense of precariousness and passion, says Linda, and always surrounded herself by what she loved - her poodle Diva who had the run of her CBC office, her remarkable home garden that was both a physical and spiritual retreat, her intoxicating work, and the deep personal relationships she developed along the way.

Journalist Robert Fulford, a longtime friend, says Barbara reflected Jewish tradition most directly through her studious attitude to everything she cared about. Hers was a serious life lived with vivacity and dedication, he says, and it's an example to those she left behind when she died of cancer in the spring of 1992.

"What we all learned from Barbara - or tried to - was attentiveness to life," he says. "She was the most caring of friends and the most thoughtful of conversationalists. She remained a hard-working student all her life: of history, of art, of politics, of journalism, of architecture and gardening. Nothing was lost on her. Barbara grew as a professional and as a private individual because she thought that the life around her, and the history that had created this life, was worth her most careful attention."

Legacy of Life is a presentation of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto to honour the memory of those who have made an exceptional contribution to our community.

Toronto Jewry flourishes: generation to generation

New census data confirms Jewish growth

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

In just one generation, Toronto's Jewish community has almost doubled in size from 97,000 in 1971 to nearly 180,000 today. Those encouraging numbers come from a new Jewish demographic study based on 2001 census data.

"Toronto continues to grow as the leading centre of Jewish life in Canada, and one of the world's leading Jewish cities," says Dr. Stuart Schoenfeld, Chair, Department of Sociology, Glendon College, York University. "In fact, in terms of Jewish population, Toronto has moved up the list of leading cities in the Diaspora. Toronto's Jewish populace is now number 10 or 11 in the Diaspora, and it is regarded as one of the world's most important Jewish communities."

Cities with the Largest Jewish Population in the Diaspora

New York, N.Y.	1,750,000
Miami, FLA.	535,000
Los Angeles, CA.	490,000
Paris, France	350,000
Philadelphia, PA.	254,000
Chicago, ILL.	248,000
San Francisco, CA.	210,000
London, Eng.	200,000
Moscow, FSU	200,000
Toronto, Ont.	**179,100**
Washington, D.C.	165,000

Irving Ungerman, age 18, stands in front of Toronto's Royce Poultry located at 216 Royce Avenue in this 1941 photograph, when the Jewish population was 49,046.

(Photo courtesy of Ontario Jewish Archives)

According to results from the 2001 Canadian census, Toronto's Jewish population stood at 179,100, surpassing the anticipated total of 175,000. The original census data separated its findings by recording those who identified themselves as Jewish by religion and those who consider themselves Jewish by ethnicity. The most recent demographic study directed by Shahar combines ethnicity and religion.

"I believe that it is important for people to know that while the religion-only numbers supplied by the census gives us a base to work with, you then have to add thousands more people who identified themselves as Jews by ethnic origin," says Schoenfeld.

Charles Shahar, Chief Researcher, National Demographic Study for UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC), agrees.

"Absolutely," he says. "Taking only the ethnic numbers, or the religion numbers on their own, does not give a complete picture of the Jewish community. It must be a combination of ethnicity and religion numbers, not one or the other."

In 1991, Jewish Toronto consisted of 162,495 people. Ten years later, Toronto has gained more than 16,000 community members, an increase of over ten percent.

"In absolute terms, Toronto gained more Jewish citizens in those 10 years than any other Jewish community in Canada," says Shahar. "In fact, Toronto gained five times more Jews than the next highest city, Vancouver, over that decade."

Particularly impressive about Toronto's burgeoning Jewish population is growth among the 15-24 year-olds, an increase of 20 percent over 1991. "These numbers bode well for the future of Jewish Toronto," says Shahar.

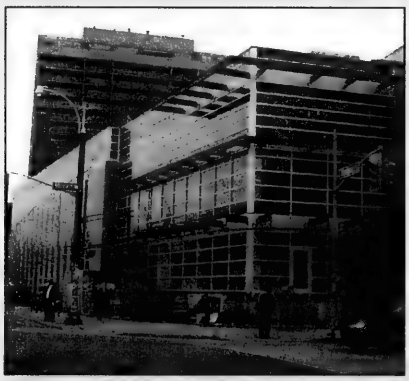
"There's no doubt," says Schoenfeld, "the growth in Toronto's population has been quite impressive, which is not that surprising since Toronto is the leading economic centre of Canada. It is even more impressive that the members of Toronto's Jewish community are aware of the significance and importance of Toronto as a Jewish city in the world and they act accordingly."

Jewish Populations across Canada

Metropolitan Area	Jewish Population	% of Cdn. Jewish Population
Halifax	1,985	0.5
Montreal	92,970	25.1
Ottawa-Gatineau	13,450	3.6
Hamilton	4,675	1.3
London	2,295	0.6
Windsor	1,525	0.4
Toronto	**179,100**	**48.3**
Winnipeg	14,760	4.0
Calgary	7,950	2.1
Edmonton	4,925	1.3
Vancouver	22,585	6.1

Miles Nadal JCC

Prepared for Toronto's growing Jewish community



Replacing the aging Bloor Jewish Community Centre at the corner of Bloor and Spadina, the new 43,000 square-foot Miles Nadal Community Centre, set to open this summer, will supply Toronto's flourishing Jewish community with state-of-the-art facilities downtown. The Nadal Centre is a Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative.

Overwhelmed by Jewish Toronto

"We're so happy to be here"

Hearing stories about Toronto's "amazing" Jewish community over and over again from her brother and sister, former Montrealer Marion Miller decided to make that drive down the 401 west.

Since Marion, 37, her husband Eric, 42, and their two children, David,12, and Janna 8, made the move to Toronto four years ago, they haven't looked back.

"I suppose the main reason we left Montreal for Toronto – other than the respective economies – was to be part of Toronto's unbelievable Jewish community," says Marion.

"We had always heard that it was a great place to raise Jewish kids. While I still have some family in Montreal and I miss them, it was the right move coming here."

"I couldn't believe it," she says, "everywhere I looked there were signs telling us to join one Jewish activity or another. For every holiday there's a dozen signs. Toronto's community is so huge, they advertise and celebrate their Judaism. Being kosher here is incredibly easy too, I fell in love with Sobeys the moment I arrived."

Marion's husband Eric echoes his wife's sentiments.

"It's not that I disliked Montreal, it's just that I was so overwhelmed by the strength, passion, vibrancy and size of Toronto's Jewish community," says Eric. "No matter where you go in Toronto, Jews are proud to be Jews. The people are warm and welcoming and it's just such a pleasure to be part of such a wonderful Jewish community. We're so happy to be here, I'd say we definitely picked the right place to raise our family."

Marion and Eric Miller enjoy life in Jewish Toronto with their children, Janna and David.

Greater Toronto Area

Legion's General Wingate branch marks 70th year

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Major General Orde Charles Wingate was a staunch Zionist in the 1930s when the British army he fought for was preventing Jews from entering Palestine, sometimes by force.

As a tribute, Canadian Jewish war veterans named their branch of the Royal Canadian Legion the General Wingate Branch 256. Last week, the branch celebrated its 70th anniversary in a ceremony attended by 125 people at Beth Radom synagogue.

Murray Jacobs, the 82-year-old chair of the anniversary celebration, was a sergeant who served overseas in the Canadian Armed Forces from 1942 to 1946. He had no qualms about volunteering for service.

"If this country is good enough to live in, we should defend it," Jacobs said.

Many of the attendees served during World War II, as well as in Israel's War of Independence in 1948.

Sam Gotlieb was in the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1943 to 1946, serving in England, Holland, Belgium and Germany.

Looking around at his colleagues, Gotlieb said, "It's so nice that so many [veterans] are still around."

Irving Kaplansky served in Israel's War of Independence. He said as a young Jewish man, there was an implicit call to duty.

"I volunteered because there was an urgency for people to go into the army," he said.

Ontario MPP David Young lauded the veterans and their fallen comrades for risking their lives in the fight for freedom.

"I'm here to tell you that we do remember your great sacrifice," said Young.

"You gave up your youth and your health... because of the fact you were patriots."

Young said the veterans' war efforts have ensured the continuation of Canada's democratic values and institutions.

Wingate was born into a religious Christian family and believed deeply in the Bible's prophecy of Jewish redemption in the Holy Land.

He served as an intelligence officer in Mandatory Palestine from 1936 to 1939, training Haganah fighters in special night operations to fend off Arab attackers.

But as the British adopted a stricter policy towards Jewish immigration, Wingate met with resistance from his superiors. He was transferred out of Mandatory Palestine in 1939 and his passport was stamped with a restriction that he not be permitted to return.

The former Jewish Brigade named itself after Wingate in the mid-1940s in his honour.

Today, the branch supports Sunnybrook Hospital and in 1995, several branch members visited Amsterdam to commemorate their role in liberating the Dutch during World War II.

"For all those who enlisted during World War II, the hope was for freedom and peace in Canada and throughout the world," said branch president Sam Romberg.

"At this time, we need to continue our efforts toward the struggle for peace and liberty for all humankind."

WALK CONFRONTATION: Rabbi Michael Skobac, right, of the counter-missionary group Jews for Judaism confronts a member of Jews for Jesus at the recent UJA Federation of Toronto's annual Walk with Israel. Five members of Jews for Judaism's "Rapid Response Unit" were on hand at the walk to frustrate the activities of the Christian missionaries.

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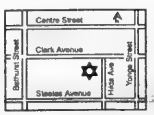

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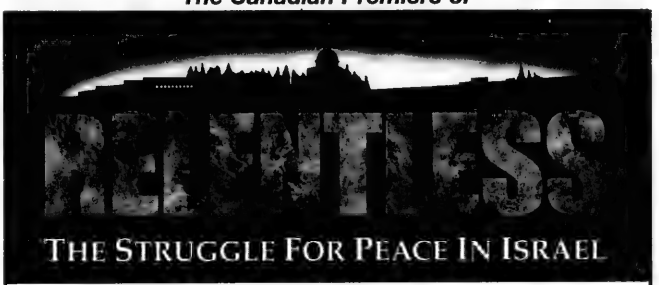

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SARS forces postponement of wedding

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Michelle Markowitz was really looking forward to her day as a blushing bride. Instead, she's "just really, really sad."

Markowitz, a 26-year-old occupational therapist at St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital in North York, spent the day of her own wedding wearing a mask while in quarantine against SARS.

She's fine – no fever, no symptoms at all – but was ordered into isolation after hospital officials noticed unusual pneumonia-like symptoms among patients.

Markowitz learned of the order on the 11 o'clock news May 23, just two days before she was to walk down the aisle at Beth Sholom Synagogue to wed fiancé Brad Goldsmith.

"My first thought was, 'I won't be at my own wedding!'" Markowitz chuckled good-naturedly in a phone interview. "Then I realized there wouldn't be any wedding."

Markowitz was scheduled to be in isolation until June 1. "The days are going by," she sighed.

Family out of pocket an estimated $15,000

Meantime, Markowitz and her family are out of pocket an estimated $15,000 that had been spent on the caterer, flowers, hand-made invitations, kippot and a personalized ketubah. The couple-to-be also lost the deposit on a restaurant they had booked for an out-of-towners dinner.

She said her parents are looking into whether there's any insurance coverage for the loss.

They had invited about 220 people, who had to be told to stay home. Guests had already flown in from California and Florida, only to be told the nuptials were on hold.

Ironically, roughly 40 members of Goldsmith's family from the United States had already cancelled due to the SARS scare. Goldsmith, an accountant, hails from Michigan.

"It was an American long weekend too," Markowitz says, referring to Memorial Day. "It was going to be perfect."

The couple has re-scheduled the wedding for Nov. 8.

"I hope we'll have better luck," Markowitz said.

Tribute to Israel in the June 19 issue of
The Canadian Jewish news

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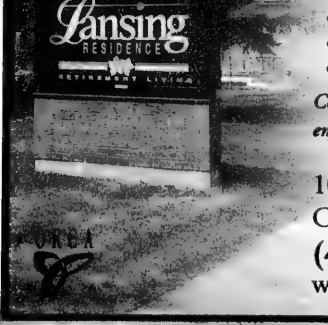
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Alex Eisen, *Tribute Chairman* — David Diamond, Al Latner, *Dinner Chairmen* — Philip Feldberg, *Campaign Chairman*

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On Campus

Lake scientist Norman Yan wins research awards

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Norman David Yan is in a better position to clean up Ontario's lakes now that he has won two prestigious academic prizes worth more than half a million dollars.

Yan, a York University and Ontario Ministry of the Environment lake scientist (limnologist), was recently notified he had won $650,000 to further his research on "multiple ecological stressors."

A $500,000 grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation will enable him to build a state-of-the-art field laboratory in Dorset, Ontario.

A $150,000 Premier Research Excellence Award will permit him to launch four graduate student projects.

Yan's research is on a very practical plane.

"I work on the effects of multiple ecological stressors on Canada's inland lakes," said Yan, who is also a biologist, botanist and zoologist. "I also work on factors that regulate the recovery of lakes from past damage."

The stressors he explores range from acid rain, metals and excess nutrients to UV radiation, exotic species and plankton (floating organisms).

"Essentially, this lab will allow my students and me to culture plant and animal plankton and expose them to various light, temperature, chemical and ecological gradients to help both identify the causes of current problems facing Ontario's inland lakes and predict future changes," he said.

The lab, which is expected to be up and running within a year, will be housed on the property of the Dorset Environmental Science Centre and the Ministry of the Environment.

Two of the graduate students will study the impact of a pesky invading species, the spiny water flea, on Ontario's lakes.

A third student will try to ascertain whether long-term changes in animal plankton communities stem from changes in the biochemistry of the food base.

The fourth student will write a preliminary report on the consequences of falling calcium concentrations in softwater lakes.

Yan, a graduate of the University of Guelph and the University of Toronto, said that multiple ecological stressors probably have a great impact on lakes.

"No one knows the economic effects, but they must be enormous. We are just beginning to study the ecological effects. We're in the realm of a very new science here."

According to Yan, lakes all over eastern North America are under stress.

"But the stressors of concern vary from place to place. Climate change is more important in northwestern Ontario, but in southeastern Ontario, acid rain, invasive species and excess nutrients are the problems."

He is optimistic the problems can be resolved.

"We've solved huge problems in the past, and we can learn from these lessons. The keys are adequate knowledge to allow us to identify threats at an early stage, research to identify the cause of the threat, and information transfer to management agencies and the public about the threats, their causes and their resolution."

The most serious threats come from non-indigenous species, pollution and climate change, he said.

Yan, the son of a wood chemist and a store manager, was born in Sault Ste. Marie in 1948.

He was initiated into biology by the "two Maxes." Max, Yan's father, was an outdoorsman who introduced him to "the amazing 'invisible' world in a drop of pond water." A family friend, Max Illand, took Yan on his first overnight canoeing trip.

"Since those early days, I always sought to spend as much time out of doors as possible. I looked for graduate student projects that would allow me to understand the life of Ontario's lakes," said Yan.

Yan joined the Ontario Water Resources Commission in 1970 as a mobile laboratory operator, and the Ministry of the Environment in 1976 as a scientist.

Three years ago, he joined York University's department of biology.

"While I'm a full-time professor, I currently work under a partnership agreement with the Ministry of the Environment. I really value the opportunity to bring students into a functioning government lab. The ivory tower has no place in my life, and students seem to value this."

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In REAL JEWS, Noah Efron has drawn close parallels between the rhetoric and propagandistic advertising denouncing the ultra-Orthodox and traditional anti-Semitic attacks that have historically raged throughout Europe. There are chilling similarities between statements by prominent Nazis and Israeli politicians journalists and academics. Much of this is almost unfathomable, exposing a restrained war between secular and Orthodox Jews that is tearing Israel apart. Prof. Noah Efron brings into focus a country at war with itself, obsessed with and conflicted about that it means to be a Jew.

Coast to Coast

McMaster president 2003 Hamilton Negev honoree

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Peter George, president and vice-chancellor of McMaster University, has been chosen Hamilton's 2003 JNF Negev Dinner honoree in recognition of excellence in communal leadership and support of the Jewish community.

The June 15 dinner, sponsored by the Jewish National Fund of Hamilton in conjunction with State of Israel Bonds, will include an address by former Ontario premier Bob Rae and a memorial tribute to Ilan Ramon and the other astronauts who died in the Columbia space shuttle disaster. Former astronaut and McMaster University graduate Roberta Bondar will chair the memorial tribute.

Peter George

Funds raised from the dinner will go toward the reforestation of Mount Scopus in Jerusalem. Dinner proceeds exceeding the amount targeted for the project will go to student exchange programs between McMaster and Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

In an interview, George said he was thrilled to be selected as the Negev Dinner honoree and was especially pleased that proceeds will go toward greening Mount Scopus.

"The project resonates with me particularly well, because McMaster is such a green campus, with a lot of green space and mature trees. I've been to Hebrew University and I know how important it will be to the community at that university to have a greener environment and to see the rest of Mount Scopus treed. It will be a huge lift to the spirits and it will build a sense of linkage between McMaster and Hebrew University, which I'd like to see extended into greater academic linkages as well."

George, who has been McMaster president since 1995, implemented and led a strategic planning initiative called Directions, which guides the university's development of teaching and research programs.

He also led the recent Changing Tomorrow Today fundraising campaign that raised more than $128 million from the private sector.

A member of the Order of Canada, George has received a number of awards for educational and community activities. The author of many publications, his recent research interests include the impacts of resource-based development on native people, community development, and the environment in Northern Ontario.

Under George's leadership, McMaster is constructing an innovative $71 million building called Centre for Learning and that is scheduled to open in September 2004. It will house such facilities as the Institute for Molecular Medicine and the Centre for Gene Therapeutics, as well as a "research incubator" supporting researchers and research projects.

The incubator will initially focus on biotechnology, but the spin-off will be intellectual property that will benefit business locally and beyond, George said.

McMaster now has research and educational partnerships with local businesses, he said, adding that additional research projects in health sciences, engineering and science will lead to more new business opportunities.

"I encourage researchers to get involved with partnerships in business. The university is not an island onto itself. It's part of this community and it can be a major contributor to the prosperous future of this community."

Regarding the role the university plays in the debate of controversial political issues, George said universities should provide a forum for discussion without fear of intimidation or violence.

"I believe the university is a place where we respect freedom of opinion and freedom of speech, including the right to express dissenting opinions… It's a place where people feel safe and secure in expressing their views. As president, it is my job to make sure that kind of place, a secure environment, is available within the university for all members of our community.

"However, I don't think it's the president's job to say who can, and who cannot, speak on campus. That kind of censorship is arbitrary and is not part of the essence of the university and our values and principles."

George credited student groups such as the Jewish Students Association for working to maintain respect of other cultural groups.

"It's important for student leadership to respect the notion of a tolerant environment in which there may be an exchange of opinions on campus."

The formation this year of the President's Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community was an important step in providing a safe environment for the university's diverse multicultural community, he said.

Membership in the committee includes faculty, staff and student associations, senate and McMaster Students Union committees on human rights, and the Sexual Harassment and Anti-Discrimination Office.

"The examples of violence at Concordia [University in Montreal] and elsewhere remind us of how fine the line is between discussion and dissent and between confrontation and conflict," George said, referring to ongoing friction between student groups over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"It only takes one or two hot-headed individuals who step beyond the boundaries and you can have significant problems… That's where I think peer leadership is so important. Students are the best ones to cool out the hot-heads among their members."

George said at the beginning of the school year, he signals to the leadership of student groups that the university has expectations about behaviour.

"Proactive action is better than reactive action," he said.

"I say [to student leaders], 'Let's remember the values and principles of this place and [plan] how you can pursue your interests and activities without stepping over the boundaries.'

"In the end, we're all responsible to adhere to a certain set of norms of behaviour in the university around tolerance and respect for diversity, and respect for dissenting opinion. We're our own monitors for appropriate behaviour."

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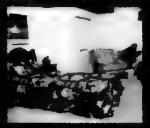

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 9, is deadline for June 19 issue and Monday, June 16, is deadline for June 29. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Shavuot Events

On Shavuot we celebrate and commemorate receiving the Torah at Sinai. This year Shavuot begins the evening of Thursday, June 5 and runs through Saturday, June 7. The following is a list of some of the Shavuot events in our community. All programs offer refreshments throughout the night.

Thursday, June 5

The **Pride of Israel Synagogue**, 59 Lissom Cres. is holding a Shavuot dinner followed by Learn-a-Thon Treats for kids at 7 p.m. and a Speaker's Program for adults at 8 p.m. 416-226-0111 ext. 10.

Congregation Habonim offers a Night of Sacred Stories from 8:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. with Yitzhak Buxman, Avrum Rosensweig and Eli Rubinstein. 5 Glen Park Ave.

Kollel, Congregation Beth Torah, the **Danforth Jewish Circle** and **Congregation Darchei Noam** are hosting a night of learning from 9:30 p.m. to 6 a.m. There will be free hourly lectures and childcare, bring sleeping bags! 151 Eglinton Avenue W. For information call 416 485-7007 ext. 0.

Adath Israel, Beth David, Beth Emeth, Lodzer Centre and **Temple Sinai** offer a night of learning from 9:45 p.m. to 5:45 a.m. followed by sunrise Shacharit at 55 Yeomans Rd.

Beth Tzedec Congregation will spend the night studying and exploring Judaism, business and ethics. The evening begins at 10 p.m. with a panel discussion on dilemmas facing businesspeople, followed by all-night sessions and dawn Shacharit service at 5 a.m.

Torah Emeth Congregation is offers learning with Rabbi Mordechai Ochs, Rabbi Moshe Goldberg and others from 11:30 a.m. to 5 a.m. followed by Shacharit.

The **Mizrachi Bayit** and **Nishma** are presenting Rabbi Yakov Kerzner and Rabbi Benjamin Hecht discussing Religion: Fact or Faith? 11:59 p.m. to 2 a.m. at 296 Wilson Ave.

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation is hosting all night learning with Rabbi Moshe Stern, Rabbi Abraham Bartfeld, Dr. Zev Diena and Jack Liepinsky, followed by Shacharit and kiddush. Midnight to 5 a.m. Men and women welcome.

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's learning begins at midnight when Rabbi Moshe Shulman gives a tikkun shiur, followed by all-night learning and vatikin davening at 4:50 a.m. Call 416-789-3213 for details.

Friday, June 6

Jewish Russian Community Centre invites the community to a Shavuot ice cream party. Hear the Ten Commandments and celebrate Shavuot at six different locations. To find out more, call 416-222-7105 x 0.

B'nai Shalom V'Tikvah Synagogue is officially receiving its own Torah at 7:30 p.m. The ceremony to receive the Torah and a Shavuot and Shabbat service will be held at the congregation's current quarters in St. Paul's United Church, 65 Kings Crescent, Ajax. For details, call 905- 420-4429.

The **Riverdale Shul** is holding Shavuot learning with Rabbi Gedalia Zweig at 7:30 p.m. at 179A Danforth Avenue, 2nd floor. 416-826-4539.

Sunday, June 8

GARAGE SALE

Shoshana Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO is holding a garage sale at 504 Highcliffe Dr. in Thornhill from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring housewares, sporting goods, clothing and more.

YIDDISH INTEREST GROUP

Beth Emeth Sisterhood is hosting a Yiddish & English lecture with University of Toronto professor **Anna Shternshis** and Yiddish chanteuse

Continued on page 31

15TH ANNUAL CANADIAN JEWISH BOOK AWARDS
Monday, June 9, 2003 - 7:30 p.m.
Leah Posluns Theatre - Koffler Centre of the Arts
4588 Bathurst Street, Toronto

SPECIAL GUEST READER
Evan Solomon
Author and Broadcaster,
Host of CBC's "Hot Type"

2003 AWARD WINNERS

FICTION - Nancy Richler - *Your Mouth is Lovely* (HarperFlamingo Canada)

HISTORY - Henry T. Aubin - *The Rescue of Jerusalem: The Alliance Between Hebrews and Africans in 701 B.C.* (Doubleday Canada)

BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR - Vivian J. Kaplan - *Ten Green Bottles: Vienna to Shanghai, Journey of Fear and Hope* (Robin Brass Studio)

BIBLICAL/RABBINIC SCHOLARSHIP - James A. Diamond - *Maimonides and the Hermemeutics of Concealment* (State University of New York Press)

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE - Karen Levine - *Hana's Suitcase* (Second Story Press)

POETRY - Ron Charach - *Dungenessque* (Signature Editions)

SCHOLARSHIP ON A JEWISH SUBJECT - Adrienne Kertzer - *My Mother's Voice: Children, Literature and the Holocaust* (Broadview Press)

CANADIAN JEWISH HISTORY - Theresa and Albert Moritz - *The World's Most Dangerous Woman: A New Biography of Emma Goldman* (Subway Books)

HOLOCAUST MEMOIR - Joil Alpern - *No One Awaiting Me: Two Brothers Defy Death During the Holocaust in Romania* (University of Calgary Press)

HOLOCAUST HISTORY - N.N. Shneidman - *The Three Tragic Heroes of the Vilnius Ghetto: Witenberg, Sheinbaum, Gens* (Mosaic Press)

YIDDISH TRANSLATION - Pierre Anctil - *Le Montréal Juif Entre les Deux Guerres* (Éditions du Septentrion)

SPECIAL MEMORIAL COMMEMORATION OF THE 1933 NAZI BOOK BURNINGS

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Reception Following - Free Parking - Free Admission

UJA FEDERATION

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UJA FEDERATION
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Adath Israel Congregation
37 Southbourne Ave, Toronto

featuring:
• Election of UJA Federation Chair and Vice Chair of the Board
• Election of Board of Directors
• Annual Report
• Presentation of Volunteer Recognition Awards

Dessert and coffee *(Kashruth Observed)*

RSVP to Glenda Gomperts
416.631.5707 or ggomperts@ujafed.org

UJA FEDERATION
Together we're stronger

What's New

Continued from page 30

Doreen Vogel-Konikoff at 10:00 a.m All Welcome.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Congregation Habonim breakfast club is hosting violinist **Joseph Peleg**, and pianist **Judit Kenedi Peleg** playing Beethoven, Brahms and Paganini 10 a.m. at 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and concert $6.

VEGETARIAN LUNCH

The L'Chaim Vegetarian Group invites you to enhance your health and vitality. Guest speaker **Murray Durham**. 655 Bay St.,12-2 p.m. Call 416-663-4076. Suggested donation $1.

YIDDISH ON BROADWAY

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents a musical afternoon, Yiddish on Broadway, featuring **Gloria Valentine** and **Nina Shapilsky**. 2 p.m. at 1700 Bathurst St. 416-781-3511.

CHORALIARS CONCERT

Choraliars of North York invites the community to their closing concert of Broadway, pop and folk songs from 2 to 4 p.m. at Earl Bales Park Community Centre. Free.

ANTI-HATE RALLY

Join thousands of people from diverse faiths and walks of life at the Second Annual Canadian March for Humanity. Guest speakers include **Chief Justice of Ontario Roy McMurtry** and **MPP Irwin Cotler**. The march begins 3 p.m. at the southwest corner of Bloor St. and Avenue Rd. moving south to Queen's Park, where a program will start at 3:45 p.m. For details, call 416-650-1873.

YIDDISH TRIBUTE

Friends of Yiddish invite the community to a gala tribute honouring **Bess Shockett**, 7 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue. To reserve call **Lil** at 416-783-3603.

SINGLES EVENING

Beth Torah Synagogue is hosting a games night for singles between the ages of 21 and 69. 7:30 p.m. at 47 Glenbrooke Ave. Admission $6, refreshments and prizes. 416-733-3634.

JRCC PROGRAM

The Jewish Russian Community Centre is sponsoring a two-part series on the Fall of Babylonia Today: America's War Against Iraq, with **Rabbi Isser Weisberg**. $10. 18 Rockford Ave., from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Second lecture June 15.

SARS LECTURE

The Canadian Chapter of the Israel Medical Association presents **Dr. Andy Simor** discussing SARS: An Emerging Infectious Disease. 7 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. All welcome. 416-781-9562.

Monday, June 9

CLOSING MEETING

Beth Emeth Sisterhood's final meeting of the year will include dinner, installation of the board and musical interlude with **Cantor Aaron Bensoussan** at 7 p.m. For details call 416-633-3838.

JEWISH BOOK AWARDS

The 15th Annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards gala presentation will take place at Leah Posluns Theatre with 12 awards to be presented, a reading by **Evan Solomon** and a memorial of the Nazi book-burning in 1933. 7:30 p.m. Free. Refreshments.

LOVE AND LEGACY

Jewish Singles are invited to view the film *Love and Legacy* followed by an informal discussion exploring relationships, Jewish identity, intermarriage and love, at the Pride of Israel Synagogue, 788 Lissom Cr., 8 p.m. For details, contact Jews for Judaism 905-761-0040.

WENTE ON ISRAEL

Globe and Mail columnist **Margaret Wente** will discuss her recent trip to Israel in a lecture titled Behind the Lines in the West Bank. 8 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. Free.

MIKE'S PLACE CONCERT

Support **Avi Taviv**, the security guard whose brave actions prevented a terrorist at Mike's Place in Tel Aviv from murdering more people, at a benefit concert at the Silver Dollar, 486 Spadina Ave., 9 p.m. $15.

Tuesday, June 10

KEY TO LIFE GALA

The Canadian Liver Foundation will honour **Dr. S. Victor Feinman** at the Key to Life Gala, a first-annual event at the Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex, beginning 6 p.m. For ticket information call 1-800-563-5483 or go to www.liver.ca.

CANTORIAL CONCERT

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation's 75th Anniversary Concert Gala to be held at 7:30 p.m. Call 416 789-3213.

HANA'S SUITCASE

Beth Tikvah presents an evening with **Karen Levine**, whose book *Hana's Suitcase* tells the story of a Japanese woman who searched the world to find the child whose suitcase was sent to her Holocaust museum from Auschwitz. Levine will be joined by **George Brady**, Hana's brother. 8 p.m. Free. 416-221-3433.

Wednesday, June 11

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto Section, will hold their volunteer recognition and installation of officers at 7:30 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St.

PIRKEI AVOT

Beth Tzedec Congregation's last lecture on the Ethics of The Fathers, with **Jim Diamond**, David and Jonathan: the Consuming Love, 7:30 p.m.

SHOW, SHARE AND QVELL

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles is holding its annual year-end meeting where members show textile pieces they have made over the year. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue at 8 p.m. www.pomegranateguild.ca.

CHUG TANACH

Ya'akov Israeli will lead the group in a discussion of Ezekiel, chapter 44. Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd., 8 p.m.

TEMPLE SINAI CONCERT

Temple Sinai's Our Musical Legacy program presents a recital by pianist, **Shoshana Telner**, winner of the Ben Steinberg Musical Legacy Award for 2003, playing works from the classical repertoire and works by Jewish composers. 8 p.m. Free.

Other News

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY

The Philadelphia Story, a play about money, marriage and misunderstandings. Sparks fly in this witty romantic comedy at the Poor Alex Theatre, 296 Brunswick. Sunday through Thursday, June 8 to 12 at 8 p.m. No show Monday. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.ca.

HONEST REPORTING

Honest Reporting Canada presents the Canadian Premiere of *Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in Israel*, a one-hour movie that looks at the current crisis facing Israel. Tues. June 10, 8 p.m. at Yorkwoods Library Theatre and Wed. June 18, 7 p.m. at the Bloor Cinema. $10 Adults, $7 Students. For tickets, call 905 764-1818.

SHABBAT WITH RISKIN

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin will be the scholar in residence at Shaarei Shomayim June 13 and 14 commemorating the 10th anniversary of the yahrzeit of **Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik**. Rabbi Riskin will deliver the Shabbat morning sermon, Rav Soloveitchik as an Halachik Existentialist, followed by a Shabbat luncheon and dialogue with Rabbi Riskin, and a shiur at 7 p.m., Rav Soloveitchik as an Innovator in Talmudic, Biblical and Psak Interpretation. Reserve for luncheon by June 9, $30 adults, $25 children under 11. 416-789-3213.

BETH TZEDEC WEEKEND

Join **Stephen Berk**, professor of history at Union College, Schenectady, New York for a weekend of study June 13-15 at Beth Tzedec Congregation. Dinner Friday night with lecture on Islam and Russia: Putin's Dilemma, Saturday pulpit speech, Germans and Jews, study luncheon, European Anti-Semitism: The Spectre of Hitler. Sunday morning lecture after 9 a.m. services, the Record of the Christian Churches During the Holocaust. Reserve meals by June 10, call 416-781-3511.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service Information/registration. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Grandparents Are Forever: A workshop for grandparents whose children are separated or divorced. Tues. June 10, at Lipa Green Bldg. from 7 to 9 p.m.

How to Talk With Your Ex: A 2-session workshop. Wed. June 11 & 18 at The Promenade, suite 313 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club is holding Saturday dance June 7. Casino Rama, June 11; Dixie Mall Outlet, Sunday, June 8; Mary Kay make-up demonstration, June 12.

Senior Mixed Bowling Group every Tuesday at 1 p.m. at Playtyme Bowl, 35 Samor Rd. 416-495-1999.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 5, closed, June 12, sing-a-long with Mickey Levine. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. June 10, trip Centre Island. For information, call **Anna** ext.110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

7th Annual Spring Concert. Wed. June 11, 8:00 p.m. Walmer Road Baptist Church, corner, Lowther and Walmer, just north of Bloor. PWYC.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Moshe Hammer & Mike Hammer in a garden concert of violin and painting. Wed. June 11, 7:00 p.m. at the home of **Beatrice Fischer**. For reservations call Adrienne ext. 228.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

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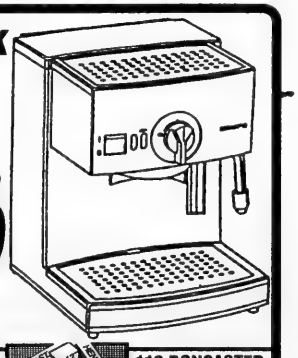

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Bialik Hebrew Day School

ANNUAL MEETING

June 11, 2003

8:00 p.m.

ACTIVITY ROOM

25 HILLMOUNT AVENUE

All parents of Bialik students, members of the Board of Directors and members in good standing of the Labour Zionist Movement of Toronto are invited to attend.

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for the

2003 Arnold & Leona Finkler Memorial Lecture

Special Guest Speaker

PROF. GERALD STEINBERG

Director of the Program on Conflict Management and Negotiation, Bar-Ilan University

"Between Oslo and the Road Map: Is Peace Any Closer to Reality?"

Thursday, June 12, at 8 p.m.

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE

3080 Bayview Avenue

Gerald Steinberg is a Professor of Political Studies at Bar Ilan University, directs the Interdisciplinary Program on Conflict Management and Negotiation, and is a Senior Research Associate at the BESA Center for Strategic Studies.

He specializes in Middle East diplomatic and security issues, with an emphasis on arms control and CDBs, Middle East Peace efforts, Israeli foreign and security policy, and the U.S.-Israeli relationship.

Special thanks to Patty, Allan, and Maria Friedland who continue to perpetuate the memory of their parents and grandparents, Arnold & Leona Finkler, through this annual lecture.

SINGLES EVENTS

DEADLINE:
Wednesday 4 p.m.
8 days preceding issue date

For rates or to place an ad call 416-391-1836

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

Meet your Match with astrology, for singles 25+, learn and have fun. Call Perla 416-534-9962.

***GAMES Jewish Singles Play! Sunday, June 8, 7:30 pm,** Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook. ***Board Games** etc. $6. **128 couples have already met!** Mollie, 416-733-3634.

Mix & Mingle, 4 singles 30+, June 23, 7 pm. Upscale location. Reserve now, tickets selling fast. Call 905-884-6757.

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Coast to Coast

Ottawa UJA Walkathon raises almost $100,000

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The annual UJA Walkathon in Canada's capital has grown to a three-day festival, packed with activities for one and all.

This year's Aviv Jewish Festival sandwiched the Walkathon between a Saturday evening Yuk Yuk's comedy event May 24 and a Monday evening talk by author Naomi Ragen that attracted nearly 400 people.

According to Marty Davis, executive director of UJA, the Walkathon itself brought in close to $100,000, nearly double last year's total.

In spite of torrential rains on Saturday and an ominous sky Sunday morning, the weather co-operated and walkers, runners and rollerbladers participated with enthusiasm.

"After yesterday's weather, I had nightmares about today, so I am totally glad to welcome you all here today," said festival co-chair Ellen Fathi.

Mayor Bob Chiarelli, honorary co-chair of the festival, addressed the crowd. "We have a lot of festivals in Ottawa – Lebanese, Greek, and others – and we want to add to that the Aviv Festival, one that will attract people from across Ottawa and around the region," he said.

"What a day, what an event, what a community," said Chiarelli's honorary co-chair, Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon. "This very special community adds so much to Canada-Israel relations."

New this year, in response to the dire economic situation in Israel, was a "Shop Israel" tent with 30 tables of goods from the Jewish state. The sale continued on Monday at Agudath Israel Synagogue, allowing shoppers ample time to browse and buy.

First-time Walkathon participant Gordon Schwartz came out on Sunday with his wife and two young children.

Having only been in Ottawa for a couple of years, the former Montrealer said he wanted "to support the community and support Israel." His children enjoyed the jumbo slide and other activities following the walk.

Former Ottawa resident Ronda Stoller Wunsch was back in town from Toronto for the weekend with her family and wouldn't miss the festival. "I hate to go back to Toronto now," she said.

Thirty-one "chai walkers" raised a minimum of $1,000 each in pledges.

The largest single amount of $5,000 was raised by Cantor Daniel Benlolo of Congregation Beth Shalom West.

Organizers were extremely pleased by the participation and results.

"The festival is a growing thing," said Davis. "We had more food, more people, more events this year. Each year it gets bigger and better."

Survivors lay Auschwitz ashes to rest in new Holocaust museum

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Aging Holocaust survivors laid to rest an urn of ashes from the crematoria of Auschwitz last week in an emotional dedication ceremony of the memorial room of the soon-to-open museum in the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC).

Among them was Aba Beer, who went to Poland almost 25 years ago to collect the remains from the death camp. Along with other survivors, he marched with the same urn through the streets of Montreal to the new MHMC in Cummings House. Seven of those survivors were back for the re-enactment.

Also taking part was FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings, the founding president of the MHMC.

In a solemn procession, the urn, which will remain on display under an eternal flame, was carried from the Gelber Conference Centre to the museum, off the main Cummings lobby, as Cantor Moshe Shur sang *Ani Ma'amin*, a song of faith often sung by camp inmates.

At the conclusion, the survivors spontaneously broke into the *Partisans' Song*, a scene watched by the 300 people watching on closed-circuit TV in the Gelber centre.

The survivors were given the first chance to see the new $5-million museum, which opens to the public June 30. The facility was created in consultation with a team of international museum experts and historians headed by curator Yitzhak Mais, former curator of Jerusalem's Yad Vashem.

There are 6,000 items and 3,000 hours of testimony in the MHMC's archives. They include 418 artifacts and 372 photos, almost entirely donated by survivors living in Montreal, as well as 18 films, both testimonies by local survivors and archival footage that are on permanent display over 5,000-square-feet on two floors. All texts and audio are bilingual.

The walls of the memorial room are engraved with the names of camps and ghettos on one side and, on the other, the names of the 5,000 towns Jews lived in before the war.

Mais said the MHMC is unusual among North American Holocaust museums in that the story of the Shoah is told in a personal way by the Jews who experienced it, rather than as a third-person account of what the Nazis did to them.

The museum, which will be officially inaugurated June 8 and open to the public June 30, expects 20,000 visitors in its first year, 80 per cent of them non-Jewish. September, October and November are already booked to near-capacity by schools, 40 per cent of which are francophone, said executive director Ann Ungar.

Most of the financial support came from those with no personal connection to the Holocaust. About 40 per cent was contributed by the three levels of government; the rest from corporations and individuals, including lead donor Jack Dym, incoming MHMC president and the child of survivors.

Big dailies agree on road map

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

On May 27, major Canadian dailies – including the Globe and Mail, the National Post and the Toronto Star – concurred in their lead editorials that the Israeli cabinet's approval of the "road map" was a very good thing. It is a rare occurrence for such disparate newspapers to agree on anything.

And, ironically, the Canadian newspapers were more upbeat about the prospects of Arab-Israeli peace than the Israeli media.

A veteran Israel-based Canadian journalist explained this paradox: The Canadian media reflect the aspirations of the Canadian government and of the West in general, which looks favourably on any moves toward peace in the region.

Israelis, on the other hand, while desperate for peace, understand that the road map has a slim chance of success because of the constraints Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat has placed on Mahmoud Abbas, the new PA prime minister. Their power struggle makes it very unlikely that Abbas will be able to clamp down on Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the essential first step mandated by the road map.

Israelis are also chastened by the bitter disappointment of Oslo, when Arafat spurned Israel's offer of statehood at Camp David in the summer and fall of 2000 and turned to violence instead.

Arafat appears determined to remain in control of the PA, in violation of the road map's requirement that it truly reform. Israelis believe that as long as he is in the picture, the conflict cannot be resolved.

Of the major dailies, the National Post came closest to aligning itself with Israel's point of view. In its editorial, "A flicker of hope," it opined that the road map "may have a fighting chance," but added that "it is hard to be optimistic."

Both the Star and the Globe were more positive, but not naive about what lies ahead. The Globe, for instance, noted that "any progress will be difficult, to be sure. Hamas, by its atrocities, has gained a virtual veto over the process, and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas must crack down on those violent strains of Palestinian nationalism in order to help his people."

The Star said that while much is expected of Ariel Sharon, the first Israeli leader to formally accept the eventuality of a Palestinian state, "Abbas must first deliver the security Israelis rightly expect… He must not repeat Arafat's tragic mistake of spurning an offer of statehood. This war must end."

Israelis are hurting physically, emotionally and economically, and need the hope that the road map, at least in theory, offers them. Palestinians have suffered greatly too, because of the disastrous policies of their leadership, which has long exploited the purported victimization of their people instead of offering them tangible improvements and hope.

As the Star, Globe and National Post agree, this nightmarish game must come to an end once and for all. Unfortunately, as long as some western governments, including France, Germany and Greece, continue to meet with the figure who is the single greatest cause of the Israeli-Palestinian impasse, they only succeed in prolonging the misery of the Palestinians.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

BBYO INC:

Jeff Wagman of Toronto was recently elected to the international board of directors of the newly independent BBYO Inc. Wagman is the past board chair of the adult board of directors, BBYO Lake Ontario Region, and hs been involved in the Jewish community for many years. BBYO was re-established as a self-governing organization in April 2002, after 77 years as an agency of B'nai B'rith International. If you are interested in becoming involved with the new BBYO, contact Wagman through the BBYO office in Toronto at 416-398-2004.

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Mount Sinai Run/Walk for June 22

Mount Sinai Hospital's Run/Walk for the Best Medicine, featuring a community run/walk for the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre, is set for June 22, 9 a.m.

Presented by Scotiabank, as well as Running Room, Town Shoes and Echo Advertising, the run/walk will also benefit urgent priority programs at the hospital, such as the women's and infants' health program and the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute.

The event starts and finishes at Queen's Park, and includes a 10 km run with a 5 km walk/run, live entertainment, a family fun festival, children's area, awards and prizes.

Cindy Berk, director of community giving at Mount Sinai says the walk is intended to be a "fun day for the community after a stressful winter."

They anticipate 2,000 people will take part, she says, and hope to raise $200,000. Registration is $35 per person, or free if $100 or more is raised in pledges. Children under 12 are free, and children who raise $50 or more in pledges receive a T-shirt.

Register online at www.mtsinai.on.ca/msh_run_walk; in person at the Running Room at Commerce Court on June 19 and 20, noon to 7 p.m.; or on run day, starting 7:30 a.m. at the registration tent at Queen's Park.

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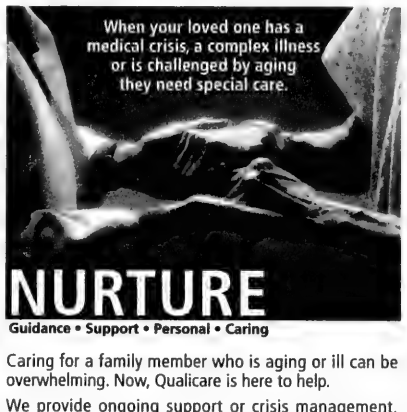
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שיאר נינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

חזרנו מעשרה ימים בישראל במאי של 2003. ערבוב מוזר של אופטימיות ויאוש: הבורסה הישראלית עולה כמטאור מתוך אופטימיות להסדר עם הפלשתינאים, ובהנחה שהתכנית הכלכלית של נתניהו תביא לקיצוצים בהוצאות ממשלתיות. אבל כל אזרח ישראלי תשיעי מובטל, אוטובוסים מתפוצצים, אין תיירות ואין השקעות זרות. פרץ משבית את המדינה, למרות שבהסתדרות עצמה הוא עושה את אותם קיצוצים שנתניהו רוצה לעשות במדינה כולה. שיא הצביעות. שרון מודיע שלא יהיה שום צעד לקראת שלום אם אבו מאזן לא יפסיק את הטרור של חמאס. שרון עצמו, עם מודיעין מעולה ואנשי קומנדו מהטובים בעולם-אינו מצליח לעצור את התאבדותם של הצעירים הפלשתינאים- מדוע הוא חושב שאבו מאזן, שבקושי חי, יכול לעשות זאת? רק מפקדיהם של האנשים האלה יכולים להפסיקם, והם לא יעשו זאת בשום מחיר.

אז מה עושים?

יש רק פתרון אחד-הפרדה מלאה של שתי האוכלוסיות. תשכחו מ "זה שלנו, יש ליהודים זכויות בכל ארץ ישראל ". זה כמו אדם שיש לו רגל נגועה בזיהום קשה, שאינו מגיב לשום טיפול, והזיהום מתחיל להתפשט ומסכן את כל הגוף. רופאיו של האיש רוצים לכרות את הרגל. האיש יכול להגיד "זה שלי, אני לא מוותר" אבל זה לא יהיה טיעון הגיוני שיציל את חייו. איכות החיים הנוכחית בישראל, של מכונית מתפוצצת, אבטלה, שחיתויות בעקבות המצב הקשה-אינה עולה בקנה אחד עם איכות חיים שיהודים מודרניים יסכימו לקבל-ולדעת רבים, אם הזוועה הזאת תמשיך-רבים יטובים יעזבו. הפתרון היחיד- חומה של שמונה מטרים, שטח הריגה ליד החומה, בדיוק כמו בברלין וכמו בין צפון ודרום קוריאה. זה עובד שם ויעבוד בישראל. אין יוצא ואין בא. ומה עושים עם המתנחלים? הם, כמו גם כוחות ישראל, יוכלו לנוע דרך שערי גבול בודדים, מאובטחים ושמורים היטב. אבל שישאר בינינו.

פוליטיה ישראלית מקומית

כדי להבין את גודל האבסורד בחיים הפוליטיים בישראל- כדאי להסתכל על הרשויות המקומיות. בישראל נהוג שאם שיקתנץ כראש עיריה או ראש מועצה מקומית אפילו זמן קצר- אתה מקבל פנסיה לכל החיים. וכך, אפילו בישובים קטנים וניהחים-חלק ניכר מתקציבי המועצות מבוזבז לתשלום פנסיה לאנשים שעשו תפקידים קצרים. תשוד הזה של הקופה הציבורית, במקום שבו כל ילד חמישי סובל מרעב-יכול לחביא כל אדם נורמאלי ליאוש- ובכל זאת-איש עוד לא ניסה ברצינות לשנות.

הינה לדוגמא קרית אתא, הישוב שלי. בבחירות לראשות עיר לפני חדשיים זכה איש שקיבל שלושה מנדטים מתוך שבעה עשר. כדי שיהיה לו רוב במועצת העיר- הוא צריך לגייס עוד שישה קולות. אז הינה הנתון המועיוע: עשרה מתוך שבעה עשר הנבחרים היתם מובטלים(!), ומקבע הענין לא יסכימו לתת את קולם אם לא יקבלו משכורת. מאיפה לוקחים משכורות מקופה ריקה שנמצאת בגירעון של מליונים? ומדוע גידעון? כי גם בממשל הקודם שיתתו מספר "מקבלי משכורות" שלא עשו שום עבודה!!! אתה שומע את זה ובא לך לבכות, או לצחוק, תלוי באיזה מצב רוח קמת בבוקר.

המלצה של ליליאן

"שלום גידי. נעים תמיד לקרוא את מדורך. האמת שזה הדבר הראשון שאני עושה. אני ממליצה על ספר מדהים שקראתי בחופשת הפסח מסדרת "מרקי עוף", והפעם זה מיועד לנשמה היהודית,"Chicken Soup for the Jewish Soul". מצאתי סיפורים קצרים עוצרי נשימה. מה זה מומלץ-זה לא מילה". ליליאן בן לולו.

Father, daughter share stage at awards evening

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — This year's annual Jewish Federation Kavod evening, on May 28, was a proud moment for Justice Guy Kroft and his family.

The Manitoba Court of Appeal judge received the Sol Kanee Distinguished Service Medal for his contributions to the community and shared centre stage with his daughter, Sarah Kroft Morry, who received the Harry Silverberg Leadership Development Award, one of two young leadership awards the federation gives out every year.

"I am pleased and proud to have been given the Sol Kanee Medal, although I am not sure why I was chosen," Kroft said. "I am more proud of my daughter."

Sarah is the third of Guy and Hester Kroft's four children to receive a young leadership award.

"For a father who loves his children and has encouraged them to be involved in community, this is a nice position to be in," Kroft said.

The Sol Kanee Medal is given for outstanding dedicated leadership and service to the Jewish community.

Kroft practised law for 20 years before being appointed to the Court of Queen's bench in 1979. In 1993, he was appointed to the Court of Appeal and he is also a deputy judge for the Yukon, where he is required to visit once a year.

> *'For a father who loves his children and has encouraged them to be involved in community, this is a nice position to be in'*

In the community, Kroft is currently the president of the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba. He has served as president of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Council, as vice-president of Canadian Jewish Congress and as a member of the board of governors of the Canada Israel Foundation for Academic Exchange. He is a former vice-president of the Canadian Council of Jewish Federations and was one of the founders of the Canada-Israel Committee, which was established after the Six Day War in 1967.

Kroft is also a member of the board of directors of the Winnipeg Foundation, one of the largest such foundations in Canada. He is a past president of the Canadian Red Cross national council and the Canadian Club of Winnipeg.

Sarah Morry, mother of three young sons, said her parents raised her and her siblings to care about the community.

"I grew up in a home where community involvement was the norm," she said. "I am proud and honoured to be receiving the Harry Silverberg Leadership Development Award, but I don't feel I have really done anything to deserve it. I have done a lot of community work, but it doesn't seem like a lot."

Her resume includes a term on the board of the Jewish Child and Family Service and the Jewish Federation and four years as co-chair of the CJA's Super Sunday campaign (which has evolved into Super Week). She is currently the co-chair of one of the CJA's Women's Division categories.

Joining Morry as a young leadership award winner this year is property manager Jeff Rabb.

Rabb currently chairs the Asper Jewish Community Campus Enhancement Capital Campaign, is president of the mainly Jewish Glendale Golf and Country Club and serves as a member of the board of the Rady Jewish Community Centre, the Winnipeg Jewish Theatre and the Jewish National Fund. He is als on the Y Sports Dinner committee.

As chair of the annual Dr. Goodbear Golf Classic for the last seven years, he has generated more than $100,000 for the Children's Hospital Foundation.

Sharon Wolchock was the recipient of the Max and Mollie Shore Memorial Award, the Winnipeg Jewish Federation's other major award.

Wolchock is a former president of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, chair of the CJA Women's Campaign in 1999-2000 and 2000-01. She currently chairs the Partnership 2000 program that links Winnipeg's Jewish community with Jewish communities in northern Israel.

"Winnipeg's Jewish community is very special," Wolchoch said.

"I don't see this as a personal award, but rather a reflection of a community that values and nurtures people and allows someone like me to rise to a position of leadership. This award is a tribute to this community. I am not sure I would have been able to accomplish in other communities what I have accomplished here."

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– Rev. Martin Niemoller, 1945

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Food, Scrumptious Food

Dairy treats for Shavuot

By NORENE GILLETZ

Shavuot, which begins at sundown on Thursday, June 5, is a two-day festival that celebrates the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. The Bible describes Shavuot as an agricultural festival, a feast of the summer wheat harvest and the the first fruits. This was the start of the agricultural cycle that ends with Sukkot, the final harvest of the year.

On Shavuot, we decorate our homes with flowers, plants and fruits. Traditional dairy dishes include tender cheese blintzes, plump kreplach and crispy knishes topped with sour cream and fruit, creamy cheesecakes and cheese-filled noodle kugels. Mediterranean Jews celebrate by eating bourekas (turnovers) stuffed with feta cheese or spinach and cheese fillings.

I found a superb selection of dairy dishes that are perfect to serve on Shavuot in *The Hadassah Jewish Holiday Cookbook: Traditional Recipes from Contemporary Kosher Kitchens* (Hugh Lauter Levin Associates, $29.95 U.S., $49.50 Cdn.). This book was edited by Joan Michel, the senior editor of *Hadassah Magazine*. She is the author of several cookbooks, including *The Foods of Israel Today, Good Enough to Eat* and *The Woman's Day Cookbook*.

Based on the Jewish festival calendar, the book is divided seasonally. It begins with Shabbat and works through the traditional Jewish festivals, from Rosh Hashanah in the autumn to Shavuot in the spring. There are introductions and personal reflections from several well known Jewish authors, including Joan Nathan, Claudia Roden and Steven Raichlin.

The Hadassah Jewish Holiday Cookbook contains 250 of the best Kosher recipes, with wonderful family heirloom recipes submitted by Hadassah members from throughout the U.S. and Israel. You'll find the usual traditional classics, plus many modern variations, including a wide range of Ashkenazi and Sephardi dishes for the major Jewish festivals. This large-format cookbook, which took two years to compile, contains fabulous photos that look good enough to eat.

This book deserves a place on the cookbook shelf in every Jewish kitchen. It makes a great gift for new brides as well as seasoned cooks and is a perfect gift from mothers to their daughters, or vice versa. You'll find ideas for an abundance of holiday feasts to carry you throughout the year.

Enjoy the new tastes of tradition in this super selection of dairy recipes. I wish you and your families a 'dairy good' Shavuot!

CHEESE BOUREKAS

16 ounce package frozen phyllo dough
1 lb. feta cheese
2 lb. pressed cheese or pot cheese (dry cottage cheese)
4 eggs
1 tsp. salt, or to taste
oil for brushing

Defrost phyllo sheets according to package directions. Put between 2 pieces of wax paper and cover with a lightly dampened towel. Preheat oven to 425.

Crumble feta into small pieces and blend well with pressed cheese, eggs and salt. Remove 2 phyllo sheets at a time, keeping remainder covered. Place on a flat surface and brush very lightly with oil. With narrow end facing you, cut lengthwise into 3 strips. Fold each in half lengthwise and brush lightly with oil again.

Put 1 tbsp. cheese mixture on bottom right-hand corner of strip. Fold over to left side in a triangular shape and continue folding right to left, left to right, as if folding a flag. Lightly oil top of finished triangle and put on baking sheet. Repeat with remaining phyllo and cheese mixture. Bake 20 to 25 minutes, or until golden. Serve warm. Serves about 18.

Tips:

To vary this recipe, a 10-ounce box of frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry, may be added to the cheese mixture.

Alternately, generously oil a 13 x 9-inch pan. Line with half the phyllo sheets, each oiled lightly. Spread cheese mixture over and top with remaining pastry sheets, each oiled lightly. Bake at 375, 30 to 40 minutes, or until golden; cut into 3-inch diamonds. Best when served warm.

CHEESE BLINTZ LOAF

Filling:
2 (8-oz.) packages cream cheese, softened
1 lb. farmer cheese
2 eggs, lightly beaten
pinch of salt
4 tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice

Batter:
½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, softened
¼ cup sugar
2 eggs, lightly beaten
¾ cup milk

1¼ cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 350. Grease 9 x 5-inch loaf pan. Mix all filling ingredients and set aside.

Make batter: Cream butter with sugar, then add eggs, milk, flour, baking powder and salt. Pour half of batter into prepared pan. Spread filling over batter and cover with remaining batter. Bake 45 minutes. Serves 6.

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Cabinet decries portrayal of 'poverty-stricken Israel'

By AMIRAM BARKAT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The government Sunday took the highly unusual move of condemning voluntary organizations that raise money for Israeli citizens from Jews in the Diaspora.

In the cabinet's weekly meeting in Jerusalem, it issued a statement saying the government takes a "very grim view" of the activities of "voluntary organizations" that use "images of poverty and hunger" to raise money for Israel.

While the announcement did not mention any organization by name, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon displayed a fundraising brochure published by the American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). A spokesman for the JDC later said the brochure in question relates only to the security threats facing Israel, and does not contain any photographs of hungry Israelis.

A cabinet communiqué stated that "the phenomenon of voluntary organizations in Israel and abroad approaching Jews in the Diaspora [for contributions], while showing images of poverty and hunger in Israel, harms Israel's national strength and damages the country in the perception of Jews overseas."

But in order to avoid damaging the organizations' other endeavours the communiqué also expressed the government's "deep appreciation" of the assistance the Diaspora provides Israel.

The wording of the announcement was brought to the cabinet by the prime minister himself, who dedicated the meeting's opening session to a lengthy discussion of the issue. The move apparently follows Jewish Agency chair Salai Meridor's recent approach to Sharon, in which Meridor claimed that the past several months have seen a concerted fundraising campaign based on the portrayal of Israel as a poverty-stricken country.

In an interview with *Ha'aretz*, Meridor said the specific organization whose activity he objected to was the "Hunger Forum," one of a series of groups that try to raise funds on the Internet, using such methods as offering to "adopt" an Israeli child for 50 cents a month.

The "Hunger Forum," which is now known as the "Forum for Improving Nutritional Security and the Advancement of the Poor," was founded in January 2002 with the support of the JDC.

The group is made up of large philanthropic organizations and donors, most in the United States, but some based in Israel. The forum plans to hold a seminar in Jerusalem at the end of the month to discuss the results of a survey commissioned by the group and to plan its future course of action.

According to Meridor, the seminar is part of an ongoing campaign to include the issue of poverty in the official fundraising efforts of the American Jewish community. He said the trend heralds the "bankruptcy" of Zionism.

"Portraying Israel as a 'welfare case' offends Jewish sensibilities and creates a disincentive to those who may have been thinking about coming to live here," he said.

But Laurie Heller, co-chair of the Hunger Forum, said the organization "never argued that Israel is a welfare case. The government is cutting from welfare budgets and we believe that Jews everywhere are obligated to become involved. As Jews, this is our responsibility to our brethren."

Auschwitz visit may strengthen ties

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

OSWIECIM, Poland — Along the rails leading to the Birkenau death camp walked some 450 Arabs and Jews from Israel and France, silent but for the list of names they were reading..

The names belonged to relatives of Jewish members of the delegation, relatives who had been murdered during the Holocaust.

Last Wednesday's march was the climax of a trip that constituted an unusual show of Arab identification with the Jews' Holocaust burden, a show of support that – at least for the two days of the trip – wiped away political differences between the two communities.

The delegation to Auschwitz was the brainchild of Archimandrite Emile Shoufani, a Greek Catholic priest from Nazareth. Along with other Arab public figures, he sought a way to mend relations with Jews following the October 2000 Israeli Arab riots and the deterioration of relations between Jews and Arabs since the Palestinian intifadah began.

"We must pull ourselves out of the chapter in which everything in the relations between the two peoples is measured on the basis of giving in exchange for giving, killing in exchange for killing," Shoufani told JTA. "We are a group of citizens with no political aspirations, who are determined to restore relations with the Jewish people."

Though he stressed the need to stay away from politics, Shoufani said he hoped politicians would use the momentum to create a better atmosphere between Jews and Arabs.

The group included Arye Amit, former commander of the Jerusalem police, and Dedi Zucker, a former legislator from the Meretz party.

Eliezer Ya'ari, executive director of the New Israel Fund and a member of the delegation, said his organization was looking for ways to make use of the new development. "I will suggest that this group" –made up of teachers, clergymen and community leaders – "take upon itself the task of fighting racism and incitement," he said.

On Wednesday, a day after a moving ceremony at Auschwitz, the delegation moved through the death camp.

One of the more moving moments came when Ruth Lavie of Beit Shearim pulled out a picture she had drawn of a house and a tree when she was a six-year-old hiding in Amsterdam.

She had sent the drawing to her father, who had been sent on a transport to Auschwitz. The drawing never arrived; it was returned to Ruth shortly after she sent it, and she kept it for almost 60 years.

On Wednesday, she put the drawing in a crack in a stone in one of the barracks, along with a letter that read: "My beloved father Dov Jourgran, inmate No. 100896, murdered at the age of 42 on 11/10/43 after eight months of hard labour. This drawing has never reached you, and now I am leaving it here at this damned place, in your memory and the memory of mother Leah who was murdered in Sobibor. I still miss you and I shall never forget you."

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Leah Breslow
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ישר כוחכם

May 26

• The Labor Party approved a proposal to choose a temporary chairman, paving the way for Shimon Peres to take the post. The interim leader will hold the post for a year, after which a permanent leader will be chosen.

May 27

• Army Radio reported that 135 people were injured in car accidents on Israeli roads May 27. Some 170 people have been killed in car accidents since the start of year.

May 28

• The Knesset approved the government's austerity plan by a vote of 52-1. The legislation cuts $2.3 billion (US) from the budget.

May 29

• Following the meeting between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and his PA counterpart Mahmoud Abbas, which both leaders described as "very positive," Sharon said he would order the Israel Defence Forces to pull out of the centre of West Bank cities and scale down its presence in the West Bank and Gaza. Israel Radio reported Sharon also intends to give permanent permits for Palestinian officials to travel between Gaza and the West Bank, to increase the amount of tax money transferred to the PA by NIS 150 million a month, allow 25,000 Palestinian labourers to work in Israel and to ease restrictions on humanitarian organizations working in the West Bank and Gaza.

May 30

• The shekel strengthened against the U.S. dollar. The Israeli currency closed at NIS 4.373 to the dollar, an improvement of 0.794 percentage points over the previous day. The positive talks between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas contributed to the shekel's rise.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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French Jews debate whether community has future

By PHILIP CARMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — A short distance from where French Jews gathered to debate the community's future lay the latest reminder of just how precarious that future is.

Participants entering the main synagogue in Creteil, a southern Paris suburb with a large Jewish population, were greeted with news that has become all too familiar since the Palestinian intifadah began in September 2000.

At around 10 o'clock the previous night, a large Jewish grocery store literally a stone's throw from the shul was gutted by an arson attack that police and community leaders believe was motivated by anti-Semitism.

The same evening, in the northeastern Parisian suburb of Rosny, swastikas were sprayed on the walls of the town's synagogue, along with slogans reading "Death to the Jews."

According to Sammy Ghozlan, founder of the Bureau for Vigilance Against Anti-Semitism and head of the Council of Jewish Communities for the region that includes Rosny, there have been more than 250 anti-Semitic incidents in France so far in 2003, and more than 2,000 since the intifadah began.

The Creteil conference, titled "The Future of the Jewish Community in France: Concerns, Questions and Perspectives," was organized jointly by the Paris-region Council of Jewish Communities and the Consistoire, an umbrella organization of French Jews.

Sponsored by the United Jewish Social Funds – the umbrella welfare and social organization of French Jewry – the Simon Wiesenthal Center and the European Jewish Congress, it brought together leading Jewish politicians, community leaders and intellectuals.

Presenting his statistics, Ghozlan said the community has been shocked not only by the level of anti-Semitism but also by the authorities' initial silence.

Moreover, he said, during the initial wave of attacks in 2000 and 2001, President Jacques Chirac and then-prime minister Lionel Jospin tried to minimize the problem.

Anti-racist groups marched alongside the Jewish community in the 1990s, after attacks by the extreme right and against right-wing politician Jean-Marie Le Pen. But many abandoned the Jewish community this time around, Ghozlan said, though he singled out the group SOS Racisme for its continued support.

One of SOS Racisme's founders, Julien Drai, said the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is being used as a pretext.

After the initial surge, anti-Semitic incidents dropped but they rose again at the start of 2002, Drai said. They culminated in April 2002, when a shul in the suburbs of Lyon was seriously damaged by a firebomb during Israel's incursion into Jenin.

It's worrisome that Jews in France even have to ask "whether we will still be here in 10 years time," Drai, a Jewish legislator in parliament and a Socialist Party spokesperson, said.

For Drai, who said he believes Jews have a future in France, the answer lies in the Jewish community's continued commitment to France's secular values and a willingness to demand that politicians take anti-Semitism seriously.

He added that the Socialist Party's reaction during recent protests against the U.S.-led war in Iraq were positive, with a firm directive given to members to leave anti-war demonstrations at the first whiff of anti-Semitism.

Some left-wing groups were not so scrupulous about anti-Semitism, he said.

"When they explain it away they justify it, and when they justify they legitimize," Drai said.

Drai wasn't the only speaker to note that Jews feel they're fighting alone.

"Where are the teachers' unions to denounce school anti-Semitism?" asked Serge Cwajgenbaum, secretary-general of the European Jewish Congress.

Shimon Samuels, international director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the growth in anti-Semitic attacks is a problem across Europe.

He detailed the rise in European anti-Semitism, particularly attacks emanating from the anti-globalization movement since the UN's anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, in September 2001 became a showcase for anti-Semitic and anti-Israel sentiment.

But while institutions like the Wiesenthal Center can provide statistics, Samuels said, governments must address the problem.

Another key conference speaker, Rabbi Gilles Bernheim said the situation of French Jews is symptomatic of a far greater malaise in French society.

Sections of French society are becoming alienated from the state and rejecting its institutions, said Rabbi Bernheim, who heads the Torah and society department of the Consistoire.

"When France ceases to love itself, that is bad for the Jews," he said.

Most new immigrant soldiers not Jewish

By AMIRAM BARKAT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Most of the new immigrants who joined the Israel Defence Forces over the past year are not registered as Jews, Chief Education Officer Elazar Stern said last week at a conference in Heichal Shlomo, headquarters of the Chief Rabbinate.

"Last year, 51 per cent of the immigrants who joined the IDF were not registered as Jews," Stern said, adding that some 8,000 non-Jewish soldiers are serving in the IDF.

Until now the number of non-Jewish soldiers was estimated at about 6,500. Some 20 per cent of IDF soldiers are new immigrants.

Stern said a military base in the north recently requested 600 copies of the Christian Bible for swearing in new recruits. The Chief Military Rabbinate, which is in charge of religious services, supplied the books.

Stern urged the Chief Rabbinate and rabbinical courts to facilitate the conversion procedures of immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Rabbi Simha Meron, former director of rabbinical courts, said the problem is not the conversion procedures but that the immigrants do not want to convert.

The number of non-Jewish immigrants in Israel is estimated at between 250,000 to 300,000.

Russia concerned over Israel's nuclear weapons program

By Aluf Benn
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEV AVIV — Russia recently expressed concern over Israel's nuclear program and demanded that this be placed on the agenda of international organizations concerned with preventing nuclear proliferation.

Speaking at a meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group in Pusan, South Korea two weeks ago, the Russians presented a report on the nuclear weapons allegedly in Israel's possession and demanded that this matter be addressed.

Experts say Russia raised the issue in an attempt to rebuff American pressure to stop its own nuclear dealings with Iran. The Russian claim is that Israel represents a greater nuclear threat to the Middle East than does Iran.

The Nuclear Suppliers Group, which is made up of 40 industrialized nations, works to prevent the leakage of nuclear technology to states suspected of trying to develop nuclear arms.

Its rules also limit trade in dual-use technologies, which can be used for either civilian or military purposes.

Israel, which is not a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), has been subjected to these restrictions for years. As a result, there is a long list of products that Israel has trouble purchasing on international markets.

John Bolton, America's undersecretary of state for arms control and international security affairs, will visit Israel next week to discuss America's efforts to halt Iran's nuclear program.

Shortly thereafter, the International Atomic Energy Agency's board is slated to meet to discuss the suspicions that Iran is violating the nuclear non-proliferation treaty by trying to develop nuclear weapons.

Personal reflections on meeting the Pope

By KEITH LANDY

In 1862, Moses Hess, the author, socialist and forerunner of the Zionist movement, published his book *Rome and Jerusalem*. This would make an apt title for an account of my recent visit, only with the directions reversed.

Leaving Jerusalem after a bittersweet 10 days of inspiration, sadness and hope, I flew to Rome where, in my capacity as national president of Canadian Jewish Congress and North American vice-president of the World Jewish Congress, I was to be part of a delegation scheduled to meet with Pope John Paul II.

WJC President Edgar Bronfman and Israel Singer, president of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultation, led the 15-person contingent. Picked up in front of the hotel, our convoy, just like in those foreign movies, went speeding through the streets of Rome, sirens blaring and blue lights flashing, all the way to the Vatican. We entered through the Santa Anna Gate, manned by the Swiss Guards in their colourful uniforms.

The convoy wound its way through narrow alleyways until we arrived at a quadrangle where Father Hoffman, a papal secretary for Jewish-Christian affairs, came running across to welcome us and lead us into the Vatican.

I had been told that the importance of a delegation could be measured by how many rooms it passed through on the way to the inner sanctum. On that basis, we must have been very important. We traversed a seemingly endless number of rooms, each more ornate than the next. I admired tapestries and frescos that I had not seen previously as a tourist.

Upon reaching the antechamber, we were asked to wait by 2 crimson-clad cardinals with long sounding names and even longer titles.

The moment was near. Soon I would be meeting the head of an institution that, until the recent past, had caused our people untold suffering and pain. What would my father, a rabbi of blessed memory, have said, I wondered.

Then the door opened, and we entered. The room was warmer than the others, decorated with beautiful works of art and with a magnificent carpet covering the floor. Seated in the middle was the man whom we all have seen so many times before from afar – on the balcony in St. Peter's Square, on a stage waiving to tremendous throngs or riding in the "Pope-mobile." Standing behind the Pope's chair on each side, attentive to his every need, were two resplendently attired cardinals.

We were invited to approach, one at a time, to be announced. The Parkinson's disease that the Pope suffers from was evident. His usually warm and smiling face, as seen in pictures and on television, was drawn and tired-looking. It obviously took tremendous effort for him to be holding audiences that day, making our encounter all the more meaningful. As I took his hand, I told him I was from Toronto and his face lit up, undoubtedly in recollection of his visit last summer for World Youth Day.

At the meeting, we spoke of the good relations that have developed between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community in the last decades, and especially during his papacy. It is this Pope, after all, who has advanced Christian-Jewish relations more than any other, affirming the eternity of God's covenant with the Jewish people and establishing diplomatic relations with the State of Israel in recognition of its importance to us and the world at large.

We urged the Vatican to completely open its World War II archives so that historians studying the actions of Pope Pius XII in the Nazi-era have full access to these important wartime records.

We suggested that a strong denunciation of anti-Semitism in a papal homily would be a valuable contribution to the fight against this growing worldwide scourge. This, we hope, fell on the receptive ears of a Pope who has described the "Shoah... [as] an indelible stain on the history of the [20th] century" and declared that "the spoiled seeds of anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism must never again be allowed to take root in any human heart."

Israel Singer, centre, of the World Jewish Congress, introduces Keith Landy to the Pope.

We described the joint work of Jewish and Catholic charities in Argentina working to provide relief for the poor in that crisis-stricken country, and we stressed the WJC's interest in expanding such co-operative initiatives.

The Pope read a prepared text in opening the meeting. Subsequently, he mostly listened attentively.

I was particularly moved and touched by the humanity of the man. When I approached him to say farewell, I wished him a "refuah shlemah," even though such a recovery is unlikely.

As I departed past a waiting delegations of African and Filipino bishops and priests, I couldn't help but offer a small prayer for us all.

Keith Landy is national president of Canadian Jewish Congress.

T.A. 207827/02

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Of Tel-Aviv-Jaffo, Israel
In the Matter of:

Ilan Moyal. I.D. Number 028464212

By his attorneys Adv. Erez Drori, and/or Adv. Kobi Rosenberg, and/or Adv. Sivan Droti,

Of Ygal Alon 57, Tel-Aviv 67891,Tel: 972-3-6886855; Fax: 972-3-688-6824

The Plaintiff

Against

Avi Ben Moiz

The Defendant

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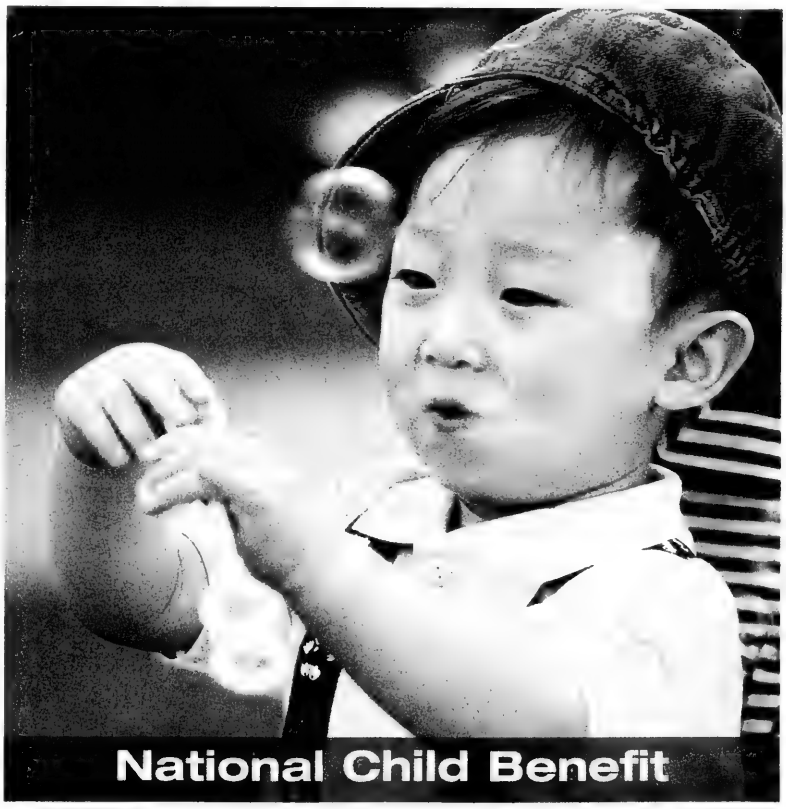

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The 'truth' about the Holocaust, according to PA TV

By ITAMAR MARCUS

Palestinian Media Watch

In yet another case of odious Palestinian Authority Holocaust denial, Palestinian Authority TV last week week presented the following "truths" about World War II:

- The Nazis did not specifically plan the killing of Jews.
- If Hitler planned any extermination, it was of disabled Germans.
- The term "Holocaust" in its "human sense" refers to the experiences of the Palestinians and the Gypsies.
- The "Holocaust industry" is a financial scheme dreamed up by Zionist leaders that has generated billions of dollars in profits.

It is curious the PA chose last week to run the interview, as many of the same points appear in a Holocaust denial book written by PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas.

The following is a partial transcript of an interview on PA TV with Ismail Elbakawi, translator of the book *The Fundamentalism of the Jews in Israel*. Elbakawi was discussing a book called *The Holocaust Industry* and his statements were supported by the interviewer.

"[The Holocaust] was a real event that occurred from 1939 to 1945. However, it did not just affect the Jews in Europe, but also other nations including the Poles, the Hungarians, the Russians – as you remember, 20 million Russians were killed, and Germans, and Gypsies. They were annihilated and killed as a result of the war, and not due to a prior plan," Elbakawi said.

"It is possibly true that Hitler planned the extermination of disabled Germans. It is likely that these things are true, I don't know," he continued.

"This is the historical truth: the true Nazi Holocaust. I apologize for using the word 'Holocaust.' This is a word that they try to attach only to the Jews who were killed, but I use this expression in the human sense. It can also be used to refer to the Palestinians and the suffering that the Israelis [have caused] them. The Palestinians also have their own private Holocaust, and this is also true of the Gypsies, etc.

"What the Zionist leadership in general and the American in particular have tried [to do] is to turn this truly tragic historical event into an industrial enterprise, an enterprise that will bring them a lot of capital, a fortune of wealth.

"For example, they started in Germany in the 1950s with what they called 'reparations' and suddenly, in the second half of the 1990s, they turned, after Germany, to Austria, they turned to Switzerland and began to invent their lies, according to which, the Swiss bought the gold fillings of Jewish victims that the Nazis had taken from the teeth [of the Jews]."

Road map may yet have a chance of succeeding

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

The road map, which seemed still-born after it was released on April 30, may yet have a future. This can be said in the aftermath of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's second meeting with Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), the prime minister of the Palestinian Authority. Having conducted what Abbas described as a "serious, candid and beneficial" discussion, he and Sharon were poised to confer with U.S. President George W. Bush at a pivotal summit in Aqaba, Jordan, on June 4.

If the meeting succeeds, a communique will be issued endorsing the short and long-range objectives of this internationally sponsored peace plan: a complete and immediate cessation of violence and a two-state solution by 2005.

Three weeks ago, shortly after the road map was officially unveiled, Sharon and Abbas discussed it at length. The Palestinians had fully embraced the road map, but Israel had yet to completely accept it. Within hours of their encounter, a British suicide bomber recruited by Hamas – which opposes the peace process in general and the road map in particular – killed three Israelis in Tel Aviv. In response, an Israeli armoured force struck the Gaza Strip, killing 12 Palestinians.

After the raid, Israel was rocked by four more suicide bombings in Hebron, Jerusalem, Kfar Darom and Afula that claimed the lives of a dozen people. The road map, which was drawn up by the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations, appeared doomed. But within a week of the fifth suicide bombing, the grim situation brightened.

A year after the Likud rejected Palestinian statehood, Sharon's government, bowing to U.S. pressure, endorsed the road map by a 12-7 margin, with four cabinet ministers abstaining. And in comments bitterly condemned by Israel's far right, Sharon, the godfather of the settlements, declared that Israel's occupation – a word he had never previously used – was untenable.

Israel signed on to the road map after Washington promised to seriously address 14 of its reservations. Even so, Israel agreed to accept only "the steps" in the road map rather than the plan itself. Israel's defence minister, Shaul Mofaz, who had called it "bad for Israel," ended up voting for the road map. But he referred to it as "a declaration of diplomatic intentions," not a binding legal document. In other words, Israel still seeks to amend it. By contrast, the Palestinians have fully accepted it, from "A to Z," as a Palestinian official said recently. They now demand implementation based on firm timelines, as opposed to Israel's preference, performance.

The road map, which looks remarkably like the now-defunct Oslo process, obligates Israel and the Palestinians to take reciprocal confidence-building measures. Broadly speaking, the Palestinians are expected to disarm and dismantle groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which have perpetrated the majority of suicide bombings. The Palestinians must also issue a clear statement accepting Israel's existence as a Jewish state.

Israel is expected to ease restrictions on Palestinians, impose a freeze on settlement construction and expansion, take down small outposts, withdraw to the pre-intifadah lines and acquiesce to a provisional Palestinian state. During the final phases, permanent status agreements, covering borders, security arrangements, settlements and Jerusalem, are envisioned.

The big unresolved question today is how Israel and the Palestinians can actually implement the road map. Israel is reluctant to make far-reaching concessions before the Palestinian Authority cracks down on terrorism. The Palestinians argue that both sides, in accordance with the road map, must act simultaneously on a whole range of issues. How this procedural wrangle can be settled remains to be seen. At their last meeting on May 29, Abbas reportedly told Sharon that he would persuade Hamas and like-minded organizations to observe a ceasefire. Sharon, who wants a total crackdown, announced that the current curfew would be lifted, that some Palestinian prisoners would be let go and that sequestered tax revenues would be released.

Despite these mutual goodwill gestures, there is still a long, long way to go before the road map is implemented and peace is at hand. But in the post-Saddam Hussein era, peace may yet be possible.

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Weizmann, Princess Margaret to honour Toronto doctor

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to the CJN

Dr. John Trachtenberg, director of the Prostate Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital, will be honoured for his clinical and research expertise by the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science and Princess Margaret Hospital at a gala dinner June 19 at the Sheraton Centre.

Trachtenberg was born in Montreal in 1949 and attended Herzliah High School. He received his B.Sc. and medical degree from McGill University. He completed his urologic residency at McGill in 1978 and then completed a fellowship in prostatic disease at Johns Hopkins University. He and his family moved to Toronto in 1985.

Dr. John Trachtenberg

He holds the prestigious Fleck Tanenbaum Chair in Prostatic Diseases at the University Health Network and the University of Toronto, where he is a professor in the department of surgery and department of medical imaging.

He is also director of prostate services at Mount Sinai Hospital's Murray Koffler Urologic Wellness Centre and acts as a consultant to the urology departments at several other hospitals as well as the Ontario Cancer Foundation.

Trachtenberg has led numerous clinical research trials into less invasive alternatives to standard surgery or radiation treatment for prostate cancer, from using microwaves to combat the disease to current trials of the light-activated, plant-derived drug Tookad, which was developed by Weizmann professors Avigdor Scherz and Yoram Salomon.

Trachtenberg explained that when tissue is illuminated by a special wavelength of light, the combination of drug and light damages blood vessels that feed the cancer. Tookad is cleared from the body within three to four hours of treatment.

"It has the potential to be a remarkable achievement because it is one of the few treatments that will kill the cancer without damaging the normal tissue," he says.

"It is also very exciting because it may be able to be done without invading the body."

Thomas Beck, chairman of Weizmann Canada said Trachtenberg "has been instrumental in the development of new treatments for prostate cancer and has worked to create a greater awareness of the disease."

Trachtenberg called the tribute dinner "a phenomenal honor... It is really the reflection of the hard work of dozens of people all around the world, particularly the Weizmann in Israel, the Princess Margaret and many others."

Trachtenberg is married to Nancy Trachtenberg, who works with students with disabilities at U of T. They have two children, Franklin, 17, and Lianne, 14.

Money raised by the tribute dinner will go to fund a new research chair at the Weizmann Institute and will help fund research and treatment at Princess Margaret.

For details on the tribute dinner, call 416-733-9220.

Zareinu Moveathon has local clergy on the run

More than a dozen synagogues have signed on to participate in the 6th Annual Zareinu Moveathon, to be held Sunday, June 22, at Earl Bales Park.

As part of Zareinu's Clergy on the Run campaign, each shul is putting together a team led by their respective rabbis and cantors who will walk, jog or run the 10-km circuit on city streets in support of students at Zareinu Educational Centre of Metropolitan Toronto, the city's only Jewish day school and treatment centre that provides special education and individualized therapies to children with a wide range of physical and developmental challenges.

Zareinu's Clergy on the Run campaign was initiated last year by Cantor Yaakov Motzen of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Together with the synagogue's Rabbi Moshe Shulman and Cantor Shlomo Simcha Sufrin, the Shaarei Shomayim team raised more than $15,000 for Zareinu children.

Participating synagogues this year include Adath Israel Congregation, Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz Congregation, Beth Sholom Synagogue, Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, Clanton Park Synagogue, Kehillat Shaarei Torah, Shaar Shalom Synagogue, Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, Shaarei Tefillah Congregation and Torath Emeth Congregation.

There's also a Zareinu staff team as well as school teams from Bialik Hebrew Day School, Ulpanat Orot and Yeshivat Or Chaim.

The Zareinu Moveathon is a full-day fundraiser featuring athletic events followed by a community picnic and carnival. In addition to the 10K Miracle Run, Moveathon events include 20K, 50K and 100K bicycle rides, a 10K Rollerblade, and a 2K Fun Loop. All events start and end at Earl Bales Park, on Bathurst Street just south of Sheppard Avenue.

For more information or to sign up for an event, call 416-661-1800 or visit www.zareinu.org.

Congratulations to our children
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and all the volunteers whose hard work and dedication made the **"LIFE" Party on behalf of the Brave Heart Foundation For A Cure at Princess Margaret Hospital,** a wonderful success.
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Less Tax @ 40%	$3,200	$2,186
After-Tax Income	$4,800	$17,771
Less Insurance Cost	nil	$6,393
Spendable Income	$4,800	$11,378
Pre-Tax Return	4%	9.5%
Estate Value	$200,000	$200,000
Subject to Probate	Yes	No

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KIDDISH
Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

Alexander the Great and the Treasure Chest

Alexander the Great, King of Macedonia and conqueror of a huge area extending all the way from Greece to India, lived more than 2,300 years ago. This story is adapted from the Gemarah.

"**Your Honour,** Saul sold me the field before I found the chest in it!"

"What difference does that make?" shot back Saul. "I sold the field to Judah."

"Order in the court!" demanded the Honourable Samuel Abraham, and the two men fell silent. Judge Abraham straightened to his full sitting height and looked reproachfully at Saul and Judah. He wasn't usually this formal with the people who came before him to be judged, but, then again, he didn't usually have Alexander the Great sitting next to him.

Alexander of Macedon! Alexander the Conqueror! Alexander, who, in his current visit to to Israel, had asked to see how the Jews judged in their courts. And when you're the conqueror of the world, you usually get your way.

"Gentleman," announced Judge Abraham. "Let me make sure I have your story correctly. Saul sold his field to Judah. While Judah was plowing, he uprooted a rock and discovered under it a small chest containing precious stones and gold."

"These Jews are just like Macedonians," thought Alexander. "We get this all the time. 'It's my field now, so I should get to keep it.' 'No, I only sold you a field, not a treasure chest, so give it back!' I bet the judge is going to kill them both and take it for himself. That's what I would do."

But the judge wasn't finished talking. "Judah wants to give it back, but Saul refuses to take it."

"What?" thought Alexander, puzzled.

"Judah, is this correct?" continued the judge.

"Yes, Your Honour. When I bought the field from him, he agreed to sell me the land, the orchards, the spring of water. He never meant to sell me a treasure box, and I never intended to buy one. To keep it, in my opinion, would be theft."

"Saul?" said the Judge.

"Your Honor, everything you have said is correct. But when I sold the field, I specified I was selling it and everything in it. Since this box was in it, it was sold as well. I cannot take it back."

"But you never meant to sell me such a valuable treasure!" countered Judah. "You just meant that you were selling me the gardening tools and the well! You never had anything like this in mind!"

Alexander listened, stunned, as the judge contemplated the case before him.

"Judah," he finally said, " I believe you have a son who is looking to get married."

"Yes," answered Judah, unsure of where the judge was going with this.

"And you, Saul, have an eligible daughter."

"Yes."

"Why not introduce them to each other? And if indeed they decide to marry, you can give them the treasure as a wedding gift. Sound fair?"

"Well I never!" burst out Alexander. "This whole case makes no sense! And the verdict. Why, where I come from the judge would just kill them both and take the money for himself."

The Honourable Samuel Abraham fixed the conqueror of the world with a pointed stare. "Do you have animals where you come from?"

"Yes." replied Alexander.

"And does the sun shine there?"

"Uh, Yes."

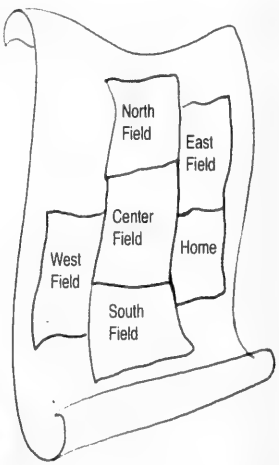
"Well, I can tell you that it only does so for the sake of the animals, because the people of your land do not deserve to see the light of day!"

LOGIC PUZZLE

Using the map and clues, can you discover the locations of all the items in Judah's fields and home?

1. The treasure is not in or near South Field.
2. East Field contains water.
3. There is no water source at Home.
4. The spring is not in East Field.
5. The plow is next to the orchard.
6. The spring is far from Home.
7. The plow is next to the treasure.
8. The orchard is not at home.

	Home	West Field	Center Field	East Field	North Field	South Field
orchard						
plow						
spring						
tools						
treasure						
well						



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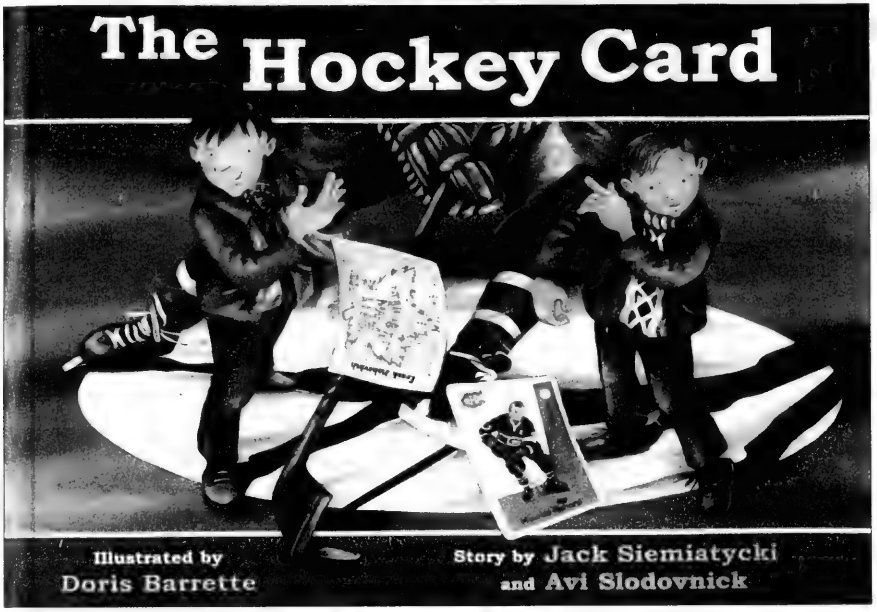

Risking a 'Rocket Richard' card to win it all

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Most kids like to collect things. It might be teddy bears or rocks or stamps. Many collect different kinds of cards, especially of sports figures.

That's what Uncle Jack used to do, in Jack Siemiatycki and Avi Slodovnick's terrific book *The Hockey Card* (Lobster Press, 2002, illustrations by Doris Barrette).

Children's Books

When Uncle Jack was a little boy, all the kids in his school collected and traded hockey cards. They even played games to try to win cards from each other. Each one wanted to have the most cards.

One day, Uncle Jack was challenged to a game by the "biggest card shark in the whole school," Sylvester Kornpot. The winner would get all of the loser's cards.

Uncle Jack really didn't want to play, but he knew that if he didn't, the other guys would call him a chicken.

The game began at lunchtime. At first, the two boys' wins and losses were about even, but slowly, Sylvester began to win. Finally, Uncle Jack was down to just one card, his favourite, of Maurice "the Rocket" Richard.

Now, you may not have ever heard of Rocket Richard. For a long time, he played right wing for the Montreal Canadiens. Many people consider him one of the greatest hockey players there ever was.

Uncle Jack had no choice – he had to play that card. He threw down the card. To his shock, he won. And, using the Richard card, he kept winning.

How did that happen? Well, really it was just a matter of luck. Or was it? Uncle Jack says he "could have sworn Rocket Richard winked at him."

In the book, Uncle Jack tells the story of the hockey card to his nephew, who is having a birthday (we never find out the nephew's name). You will get a kick out of the pictures Doris Barrette put in the book. The nephew goes to sleep wearing a hockey shirt, there is a hockey poster over his bed and hockey equipment is all over the bedroom.

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Business Profile

CEO built his security business one customer at a time

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

We've all heard the drill: "This is the AlarmForce Central station, identify yourself immediately. The police have been dispatched."

Does this anonymous voice coming out of a box in your family room really scare intruders off?

"You bet," says Joel Matlin, 54, founder, president and CEO of AlarmForce, the largest two-way voice alarm company in Canada, which has traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange since 1997.

"If you were breaking into a house and heard that, would you hang around?"

Matlin, a graduate of Concordia University in Montreal, is familiar to many people because he has pitched his product on countless radio and television commercials. The native Montrealer has lived in Toronto for about 25 years.

He started AlarmForce in 1988 after spending almost 20 years at his first company, Frisco Bay, a video surveillance firm he developed when he was 25 that provided security for banks across the country.

"I had been in the home alarm system in the late '70s when I opened a division of Frisco Bay called Alarmtron. I sold that after two years, but it is still in existence in Montreal and Vancouver."

"I wanted to get back into the home alarm business, and I wanted to develop affordable, user-friendly technology. I conceived the idea for a two-way voice alarm because I did not believe in the existing technology.

"I looked for an engineer who could develop the interactive technology for me, and after two years we were ready to roll. We designed our unique technology first, and then we set out to market it," Matlin says.

'We designed our unique technology first, and then we set out to market it'

It took about two years to educate people, "because it's always difficult to sell a new concept, but the bottom line is that it is logical, and logic always prevails."

When a house alarm is sounded, he says, a live operator proves to the intruder that someone knows there is a break-in happening. "We have verification that something is going on.

"Some people claim that the system allows for eavesdropping, but it is not possible. Our two-way technology is only designed to respond to a signal. It cannot initiate a call."

Not only does his system make sense as far as security is concerned, he says, it also makes sense budget-wise.

"My business philosophy is to give people the absolute best value for their money. We deliver the best technology at the lowest possible cost.

"If we can give the customer value, and at the same time make a little money, then that's great."

Currently, Matlin has about 100 employees in his 30 offices across the country, but all monitoring, design, software engineering and manufacturing takes place in the company's Don Mills head office.

He has control over every aspect of the company's operations, Matlin says, from manufacturing and developing the alarm system and software to in-house sales and monitoring.

"The fact that we operate our own central monitoring station not only makes it cost efficient, but stringent standards can be guaranteed, and systems and procedures are firmly in place to handle any emergency," he says.

"We have more than 30,000 self-created accounts. We are not an acquisition company, and we have not purchased any competitors' systems. All our accounts have been created internally."

Risk to the company is fairly low, Matlin says, because it deals with with 30,000 individual accounts. "We're not dealing in the commercial sector where we could stand to lose a huge block of retail stores. As far as a downturn in economy is concerned, that could be a good thing for us, because the crime increases."

Over the last five years, he says, "revenues, derived from customer contracts, have grown by 21 per cent, and we're forecasting growth of 21 per cent this year and 20 per cent in 2004.

"We have tremendous recurring revenues, we have been profitable since 1990 and we have a tremendous team of people that run a good business," he says.

Under its standard customer contract, the company charges a fixed monthly fee for the system, which includes monitoring, and AlarmForce retains ownership of the equipment.

Joel Matlin, 54, founder, president and CEO of AlarmForce.

As the company's base of subscribers expands with each system installed, its total monthly recurring revenues from subscribers increases, resulting in growth in operating margins and cash flow.

A March 2003 report by Northern Securities Inc. recommended AlarmForce – which was trading last week on the TSX in the $1.49 range, down from a 52-week high of $1.85 – as a strong buy, which means it expects the share price to appreciate 30 per cent or more over the next 12 months.

The report called the company "an exciting opportunity for investors interested in benefiting from the trend towards monitored two-way voice home security systems."

Matlin says the stock is undervalued compared to other national and international alarm companies, "but we do expect that to change. The price certainly does not reflect the value of the company."

The key to his success, Matlin says, is that he runs "a very focused organization. We don't focus on high-end integrated systems on the commercial side of the business. We focus on the marketplace.

"We build the business one customer at a time, and we stick to the market and work to make it more successful."

The company also has low debt levels, he says. "Our cash flow and our margins are significant, and we have been able to increase them. A strong balance sheet gives us the opportunity to expand aggressively."

Matlin says AlarmForce is a feel-good business. "Our customers are happy because we make them feel more comfortable in their homes, and our employees are loyal because we create a comfortable working environment."

Customers know that AlarmForce cares for them individually, he says, "and that's the key to this business. We care about each client, so when a problem occurs in our business we have certain operating procedures in place that focus in on dealing and resolving each individual problem.

"As well, because [AlarmForce] is a public company, a large percentage of our staff is involved in stock options, so an opportunity to help the company grow is in their favour."

Although he works 60 "crazy" hours a week, he says he tries to maintain balance in his life.

"I belong to Adath Israel Synagogue, I play hockey three times a week, I travel, I make sure I work at the Hadassah Bazaar every year, and I make time for my daughter, who is a lawyer, and my son, who is a film producer in Hollywood.

"If you don't balance work and the rest of your life, everything gets out of whack."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
President

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Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

BUDAPEST INSTEAD OF BEIJING FOR TRAVEL NETWORK TRAVELERS

Bonnie Horowitz and Vivien Rethazy of The Travel Network are offering a repeat of their popular Budapest/Vienna and Prague Jewish Heritage Tour for the fall, departing Oct. 14 and returning Oct. 26. In previous years the company's Jewish tours to that region of Europe have been sold out and participants have returned with rave reviews.

The company had planned to conduct a cruise tour of Southeast Asia during October but dropped the Asian itinerary because of the SARS situation there. The tour would have been a first for the company. It would have started in Beijing and finished in Bangkok, and included much Jewish content in both of those cities as well as in Shanghai.

Bookings had been strong and had started coming in as early as six months ago, Horowitz reported. However, she and Rethazy had already recognized the necessity of postponing the cruise when Princess Cruise Lines called to announce the cancellation.

Horowitz and Rethazy returned in May from one of the company's Jewish heritage tours of northern Spain. The group visited Madrid, Toledo, Segovia, Burgos, Bilboa, Barcelona, Gerona and Beselu, and were privileged to have Rabbi Benito Garzon, former chief rabbi of Madrid, accompany them through Toledo.

The Travel Network, 416-789-3271. E-mail bonnie@thetravelnetwork.com.

* * *

Kosher WindSurfer: Torontonians David and Naomi Freudmann are escorting a glatt kosher Caribbean cruise aboard the Wind Surf deluxe sailing ship (chalav Yisrael under KSA supervision) departing San Juan, Puerto Rico, on January 25, 2004. The seven-day cruise drops anchor in Virgin Gorda, Marigot St. Martin, St. Barthelemy, Nevis and Dominica, thus taking in "an exclusive yachtsman's itinerary among the Caribbean's most upscale, least crowded islands."

David Freudmann, travel consultant for UniWorld Travel & Tours, still speaks glowingly of his previous voyage on the Wind Surf 2 1/2 years ago. The ship carries some 300 passengers, cared for by 175 attentive staff; all staterooms and suites are oversized and have ocean views. Rates start at US $1,999, per person double occupancy, exclusive of air transportation, port taxes and gratuities.

Sailing dates of Dec. 7 and Jan. 18, 2004, are also available. For brochure or further information, contact Freudmann at UniWorld, 416-493-3322. E-mail david@uniworldtravel.com.

* * *

Travel Briefs — Canada & USA

• Le Chantecler Hotel in the Laurentians has recently opened its doors to a glatt kosher clientele under the sponsorship of Jewish Heritage Tours, which is offering summer and winter programs there. Sharon, 905-709-1766. E-mail, Jewisheritagetours@hotmail.com.

• Manhattan's Museum of Jewish Heritage is scheduled to open its new East Wing this fall. On current display is a priceless biblical-era Assyrian clay cylinder, inscribed with an account of a military campaign against Jerusalem by the Assyrian king Sennacherib. 212-509-6130, www.mjhnyc.org.

• Southern Exposure, an exhibition of photographs of Latin American Jewish life by Zion Ozeri, shows "how Jews have blended in with the local flavour of their South American communities and contributed a zest of their own." Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies, 618 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago. Until Dec. 28.

• Bangor, Maine hosts the 65th National Folk Festival, Aug. 22 to 24. Admission is free. www.nationalfolkfestival.com.

* * *

Travel Briefs — International

• John Lennon's childhood home has been opened to the public. Lennon lived in the Liverpool house from age five to 23. Phone 0151-708-8574.

• Planning to visit Ireland? First check Tourism Ireland's web site at www.shamrock.org for details on great tours and vacation packages.

• Professional singles may wish to consider joining a Jewish heritage tour of Italy planned for August by the Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers and the Ahavath Torah Institute. The tour is led by Rabbi Nosson Dovid Rabinowich, a noted author and professor of medieval Jewish history. 718-382-9108.

• The Sheraton Tel Aviv Hotel & Towers recently welcomed members of five North American missions who joined Israelis in celebrating the nation's 55th Independence Day. The missions included groups from Toronto, Ottawa, Chicago and San Diego.

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Arts & Travel

There is hip-hop BeyondEden

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

When you're in a Jewish rock-reggae-hip-hop band, how do you make your tunes accessible to diverse youth?

A rapping sermon, of course: *"Word of God is what you need, and what you need will set you free."*

In the past four months, Singer Chayim Newman has blasted those lyrics – and many others – with his Toronto band BeyondEden at venues such as the Reverb, the Toronto Centre for the Arts and the Hard Rock Café, as well as at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

Chayim Newman of BeyondEden.

The band, which consists of singer-guitarist Newman, drummer Jono Landon, keyboardist Dave Austin, guitarist Mark Weinstock, bassist Mark Shapiro and percussionist Eldan Cohen, is lapping up the buzz their multi-genre music has created.

Not only does the seven-member BeyondEden play with a toe-tapping blend of hip-hop and reggae-dipped funk, but the group includes Jewish references that reflect their passionate mission.

In an interview with Landon and Newman at Toronto's Symposium Café, Landon said, "We speak to the religious and non-religious. We want to spark Jewish youth and give them a great Jewish band to listen to."

Newman, 23, said many Jewish kids listen to groups such as the Dave Matthews Band who don't have a Jewish theme to which they can relate. But BeyondEden, he said, "passes along a 4,000-year-old message of Jewish unity and hope for a better future." It's not surprising, then, that one of the band's signature hits is called *Better Days*.

"In psychology, I learnt there are two ways to deal with trauma: fear or anger," said Newman, who studied psychology at the University of Toronto.

"The song *Better Days* reacts to what Israel goes through – the boy in the song reacts with vengeance, and the girl with fear."

Landon, 24, believes all Jews can relate to BeyondEden's music. "Even youth who don't know about religion will like our songs."

The band has accumulated an impressive concert resumé since its formation about a year-and-a-half ago and has attracted many young followers to its high-energy and frenetic riffs and its exciting Steve-Wonder-meets-Bob-Marley style.

And the hip-hop that might make parents cringe? "Rap is the poetry of today. I look at what's selling and it's that and pop, so I realize we have to get our point across the best way possible."

Newman and Landon admit they have grand visions for full-time music careers, as long as they can also live a Jewish lifestyle at the same time.

"We still follow halachah," Landon said. "We still have to be responsible to our religion."

That divine dedication is evident in BeyondEden's pre-show ritual. Before a concert, the band's seven members link arms and close their eyes. To pump themselves up, they hum a tune from an artist many older people would recognize – Shlomo Carlebach, popularly known as the "chassidic minstrel."

Just as Carlebach ignited the Jewish world with his music, BeyondEden hopes to accomplish the Canadian equivalent. And if the kids listen closely, they'll hear funky notes of optimism that inspire.

Lawyer struggles with a haunting murder

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON — *The Golden Age of Monsters— or My Father Gave Me Hannah Arendt's "Eichmann in Jerusalem" for My Twentieth Birthday*, a one-character play depicting the burdens faced by children of Holocaust survivors, will be presented at the Hamilton Fringe Theatre Festival from June 6 to 15 and at the Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival from July 2 to 13.

The Golden Age of Monsters, written by PEI playwright and fiction writer J.J. Steinfeld, stars Barry Bender of Hamilton, as Stuart, a 54-year old Jewish criminal lawyer struggling with a haunting murder case that he can't quite comprehend.

The impending trial launches him on a journey of dreams and recollections. He confronts "inconsiderate" monsters from world history to "B" movies in locations as diverse as a Toronto massage parlour to his mother's back door.

Stuart's parents survived the Holocaust, fleeing from Poland to Russia, and immigrated to Canada after the war. Stuart's life has been shaped by this experience and his own struggle to face the "monsters."

Steinfeld, of Charlottetown, is the recipient of the 2003 Award for Distinguished Contribution to the Literary Arts on Prince Edward Island, an honour presented by the PEI Council of the Arts.

Thirty-one of his one-act and full-length plays have been performed or broadcast throughout North America in various forms, ranging from staged readings to full productions.

His play, *Past Artistry*, won Regina Little Theatre's 2003 National Playwriting Contest and will be produced there in 2004. Steinfeld has won Theatre PEI's annual playwriting competition 10 times (seven times in the one-act play category, once in the radio play category and twice in the full-length play category). His new short-story collection *Would You Hide Me?* has just been published by Gaspereau Press.

The Golden Age of Monsters is directed by Ellen Jaffe and Lil Blume under the auspices of Pinking Shears Productions, a company Jaffe, Blume and Bender, all of Hamilton, formed in 2002.

Jaffe is a poet and writer whose book, *Writing Your Way* received the 2002 Non-Fiction Book Award from Hamilton Region Arts Council. She has written an adaptation for the stage of Margaret Laurence's children's novel *Jason's Quest* that was produced by Adventures in Children's Theatre in 2001.

Jaffe and Blume, a writer and teacher, co-ordinated the Celebration of Jewish Writers and Writing workshop in Hamilton in May, 2002.

Bender, whose working life has spanned teaching, technical writing, merchant banking and consulting, has acted in community and repertory theatre.

The play will be performed in Hamilton at UP Lounge, 3rd floor, Manhattan Connection, 35 Main St. Tickets are $8. The Hamilton fringe schedule can be found at www.hamiltonfringe.ca or by calling 905-297-0170.

The play will be performed in Toronto at the Royal George Theatre, 120 Howland Ave. Tickets are $10 in advance and $8 at the door. Dates can be found at www.fringetoronto.com or by calling 416-966-1062.

Arts & Travel

British writer adapted *The Pianist* for the screen

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Filmmaker Roman Polanski clearly knew what he was doing when he hired a seasoned British screenwriter to produce the script for *The Pianist*.

He needed someone special – a person acquainted with the Holocaust, sensitive to Jewish history, familiar with music and adept at turning a phrase.

Much to everyone's satisfaction, Polanski proved to be a superb judge of talent.

Enter Ronald Harwood.

Harwood won this year's Academy Award for best adapted screenplay, his second in 20 years.

Better still, Adrien Brody, who portrayed Wladyslaw Szpilman, the central figure in the film, walked away with the Oscar for best actor, while Polanski himself received the Oscar for best director.

A powerful chronicle of one man's survival during the Holocaust in Poland, *The Pianist* also won the Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

Ronald Harwood

The Pianist, which will be available on DVD and video in Canada on May 27, has earned about $32 million (US) in North America.

Canadian revenues alone have exceeded $5 million.

In a recent telephone interview from his home in Britain, Harwood speculated that Polanski handed him the plum assignment because of his track record.

Since 1963, Harwood has written more than a dozen scripts, from *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* to *A Fine Romance*.

In 1983, he earned his first Oscar by adapting his play, *The Dresser*, for the screen. Critically acclaimed, it starred Peter Yates, Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay.

In addition, Harwood wrote *Taking Sides* for the Hungarian director Istvan Szabo. Scheduled to be released in July, *Taking Sides* is based on the life of the German conductor Wilhelm Furtwangler, the subject of a painful de-Nazification process after World War II.

Harwood thinks that Polanski sought him out for *The Pianist* because he liked his treatment of *Taking Sides* and admired *The Dresser*.

"Polanski thought, 'This guy knows about Nazis and music.'"

It's an open question whether Polanski was aware that Harwood has also written two novels with strong Jewish themes.

Home, an autobiographical novel published almost a decade ago and the winner of the Jewish Quarterly Prize for fiction, revolves around a Jewish immigrant from Lithuania who settles in South Africa.

The Guilt Merchants, published in 1962, depicts a Nazi war criminal who hides as a Jew in South America.

Polanski, whose credits run the gamut from *Knife in the Water* and *Repulsion* to *Rosemary's Baby* and *Chinatown*, contacted Harwood in early 2000.

By the end of the year, the pair were working on *The Pianist*.

"I spent six weeks with Polanski," said Harwood. "He's a wonderful colleague and a terrific chap."

Harwood acknowledged that he had never heard of Szpilman, a renowned concert pianist whose immediate family was murdered by the Nazis.

After Warsaw's liberation, Szpilman wrote *Death of a City*, which came out in Poland in 1946. The book was subsequently banned by the Communist government.

Death of a City was published in Germany in 1999 and then in Britain under the title of *The Pianist: The Extraordinary True Story of One Man's Survival in Warsaw, 1939-1945*.

Szpilman, who retired in 1986, died on July 6, 2000.

In adapting *The Pianist* for Polanski's movie, Harwood decided to retain Szpilman's detached, laidback style.

"I was determined to keep that tone, to write it from Szpilman's point of view. That was the hardest thing. The temptation was to dramatize, but I tried to avoid that."

Did he expect to win an Oscar for *The Pianist*?

"Don't be silly," he exclaimed.

The odds-on favourite, he said, was David Hare, the scriptwriter of *The Hours*, starring Nicole Kidman and Meryl Streep.

"I was in total shock for quite a while after winning," he said. "It's an amazing event when it happens to you."

A publicist who met Harwood after his unexpected triumph said he looked completely dazed.

The next day, he got 15 screenwriting offers.

Since the success of *The Pianist*, Harwood, who is also a playwright, has been quite busy.

He has produced a new play with a Jewish theme, *An English Tragedy*, and he has written the script for a forthcoming HBO television movie about British Holocaust denier David Irving's celebrated trial.

The film is scheduled to begin shooting in 2004.

Harwood, whose original name was Horwitz, was born in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1934.

His father, Isaac, a Lithuanian Jew, immigrated to South Africa in 1898. His mother was a Londoner of Polish origin.

Harwood left Cape Town at 17 to study acting in London. He never went back to live in South Africa, though he has visited frequently and the country has figured quite prominently in his career.

Harwood adapted Alan Paton's novel, *Cry, the Beloved Country*, set in South Africa, into a movie.

Two of his novels, *Articles of Faith* and *George Washington September, Sir*, were inspired by South Africa.

A resident of London, Harwood is chair of the Royal Society of Literature, and from 1993 to 1997, he was president of international PEN, an association of writers and editors that promotes literacy and human rights.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

GARDINER MUSEUM DISPLAYS DONATED MILRAD CERAMICS

More than 90 important ceramic works that lawyer **Aaron Milrad** donated to the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art in 1999 are soon to go on view there in a new exhibit titled Life Taking Shape: Ceramics from the Aaron Milrad Collection.

The show, which opens June 18 and runs until July 27, features works by "some of the most important ceramic artists working in Canada, the United States and Britain over the last 50 years," according to museum curator **Susan Jefferies**.

Pieces donated by Milrad will later be highlighted in a new contemporary gallery, Jefferies said.

A well-known Toronto-based arts and cultural lawyer who is an expert in copyright and media law, Milrad has long been an avid collector of 20th-century ceramics.

"Clay is such a living thing," he said. "It brings into play all four elements – earth, fire, water and air. My passion for ceramics began back in my law school days, when I took a night class at the Ontario College of Art and worked on the wheel. From that day on, I didn't collect ceramics, they collected me."

The museum's Web site – www.gardinermuseum.on.ca – lists dates when the public may meet the collector, curator and various artists. Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, 111 Queen's Park. 416-586-8080.

* * *

Cinematic Success Story: *The Burial Society*, a Canadian-produced film starring **Rob LaBelle** and **Jan Rubes**, continues to garner praise and attention since taking the $12,000 Citytv prize in 2002 for best western Canadian screenplay at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

More recently, the **Nicholas Racz**-directed feature scored eight Leo Award nominations and has been invited to more than 20 film festivals. It was produced by **Richard Baumgartel** and **Howard Dancyger** and also stars **Seymour Cassel** and **David Paymer**.

The film is a "caper drama" focused on **Sheldon Kasner**, a squeaky-clean accountant at the Hebrew National Bank who, unlikely as it seems, breaks the law and hides out with the local chevrah kadishah or Jewish burial society.

This is a first feature film for Racz, a former winner of the KickStart Short Film Award from Telefilm Canada and the Directors Guild of Canada. *The Burial Society* enjoyed recent theatrical runs in Calgary and Ottawa and is slated for screening in the United States in the fall. Web site: www.theburialsociety.com.

* * *

In the Spotlight: ShakespeareWorks is an educational program developed five years ago by award-winning actor **R.H. Thomson** and actor-educator **Marvin Karon**, a member of the Beth Jacob synagogue in Hamilton, Ont.

Sponsored by the Toronto District School Board, Thomson and Karon have visited more than 300 schools in Canada to demystify the works of the Bard with the aid of a long list of notable actors, including **Paul Gross**, **Fiona Reid**, **Ted Dykstra**, **Tamara Hickey**, **Kenneth Welsh** and **Sonja Smits**.

Several private schools, including Hebrew schools, have shown interest in the program. ShakespeareWorks has also expanded into a summer camp, which launches its second season this July. 416-502-1209.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Pushover Productions, a theatre company with many Jewish actors and production workers, presents **Philip Barry's** classic comedy *The Philadelphia Story*. PWYC, Sunday, June 8, 2 p.m. matinee or $15 on June 8, 10, 11 and 12, 8 p.m. Poor Alex Theatre, 296 Brunswick Ave. Tickets at Ticketmaster or at the door.

• **The Toronto Jewish Film Society** presents *The Vow* (*Tkies Kaf*), directed by **Henryk Szaro** in 1937. The timeless fantasy, one of the last Yiddish films produced in Europe before the Holocaust, is regarded as a treasure. $9. Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall. Sunday, June 8, 7:45 p.m. (5:15 p.m. screening for members only). Tickets available 15 minutes before screening. 416-924-6211.

• Temple Kol Ami of Thornhill presents **Rabbi Sharon Sobel** speaking on Jewish Ethics of War: a look at biblical times versus the modern day. Free. Indigo Books, Yonge and Highway 7. Sunday, June 8, 8 p.m.

• **The Don Glaser Trio** plays at the Delta Chelsea Hotel June 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25, with sets at 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. Admission $10. Glaser, a jazz pianist and vocalist, was recently profiled in *The CJN*.

• The Miles Nadal JCC Choir presents its 7th annual spring concert. Pay what you can. Profits to benefit the Bill Emery Family trust fund. Walmer Road Baptist Church (corner Lowther and Walmer, just north of Bloor). Wednesday, June 11, 8 p.m.

* * *

At the Galleries

• The Older Women's Network presents *Treasured Legacies*, a photographic exhibit on aging by **Irene Borins Ash**, a writer, photographer and consultant on aging. Subjects include **Oscar Peterson**, **Ed Mirvish**, **June Callwood**, **Dr. David Suzuki**, **Hazel McCallion**, **Jean Vanier** and **Fred Dunn**. Toronto City Hall, Rotunda. Free. Until June 6.

• *Embroidered Legacy*, an exhibition of more than 40 exquisite textiles and robes handcrafted by people of China's ethnic minorities, runs June 6 to 28 at the Odon Wagner Gallery, 196 Davenport Rd. 416-962-0438.

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380 CLOTHING
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404 FITNESS & WEIGHT LOSS
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406 GARAGE DOORS
407 GIFT SERVICES
410 HEALTH & BEAUTY
412 HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING
415 HOME IMPROVEMENTS
416 HOME INSPECTION
418 HYPNOTHERAPY
419 INTERNET SERVICE
420 INVITATIONS/PRINTING/CALLIG.
425 JEWELLERY
427 JUDAICA
430 LEASING
431 LANDSCAPING/LAWNCARE
432 LAWYERS
433 LESSONS
434 LIMOUSINE/TAXI SERVICES
435 LIQUIDATION
438 LOCKSMITH
439 MAKE-UP
440 MISCELLANEOUS
442 MUSICAL SERVICES
445 MOVING
449 PEST CONTROL
450 PAINTING/WALLPAPERING
452 PARTY SERVICES
455 PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO
460 PLUMBING
465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
470 RENOVATIONS
472 RETIREMENT HOMES
475 ROOFING
476 SATELLITE & EQUIPMENT
477 SECOND HAND STORES
478 SCHOOLS
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
482 SIGNS
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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Forest Hill Village	Central	Bayview

List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.com

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

FOREST HILL ROAD - $1,595,000
3 storey, large principal rooms, high ceilings, renovated kitchen. Walk-out basement and pool! Hedda Zaionz* 416-226-1987

CUSTOM/ELEGANT HOME LAWRENCE/AVENUE RD
Open concept. Top of the line finishes. 10' ceilings on main floor. Gran. Cnt. Amalia Beckerman* 416-226-1987

YORK DOWNS EXCLUSIVE CUL-DE-SAC NEW+MAG.
5+2 bdrm, 5 bath. Luxurious kitchen and master suite. 2nd floor laundry. Fab fin. bsmnt. $1,289,000. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

PRIME LOWER VILLAGE $995,000
Immaculate 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, Tudor style. Plans and permits available. 50' x 110'. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

EGLINTON/ALLEN 2 STOREY DETACHED $449,000
Subway, schools, sunny, spacious 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Eat-in kitchen, rec rm, frpl. Priv. drive. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

BATHURST/PALM DR. LARGE BUNGALOW
Many updates, new kitchen. 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Big living and dining room. Anne Eidlitz* 416-226-1987

JUST LISTED 3 BEDROOM BUNGALOW
Separate entrance. Single garage. 40 x 115 feet lot. Great location. To view call Georgina Koltai* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

YORK MILLS & BAYVIEW 57.6 X 125 RAVINE!
Best part of Munro Blvd. Among million + homes. Build your own. Olga Guvenal* 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 378 WOODSWORTH ROAD! $569K!
Leslie/York Mills! Rare 5+1 bdrm, 4 bath! Mn fam+2pce! W/o bsmnt! Fab 60' o/l's ravine! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

2 STOREY T.H. END UNIT GREAT LOCATION
Close to all amenities, private backyard. Ideal for young family. Don't miss it. Doris Ishaky* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

LUXURY P.H. CUSTOM DESIGN 2,100 SQ. FT.
1 bedroom can be put back to den, sauna, locker, 2 parking spaces. Many extras. Fireplace, roof garden. Must Sell! Pauline Mack* 416-226-1987

CLASSIC SKYMARK 2 BEDROOM, DEN, 3 BATHS
2 parking, locker. Marble floors, white kitchen, w/o to balcony. Must Sell! 24 hour security. Pauline Mack* 416-226-1987

YONGE/EGLINTON PERFECT PENTHOUSE
Fabulous 2 bedroom/2 bath. Large eat-in kitchen. W/o to balcony. 2 underground parking spots. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

BATHURST/CLARK BEAUTY
2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Bright and spacious unit with balcony. Heidi Nelson* 416-785-1500

3000 BATHURST - 2 BDRM, AVAILABLE NOW 1,370 S.F.
$2,100/mo. Long term lease. 24 hr security. SW corner view. Upgraded. Fab spacious. All amenities. Lillian Cooper* 416-488-2875

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REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE
Sixplex, 2-3 bedrooms, 1-1 bedroom, 1-bachelor, garages, balconies, well-maintained, good income.

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
3 bdrms, 2 baths, modern kitchen, appliances, good size living room, fin basement, extra kitchen, rec room, fireplace, with two private entrances, large lot, garage.

BATHURST S. OF SHEPPARD
6 rooms, now used as doctors office, ideal for professional use, finished basement, large lot.

416-633-7373

BEST WATERFRONT BUYS IN BELLE EWART

1389 MAPLE ROAD
50'x 220', 4 bedrooms, garage, bunkie, boat house, perm dock.

1123 ALFRED STREET
50'x300', 4 bedrooms, bungalow, good boating!

1179 ALFRED STREET
Fabulous lot! 50' x 542'. Great potential!

SANDRA ROTH (BOTNICK)
RYBAK REALTY INC.
416-782-0598

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BATHURST/LAWRENCE
Bedford Park, 5 bdrm. 3 bath, 2 kit., 40x120 lot, gas furn., central air, 439k.

* * * * *

BATHURST/WILSON
Carhartt, 3 bdrm. 2 bath 60x120 lot, newer windows, gas furnace, central air, double garage. 329k.

Marshall Cohen, *Broker*
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Marshall Real Estate Ltd. • Realtor

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CONDOS FOR SALE

BEST BUYS!!!
120 Promenade, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 parking. Asking $239,800.

190 HARDING
3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, finished basement, TH, cond, 2 storey. Asking $309,800.

300 BLOOR
2 bedrooms, den, parking, locker. Asking $293,000.

109 FRONT STREET
1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, locker. Asking $179,900.

153 BEECHCROFT
1 bedroom, 1 den, 1 locker, 1 parking (under construction). Asking $199,900.

9 NORTHERN HEIGHTS DRIVE
2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, parking, locker. Asking $219,000.

1 EMERALD LANE
1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, parking. Asking $169,900.

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SALES REPRESENTATIVE
SUTTON GROUP ADMIRAL REALTY INC.
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BATHURST / MILNER GATE Prime location! 3 bdrm. detached 2 storey home. New roof, new windows! Finished basement with nanny's room! $345,000.

* * *

BATHURST / STEELES CONDO, $309,900 2 split bdrms., 2 baths, 2 parking. Approx. 1,400 sq. ft. Fabulous luxury condo in desirable location!

* * *

CLARK / HILDA CONDO. Demand luxury building, 2 split bdrms., 2 baths, 2 parking. Approx. 1,200 sq. ft. $259,900.

* * *

HOUSE FOR RENT, BATHURST / HWY 7 New house, approx. 2,400 sq. ft., 4 bdrms., 3 baths, 2 car garage, $2,100 / mo. + utilities. Min. 1 year, credit check, first & last + 10 postdated cheques.

* * *

STEELES / NEW WESTMINSTER Detached 4 bdrm., 4 baths, 2 car garage, approx. 2,500 sq. ft. Finished bsmt. apartment with separate entrance. $395,000.

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

Paul Slavens
REAL ESTATE INC. REALTOR

RESULTS
RESULTS
RESULTS
483-4337

FINE PROPERTIES

STRATHEARN RD. - $1,325,000.
Architectural gem features main floor family room, gourmet kitchen, separate dining room. Resort-like garden. In-ground pool with hot tub, cabana with bar. **Don Wagman.

LOWER VILLAGE - $1,065,000.
Multi-family dwelling. Updated kitchens & baths. Fully rented. Private drive. 3 car pkg. Income & expenses available. **Don Wagman.

UPPER VILLAGE - $799,000.
Stunning, centre hall. Main floor family rm. 4 bdrms. Master suite w/separate sitting rm. Professionally landscaped. Private drive & garage. Shows to perfection. *Linda Rose.

CASTLE HILL TOWNHOME - $799,000.
Unique layout. Approx. 3,400 sq. ft. 2rd floor master w/loft & private patio. Oversize eat-in kitchen. Stunning atrium. Elevator. 2 car parking. *Kathie Wood/**Richard Sherman.

COLDSTREAM AVE. - $789,000.
Terrific location. Spacious 3 bedroom bungalow on prime 47x102 ft. lot. CAC. Build your dream home or renovate. *Elaine Kehoe.

MT. PLEASANT / LAWRENCE - $499,000.
Beautifully updated detached home. 3 bdrms. + den. Wonderful 3rd floor loft. Finished lower level. **Richard Sherman.

BAYVIEW / EGLINTON - $459,000.
Fabulous, detached 3 bdrm. w/spacious main fl. family rm. & powder rm. Gorgeous, renovated kitchen. CAC, private drive, parking for 3 cars. Charm galore. Suits small family. *Marlene Federman.

ALLENBY SCHOOL - $440,513.
Charming 2+ bdrm. bungalow. Fireplace. Private drive & built-in garage. Live in, renovate or build new. **Veronica Key.

YONGE / SHEPPARD - $279,900.
Brand new 2 bdrm., lower penthouse. Open balcony. Luxury finishes. Parking. Excellent recreational facilities. **Richard Sherman.

YONGE / SUMMERHILL - $269,900.
Bright, open concept plan suite in new luxury bldg. in Rosedale. Oversized balcony. Ensuite laundry. Parking. *Steven Keshen.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE - $263,000.
Bright & spacious 2 bdrm. penthouse suite. Walk-out to balcony w/unobstructed view. Locker. Parking. 24 hr. conc. **Richard Sherman.

DON MILLS / FINCH - $239,900.
Spacious corner suite in "Skymark". 2 bdrms. + den + solarium. Open balcony. 2 parking spots. Approx. 1,600 sq. ft. *Kathie Wood.

PRESTIGIOUS PALISADES - $233,900.
Fantastic corner unit overlooking golf course & CN Tower. 2+ bdrms. Locker. 2 parking spots. Approx. 1,320 sq. ft. **Veronica Key.

2 NEPTUNE DRIVE
Now available. 2 upgraded, luxury 1 bdrm. suites in fine Seniors Residence, built by Baycrest Properties. Locker. Parking. Priced from $185,000. *Donna Taylor.

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Spacious 3 + 3 bdrm. bung. on 55 x 132 ft. lot, sep. entry to in-law suite, attached garage, fireplace. **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $379,000!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

COMMERCIAL PLAZA FOR SALE — NEW LISTING!
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Modern plaza with gas bar in high-traffic area, **RARE OFFERING** at $2.49 million. Call our commercial real estate specialist Joel Snitman at (905) 764-0869.

MAGNIFICENT BUILD LOT NEAR YORKDALE SHOPPING CENTRE
Detached 3 bdrm. bung. on deep 40 x 244 ft. lot. Steps to Yorkdale! $319,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

ST. CLAIR / DUFFERIN — OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!
Corner variety store + big 2 bdrm. apt.. Business, building + equipment, all for $299,900. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

AVENUE RD. /BATHURST /LAWRENCE. Spacious renovated exec. 5 bdrm. home at Saguenay, tree-lined street close to park, updated kitchen, new baths, hardwood floors, 2002 roof. For the most discriminating buyer! **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $699,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

Addresses to be envied!
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$1,029,000 77 Avenue Rd. Distinctively Designed! Approx 2000 sq ft, spacious 2 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, open concept LR/DR, Ebonized hardwood flrs, marble wood burning f/p, 2 balconies w/ clear views & so much more! **OPEN HOUSE SAT. 2-5 PM**

$1,229,000 The Bellagio Bloor/ Mt Pleasant. Incredible view Rosedale Valley Ravine, rare 3 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 f/p, great W/I closets & The Bellagio Spa.

$465,900 99 Avenue Rd Pied-a-terre w/ fab SW view, 1 bdrm, 10' ceilings, hardwood flrs, balcony & wonderful kitchen.

$309,000 77 Harbour Sq. Desirable 1 bdrm w/ lake view, balcony.

416-975-3811 Avant Garde Real Estate Ltd.

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003

SKYMARK
DON MILLS & FINCH (TORONTO)
Skymark II: SOLD ol., S. view.
55 Skymark Zenith: Beautiful penthouse, 2 b.r. + sol., w/skylights, price reduced. For my updated inventory, colour brochures & 360° virtual tour, call:
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Martin Zelikovitz B.A. 416-229-4454 x.236
Email: mzelikovitz@royallepage.ca

Lower Forest Hill – 5+bdrm., 5 baths, 5000 sq. ft. living space, w/o to south yard, ready early 2004, www.rpt.ca/hawarden

Avenue Rd./Lawrence – 5+bdrm., 6 baths, 5500 sq. ft. living space, 56' frontage, large, great flow for entertaining, www.rpt.ca/heath

Yonge/St. Clair – Amazing location! Cul de sac, 3 bdrms., 2 baths, 26' x 132', move-in, reno., rent or build, www.rpt.ca/heath

Yonge St./N. or Gamble – Future development site 180'+ on Yonge.

Royal LePage Partners Realty

HERITAGE ESTATES
Gorgeous 4 bdrm home, 3600 sq. ft., fam SOLD den, ensuites. Elegant. See it – love it!
HILDA/STEELES
Super deal for 1st time buyers. Great 3 bedroom condo, 2 baths, asking $199K.
JUST LISTED
BATHURST/CHABAD GATE
Real dollhouse, 3 bedroom, 4 baths, finished basement, with jacuzzi, completely updated. See it - love it.
FRASERWOOD/LAWRENCE
6-plex, 5 x 3 bedrooms, 1 x 1 bedroom, retrofit.
SALLY ROSEN
Century 21 Heritage Group
905-764-7111

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

!!! Brand New Listing !!! 177 Gailcrest Circle, spacious 5 bdrm, 3 bath home, largest backyard in area. Great spot $399,900 O.B.O. Call Rav at 905-709-1145.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/Lawrence, large 3 bdrm., 2 storey house, large eat-in kitchen, fin. bsmt. w/separate entrance. 416-789-5371.

A beautiful, spacious 4 bed., 3 bath. home. Clark/Bathurst. Nr. pub/school. 416-894-5333.

3000 Bathurst St. Condo for Sale
Between Glencairn and Lawrence, original owner, 3 bdrm, 3rd floor, ensuite bath, guest bathroom and shower, inside prkg. for 2 cars, lots of guest parking, Sabbath elevator, close to Synagogues, shopping, TTC.
416-783-0223

3000 Bathurst, lrge 2 bdrm., den, 2 bath., facing west, indoor pkg., close to all amens., best offer over $330K, 416-787-6886.

NORTH YORK. 1-2-3 bedroom condos avail. Appls. **416-661-1041 G. BARON RLTR.**

11 TOWNSGATE
Luxury 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 parking, parquet floor, balcony, STUNNING! **CHARLIE ROTEM,** Homelife Cimerman R.E. **416-226-9770**

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate. 1550 sq. ft., 2 bed., 2 bth. 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371, 416-224-2837.

3000 Bathurst St., lux. 2 bed., 2 bth, appl., 1400 sq. ft., quiet s/w corner unit, high floor, prkng. available immediately. 905-731-6382.

Bathurst/Wilson, large 2 bdrm. $1400/mo inclusive, 2 full bath. Days, 416-365-8003, evenings 905-771-9727.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

55 SKYMARK
Don Mills & Finch. 3 bedroom + solarium. $2,150/month. SANTEE LEUNG, Santee Realty Inc., 416-441-2003.

SUIT OBSERVANT LADY, Bathurst/Lawrence, new bachelor penthouse apt., new separate eat-in kitchen, new fridge and new self-clean stove. New floors, 4 closets, 24 hr. security, etc. $850 includes cable, hydro and a/c. Parking available. Please leave your name and phone # at 905-888-5293 and your call will be returned.

Clark/Hilda, 1800 sq. ft. Avail. August 1st. Call 416-226-4427.

45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

Looking for a condo. at 3000 Bath. St., 2 bedroom, closing negot. Call 416-880-2132.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Bathurst/Steeles condo, own bedroom & bathroom. Shared kitchen, laundry, locker & parking. Call 647-294-9314.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Newly Renovated Bath./Lawr./Wilson
1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments from $599-$1,500 + utilities.
Call 905-794-2808

34 Carscadden Dr. accepting applications for our beautiful bldg. in a ravine setting, 1 bdrm. July 1, 3 bdrm. June 1. 416-636-0137 / 416-633-1495.

BATHURST/LAWRENCE, lrge. 1 bdrm., parking & laundry, near subway and shopping, 416-787-4450, 416-785-1893.

120 SHELBOURNE AVE.
(Sabbath Elevator)
2 & 3 Bedroom Apartments for Rent
Immediate Occupancy
Well maintained Bldg.
Close to T.T.C., Shopping & Synagogues
For more information & appointment to view
Call 416-282-6049 Mon. to Fri. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
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ELDORADO, 2500 Bathurst St., lux. apts., large suites, reno'd. Immediate. 416-787-9451.

Bathurst/Sheppard, 2 bdrm. bsmnt. apt., close to shuls, shared laundry + yard, $875/mo. incl. utils. 416-638-1411.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

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Innisfil
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C21 B.J. Roth 416-350-3973
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MUSKOKA COTTAGE OPPORTUNITY
Private For Sale. Newly renovated 4 bedroom furnished cottage situated in a desirable Jewish cottage community on beautiful Pine Lake, six km. from Gravenhurst. Features beautiful Muskoka stone fireplace, new kitchen and bathrooms, new windows, private dock and sate sandy beach. Exceptional value at $269,000. For details call.....
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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe-Orillia, lakefront lux. 4 bdrm, 3 bth, sandy beach, waterfront, cac, lndry. June-Aug. 905-764-6852.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area. Lux. 4 bdrm., sandy beach, tennis. Seas./mo. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE

BELLE EWART, lakefront co-op, 3 bdrm, equipped, perfect for young family. 905-889-8687.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Looking to lease Toronto taxi cab plates, top $$$, money guaranteed, experienced and reputable management. We are neither buying nor selling plates. 416-783-0679.

232 BUSINESS FOR SALE

Very established deli/bakery/ restaurant. Serious inquiries only. CJN Box #4580.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Experienced Hairstylist and Nail Technician needed. Call 416-720-8793.

KOSHER COOK REQUIRED for strictly kosher dairy restaurant in Thornhill, 3 yrs. min., cook diploma required. Min. 5 yrs. experience in preparation of strictly kosher dairy foods. Salary commensurate with experience. Fax resume to 416-787-1891.

247 DAY CARE AVAILABLE

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250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

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330 OBITUARIES

WEINTRAUB, Sally – on May 16, 2003, late of 14 Granada Crt.
LORMAN, Leonid – on May 17, 2003, late of 6020 Bathurst St.
LABOVITZ, Ned – on May 17, 2003.
LESHCHINSKAYA, Sofia – on May 17, 2003.
GWARTZ, Max – on May 18, 2003, late of 3636 Bathurst St.
ROZENBERG, Helina – on May 18, 2003.
VAINCTEIN, Berta – on May 19, 2003, late of 4450 Bathurst St.
BELAHOV, Juliana – on May 19, 2003.
ENGELHARDT, Klara – on May 20, 2003, late of 555 Sheppard Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

SHAKHNES, Maiya – on May 14, 2003, late of 601 Finch Ave. W., P.H.
ZIMMERMAN, Edward – on May 20, 2003, late of 610 Bathurst St., #3.

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SANDLER, Bernice – on May 21, 2003, late of 85 Prue Ave.
HERMAN, Jack – on May 22, 2003, late of 24 Kindale Way.
ARON, Richard – on May 22, 2003, late of 65 Skymark Place.
COHEN, Mordechai – on May 23, 2003, late of 181 Campbell Ave.
INCH, Ronald Clive Raymond – on May 23, 2003, late of 118 Perry Cres.
WUNCH, Irving Joseph – on May 23, 2003, late of 111 Richmond St. W.
GREEN, Boris – on May 24, 2003, late of 110 Promenade Circle.
CROITORU, Esther – on May 26, 2003, late of 4003 Bayview Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

TANZER, John – on May 4, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
EKSTEIN, Frank – on May 5, 2003, late of 464 Woodland Acres.
STOLBERG, Eve – on May 4, 2003, late of 35 Bryant St.
KLEIN, Gabriel – on May 5, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
GOLVIN, Stanley – on May 5, 2003, late of 3181 Bayview Ave., #6.
SCHWEITZER, Michael – on May 4, 2003, late of 65 Harbour Square.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

FREEDMAN, Fanny – on May 7, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
MINDEN, Doris – on May 8, 2003, late of 400 Walmer Rd., #1003.
LEVI, Mildred – on May 8, 2003, late of 35 Park Home Ave., #4.
BERNSTEIN, Freda – on May 9, 2003, late of 1555 Finch Ave. W., #280.
TURK, Faye – on May 9, 2003, late of 3036 Bathurst St., #5.
SALSON, Irvin – on May 7, 2003, late of 2696 Windermere Ave.
STESSEL, Jerry – on May 10, 2003, late of 116 Francine Dr.

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will take place
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Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORRIS DEMON ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 8th, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial
Jewish Lithuanian Farband Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY MANDELBAUM ז"ל
will take place
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HENRY FREEDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 8th, 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Ostrovtzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LEON (NELLO) NAHMAN ז"ל
will take place
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Pardes Shalom Cemetery
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Arts & Travel

Three-disc Pianist *DVD now available*

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

One of the truly great films of the year 2002, *The Pianist*, is now available on video and DVD.

The Pianist won Academy Awards for best director (Roman Polanski), best actor (Adrien Brody) and best adapted screenplay (Ronald Harwood). It also walked away with the Palme D'Or at the Cannes Film Festival last year.

The Pianist is a very affective film that tells a simple story in a straight forward way.

The story revolves around Wladislaw Szpilman, a remarkable composer and pianist, who is caught up in events that overwhelm him and devastate the world around him.

After the Nazi occupation of Poland, Szpilman, a Jew, was targeted by the Germans. He managed to survive the war because of the efforts of his friends, many of whom were not Jews, who hid and protected him.

As a result, Szpilman spent several years in hiding and living in secrecy. From these hiding places, Szpilman was witness to the horrendous events taking place in Warsaw, including the Ghetto Uprising and the Polish attempt, a year later, to revolt against the occupation. Both efforts proved futile.

Adrien Brody gives a brilliant performance in *The Pianist*.

For the film's director, Roman Polanski, this was a project close to his heart. As a young boy, he witnessed the German atrocities and survived the Krakow Ghetto. Polanski's memories and experiences played a major part in his recreation of the time period and by adding realistic touches to the film.

Polanski himself put it this way: "I survived the bombing of Warsaw and the Krakow Ghetto and I wanted to recreate those childhood visions.....In addition to my own recollections, I could rely on the authenticity of Szpilman's account. He wrote it just after the war--perhaps that's why the story is so strong, so genuine, and so fresh."

In addition, a brilliant performance by Adrien Brody gives the film the final touch of realism that places it head and shoulders above all other films produced last year.

The DVD version of *The Pianist* includes a 3 disc set. One disc contains the two and a half hour film. The second disc contains the special features, which include *A Story of Survival* featurette, a Director's Note by Polanski, an interview with Polanski, a featurette called *The Warsaw Ghetto: Historical Background*, a biography of Szpilman, and many more items.

The third disc is the original motion picture soundtrack including Chopin's *Mazurka in A minor, Op. 17, No. 42* performed by Szpilman himself. This is certainly one video or DVD that deserves to be in everyone's collection.

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A TEST OF STRENGTH: The Givati unit of the IDF recently held their Sports Day. Arm-wrestling attracted quite a crowd. [Israel Sun photo]

Tiny tae kwon do star vying for national title

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Phyllis Saadon has been taking her daughter, Mia, to tae kwon do classes and competitions for six years, but there's one move performed by her daughter that still awes her.

It's the one where 12-year-old Mia, all of four-foot-10 and 76 lbs., runs across the gym, leaps over seven or eight kids huddled in a crouch position, and splits a one-inch board with a flying side kick. That's all in the air, over eight kids, with her foot.

Mia, of course, is no ordinary kid. Though young and slight of frame, she's already earned the heady title of first-degree black belt, and has a trophy case brimming with about 50 shiny awards.

Last month in Colborne, Ont., Mia finished first in the Junior Ontario Provincial Tournament in the super fin category, a class that brings together kids of the same age and weight.

The win puts her in contention for a spot on the national team and on June 27, she'll be in Winnipeg to compete in the Canadian junior national tournament.

Mia has been passionate about the sport ever since she took it up at age six. Phyllis would know – she's the one who's spent the last six years driving her daughter to her training sessions at Chu's Martial Arts three or four times a week and to competitions on the weekend.

Her coach and mentor, Thanh Chu, himself a third-degree black belt and tournament competitor, believes Mia has what it takes to excel in the sport far into the future.

"Ever since she was six, she's been such a hard worker. She never gives up. She puts in a lot of dedication and a lot of hours into her training," he said.

What's more, he continued, she has natural ability. "She's very athletic, coordinated, has good balance, form, body movements and mechanics."

Her natural abilities allow her to master the pattern aspect of the sport, in which participants go through a choreographed series of movements "that is like telling a story with your body," Chu said.

She's also very good at the sport's tougher, sparring aspect in which athletes wearing protective gear land blows on their opponents.

Despite the hard-nosed aspect of the sport, Phyllis is supportive of her daughter's participation in it. "I feel that whatever interests a child and if they like it and are determined, they should do it," she said.

Mia has been attracted to tae kwon do right from the get-go. When she was six, her mom was taking her to a computer class in the same building as the martial arts school when little Mia looked in and said, "I want to do that."

Phyllis is happy with her choice. "It gives her a focus," she said. "She's not in the shopping malls very much and she's working out."

Chu said Mia's story is somewhat unusual. Tae kwon do is still a sport taken up mostly by boys, but Mia has become a role model for even younger girls. They all want to emulate her, he said.

Bridge with Gitelman

Each year in early May, The Cavendish Invitational Pairs is held in Las Vegas. In this event 50 of the world's best partnerships compete for close to $1 million in total prize money. This tournament has always been my favorite and I have played in every Cavendish Invitational for the past 6 years. This year my partner, Brad Mass, and I happened to win. Woohoo! Here is one of our triumphs:

South opened the bidding with an emaciated weak 2 bid in spades. North forced with 3♥ and raised South's 3♠ rebid to 4♠.

Leading a side suit singleton against a trump contract often allows the defenders to win a later trick (or tricks) with a ruff. With my hand I dismissed the lead of my singleton club because I thought it was very likely that I had 2 trump winners – I did not need any ruffs! Instead I chose to make an opening lead from my strength – diamonds. As you will see, this turned out to be a good idea!

Brad won the first trick with the ♦A and returned the ♦9 to my ♦K. I persisted with a 3rd round of diamonds. The dummy's ♦Q won the trick as the declarer discarded a club. He then continued with a trump to his ♠9 with my ♠10.

When a defender leads a suit in which both the declarer and the dummy are void, he is conceding what is known as a "ruff and discard". In most deals a ruff and discard allows the declarer to win a trick that he is not entitled to. Ruff and discards usually help the declarer – not the defenders.

Fortunately I was able to figure out that this deal was not like most deals. I played a 4th round of diamonds and Brad ruffed with the ♠A – the setting trick for the defense. I still had the ♠KJ poised over the declarer's ♠Q. There was nothing he could do to stop me from winning 2 more trump tricks. The declarer's ♠4 contract had failed by 3 tricks.

North	East
♠ 74	(Brad)
♥ AKQ105	♠ A3
♦ Q76	♥ 973
♣ AJ2	♦ A93
	♣ Q9875
West	**South**
(Fred)	♠ Q98652
♠ KJ10	♥ 4
♥ J862	♦ J5
♦ K10842	♣ K1064
♣ 3	

The bidding:

South	North
2♠	3♥
3♠	4♠

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Las Vegas-based company, Bridge Base Inc., is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month in The Canadian Jewish News. *Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.*

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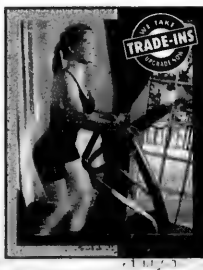

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Frank Ekstein: a godly atheist

All men die. Some men die harder.

I met Frank Ekstein a few years ago, on a day much like any other. He invited me to meet with him at the offices of his company, Weston Forest Corp., to discuss some ongoing humanitarian projects.

I stepped into Weston expecting to meet a man with a corporate bravado who would take a bottom-line, no-nonsense approach to my proposals for his participation. Instead, I discovered a soft-spoken and elegant figure surrounded by pictures of horse scenes.

Frank passed away a few weeks ago. He was a beautiful and genuine human being who lived his life with splendour, elegance and love.

All of us have love in our lives. We sculpt it and we grow it. Then there are others who breathe love and its many fragrant smells. Frank Ekstein was such a man.

Frank loved his wife Anita, unconditionally, romantically and with the commitment to a spouse we all crave. He loved his children Ruth, Rick and Peter and their spouses the way Jacob in the Bible loved his children – with unabashed passion. In Rick's final salute to his father, he spoke about the horse rides the two would take down to a pond that was home to their intimate father-son discussions. Ruth talked about their father-daughter horse and buggy rides and the wonderful curiosity Frank had about her life.

In Peter's eulogy of his father, he said, "I was blessed with the opportunity of being able to work together with him. I used to come into his office a half a dozen times a day, usually just to give him a hug. He made me feel safe and that everything was going to be OK. I don't feel so safe anymore."

Frank loved his grandchildren, nephews and nieces. He loved his employees and considered their welfare long before the profits they could make for the company.

Frank loved his horses. He was a Jewish horse-whisperer, an unusual thing to find in our community.

And Frank loved to help others. Once he called me and said, "Avrum, if you ever meet someone who can't pay their rent or needs help immediately, call me." I did, and Frank never, ever said no – regardless of whether a receipt would be issued or not.

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Frank and I would often speak about his atheist philosophy. Intrigued by a belief in what seemed to be "nothingness," I once asked Frank what it was like not to have a God in his life. He squirmed just a bit, smiled as he looked straight in my eyes in an unthreatening way, and said ever so sweetly, "You know, Avrum, sometimes it is very hard, but what can I do. That's what I believe."

When I heard that Frank had died, I couldn't help but wonder what he and God would discuss. Would God rebuke Frank for not believing in him?

And then I realized that Frank lived a life that was imbued with godliness. He shared himself with Anita and those around him. He cared for his horses like Rebecca cared for Eliezer's camels. Although he was not a practising Jew, he was a role model for all of us in terms of how to actualize tikkun olam – repairing the world.

All men die. But people like Frank, who stopped by our world for a brief period, die a bit harder. They do because their legacy of love and caring are classic and universal.

Good bye, Frank. Thank you for coming along and enhancing our world. To quote your son Peter, we who knew you or were affected by you are now both the luckiest and unluckiest people in the world. Lucky, because you shared your world with us. Unlucky, because you are gone.

You did well Frank. So long, my friend. Regards to God, I think.

Summer Cherries Jubilee

1 can pitted cherries
1/2 cup dry red wine
1/4 cup cherry preserves
1 tblsp. almond-flavoured liqueur
2 tsps. fresh lemon juice
2 cups vanilla low-fat frozen yogurt

Combine first 3 ingredients in a small saucepan, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer 5 minutes, stirring frequently. Stir in liqueur and lemon juice. Serve warm over yogurt. Yield: 4 servings.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

Most parents work very hard to mould and shape their children to become responsible adults.

Is it possible that Brian, my 19-year-old son, is just going through a phase? He has a girlfriend now – not necessarily someone I would have chosen for him, but nevertheless she is his girlfriend.

The two spend all their extra time together at my house, in the basement, on the couch, with the remote control close at hand.

What's that all about – two young kids spending all their time growing mouldy in a dingy basement? You might think they were doing something else, right? Wrong. I peep. I know I shouldn't but I have to check.

I've tried my best to suggest to Brian he try other things, but he ignores me and goes back to the basement. Any suggestions?

Blobs in the Basement

Dear Blobs in the Basement,

I presented your problem to the women of the Orah chapter of NJCW. Many of them have teenage children and here are some of their suggestions.

The most unanimous response was: Don't look for trouble where there isn't any. Being a teenager in these times, Brian could be into so many other detrimental activities. Whether it be because of peer pressure, rebellion or boredom, kids can get into very problematic situations, including drugs, gangs and violence. At least Brian is home with his girlfriend right under your nose. You know he is safe.

This is a phase. It won't last forever. Many teenagers are a bit on the lethargic side. I don't think it is unusual to hear of a teenager sleeping till three or four in the afternoon. That too is a phase. We all grow up, whether we want to or not. We all enter life in the real world and these things fade away.

You can't always say no to everything, so pick your fights. This one isn't worthy of a confrontation. You have given Brian suggestions and he knows you are not thrilled about how he spends his leisure time. Leave it at that for a while and see how it progresses. He'll surface soon.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Crossword Puzzle

The Canadian Jewish News

(Answers to the crossword are on page 47.)

Favourite Foods

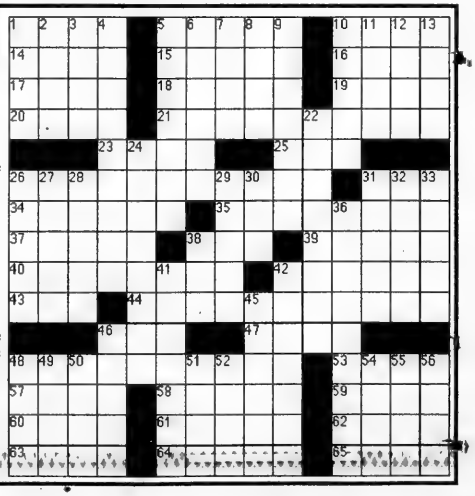
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann/ Legacy Crosswords

Across

1. Pear
5. Sorry, there __ __ Kneidlach left!
10. Stair
14. Hey, here's an ___ for a new recipe!
15. Deep respect, as for a rabbi, sage (abbrev.)
16. Offensive or defensive
17. Herb for pickles!
18. Compass direction, from Augusta, and state abbrev. for Rockland
19. Aroma
20. Aaron ___, Anaheim Angels pitcher
21. Catskill Mountains
23. Ce follower, controls the press
26. Sound often heard from crowd watching fireworks
26. Almond-flavored hardcake
31. Golfers' assn.
34. "The grand jury returned _ ____ indictment" (2 words, one abbrev.)
35. Kiln lading of hops
37. Oaf, boor
38. Query
39. Shoe size range: ____ AAA
40. She might keep notes on _____ (2 words) in her diary
42. Angry ones (using the adjective as a noun)
43. Prefix meaning equal
44. Often made from pike
46. Killer whale, for short
47. Rowboat propellors
48. Jewish soup dumpling
53. Give's opposite
57. Lhasa ____
58. 2052, in Roman numerals
59. Prophetic sign
60. How Zion is spelled in France
61. Mountain ridge crest
62. Cartographs
63. Allowance for container's weight
64. Oceanic area between Brit. and Denmark, et al
65. Atmospheric hts.

Down

1. What an auctioneer loves to get
2. Garfield's side-kick
3. ___ out, betray
4. Scheduled an appt.
5. "..but the righteous __ ___ as a lion" Proverbs 28:1
6. Soak up again
7. Till the end of time
8. Root worms, can infest grapevines (abbrev.)
9. Carrying tools for galena, bauxite
10. Notorious Serb, for short
11. Neap, high, or low
12. Chemical ending
13. Sassy
22. One who teeters
24. Merchandise farm goods on big-biz scale
26. Speed of sound category
27. Angela's _____ (McCourt memoir)
28. Combining form for surgeon
29. Aldo ____, Italian architect, Pritzker Prize winner
30. Mighty tree
31. Cal starter makes this verse-like
32. Microsoft Bill
33. Preceded by K, this becomes sacred in Hebrew
36. Plant pore
38. Pershing led this in World War I
41. Computer support guy
42. Rome's land, in French, in the plural
45. Nabokov novel
46. Layer formed in the stratosphere
48. Schooner has three or four of this
49. Samoa's capital
50. Trouble, in Yiddish, for short
51. Metabolic rate tests
52. Away from the wind
54. Labor, in Haifa or Ashdod
55. Retained or hung onto
56. Naval jr. officers



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PARTY PLANNER

The Canadian Jewish news

Section B

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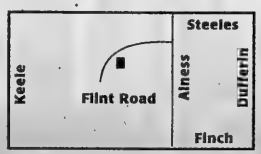

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Your first impressions of a party include flowers

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

When you go to a party, greet the other guests, and look over the hall, many of your first impressions are visual.

First impressions are formed on such things as the flowers, says Monika Sumra of Desert Rose Flowers and Gifts Inc. (905-709-0408; www.desertrose.ca). As an integral part of party decor, flowers should be chosen with care. Sumra's motto is, "Your special occasion is our special occasion."

There are a lot of florists out there. To find the best, Mario Seguin of The Floral Studio Limited (416-504-1850) says to start looking as soon as possible. That gives you time to get to know the florist, and gives him or her time to visit your venue.

Seguin has worked in a flower shop since age 12, and has owned his studio since 1992. He places a high value on choosing an experienced florist – someone who not only knows flowers, but what arrangements and colours work best in different venues on different occasions.

This, he says, entails knowing about different halls, their lighting, colour schemes, layout and other characteristics. As he puts it: "You can't redesign the hall, but you can personalize it with flowers."

Planning and hosting a party is stressful, as you undoubtedly know. One of the reasons you consult specialists, Sumra says, is to relieve that stress. Your florist, like any other party professional, should take some of the pressure off you.

Above all, Seguin says, your florist should put your needs first. A specialist's expertise can guide you, but ultimately you make the final decision.

Seguin places a high value on providing service with a positive attitude.

"I'll always find ways to make things work," he says. "There are no problems, only solutions."

Sumra says it's best to choose a florist who not only provides the flowers, but takes care of all the visual aspects of the party. These include things you'd expect from a florist, such as centrepieces, floral design, bouquets and corsages, but also other elements such as invitations, lighting, fabric draping on pillars and backdrops.

Work with one professional to harmonize all these visual aspects, Sumra says.

"This makes your event cohesive, gives it a theme and a flow."

Using different companies for different products – say, draping and backdrops from one supplier, flowers from another – can detract from that cohesion.

Sumra says a florist should not only set things up, but also take them down at the end of the evening. This makes life easier for you, as well as the other people working in the hall, and helps the florist build a good reputation in the industry.

"Few florists offer this level of service," says Sumra. "But look for someone who does — someone who realizes that their business is as much a matter of service, as physical product."

Seguin agrees that a good florist works well, not only with clients, but with the other people working at the venue, everyone from the waiters to the superintendent. Being considerate, tidying up and not making extra work for other people helps the florist establish goodwill, and increases the likelihood of their being invited back.

Book your florist a year in advance, Seguin recommends, if you want to see in the shop the same flowers that will be in season at the time of your event. Six months in advance is long enough to deal with logistics and co-ordinate the florist's work with other party professionals such as the caterers.

It's best to book your florist as soon as you have a date, Sumra says. You need to make sure they're available, and she's taking bookings into 2004 and 2005.

Other florists advertising in this supplement are: Design by Karen Baker, 905-886-8100; Gemini Flowers, 905-660-2466.

Warm and rich styles and colours are in, says stylist Ronen Abergel

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Ronen Abergel tugs and twists his client's freshly cropped jet-black hair – a round brush in one hand, a blowdryer in the other.

The motions seem to come fluidly and naturally as he chats with employees and clients in a boisterous mix of English and Hebrew.

Abergel, who opened up his own salon in Thornhill (905-771-1084) two years ago, styled hair in Tel Aviv for nearly two decades before setting up shop in Canada.

With a barrage of proms, bar and bat mitzvahs and weddings on the horizon, the flamboyant stylist knows he has his work cut out for him, so to speak.

While there are no hard and fast rules for hair styles this spring, soft and natural is the way to go, he says.

Long, flowing tresses are what prom-goers, bat mitzvahs and brides-to-be may want to consider for their affairs, as opposed to severe or complicated up-dos.

"It's a lot more of a natural and warmer look," he says. "It looks well done."

Although Abergel emphasizes the importance of keeping up with all the trends, he says he tries his best to accommodate his clients' individual styles.

For proms this season, he says people have been asking for "lots of funky styles with pieces coming down… All the crazy stuff." Feathers, spikes and ringlets make for a unique and fun look.

However, for weddings and bar and bat mitzvahs, he says "a classic, smooth look" is a tried-and-true favourite.

Hair colours this season adhere to the same idea as styles: natural, warm and rich.

This low-key look can be achieved by combining two or three different shades. This doesn't mean highlights. Rather, different shades are mixed together, tone on tone. A popular combination, says Abergel is a blend of copper, blond and dark brown for a luminous but natural-looking sheen.

> Feathers, spikes and ringlets make for a unique and fun look

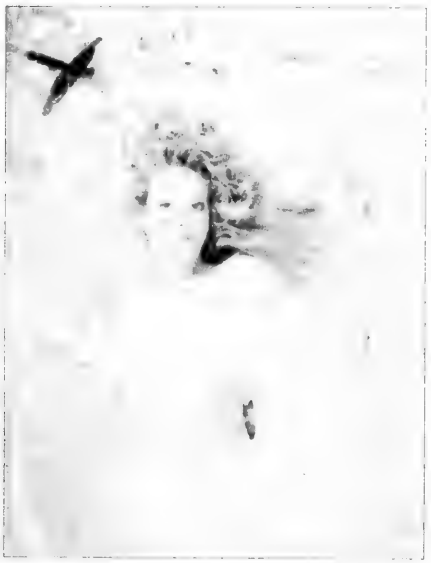
In addition to hair cutting, styling and colouring, the salon also has a full esthetics studio. Estheticians with more than 30 years of experience can do anything from waxing to facials for everyday maintenance or a special treat before a party.

Although clients often take care of their own makeup, Abergel's salon has two makeup artists on duty to help in the party-preparation process.

His shop doesn't do nails, but next door on Yonge Street is Sensation Nails. The two businesses support each other by sharing clientele.

Abergel says the best way for him to help his clients get ready for an affair is to look at the whole picture. He advises clients to bring their dress, accessories and makeup to the salon so he can engineer the perfect look.

Other esthetics places advertising in this supplement are: CO Makeup Inc., 416-927-8928; Dani's Hair Studio Inc., 416-787-4322; Estee Levine Make-Up Artist, 905-417-8433; Gee & Co. Make Up Inc., 416-486-3067; Kiss N' Make-Up, 416-894-7542; Doreen Neiss, 416-654-9116.



Long, flowing hair styles are in this spring.
[Gershon Srudiski photo]

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Planners add 'insurance' to your party

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Consultants Cindy Himelstein (416-787-3156) and Heidi Gruenspan (905-738-5030) look upon their services as a type of insurance policy.

"When we're at a party, the family can be sure that things will run smoothly. They're able to enjoy themselves," says Himelstein.

Cindy Himelstein (right) with satisfied clients.

She offers a full-service package as well as "day-of" services, she says, because many clients do their own planning but want someone at the wedding or bar/bat mitzvah.

"I speak to them on the phone several times throughout the planning process, visit the venue about one month before the event, and oversee the rehearsal.

"The day of the event, I come as early as they want, either to help the bride get dressed, or to assist with the photographs. I'm there for whatever they need."

Himelstein, who has a master's degree in social work, says it is important for clients to talk with her about their family dynamics.

"Some families have the challenge of dealing with divorced parents. They worry about walking down the aisle, taking pictures, and sitting at the head table.

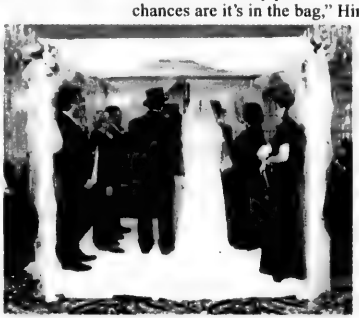
"I try to speak to people individually and find out what would make them comfortable. I have experience dealing with uncomfortable situations, and I know how to listen," she says.

She also sees herself as a crisis manager. "If, for instance, 16 guests want to sit at one table, I have to be able to negotiate with them in a calm voice."

Gruenspan (www.heidig.ca), who offers one all-inclusive package, says it is important for her clients to get to know her well throughout the planning process, "so when I arrive at their party, we've built up a rapport. I'm not a stranger walking in."

She's there to deal with situations that the family of the bride or bar/bat mitzvah child should not have to worry about, she says.

"I've had dresses rip and ushers pass out, and once I even dealt with a bomb threat during the wedding speeches. I quietly took care of things without creating havoc, and no one knew about that except the parents," she says.

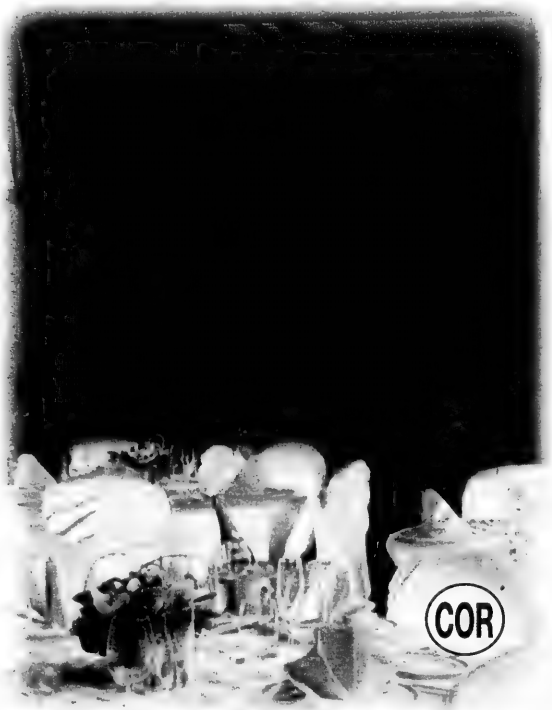


Everything went well at this wedding, thanks to vigilant planners. [Photo Cindy Himelstein.]

Both Gruenspan and Himelstein come to the event with a "Mary Poppins" bag full of supplies such as make-up, insoles, smelling salts, needle and thread, stain remover and bobby pins. "If someone needs something, chances are it's in the bag," Himelstein says.

Gruenspan is able to provide speech outlines for those for want one, help the bar/bat mitzvah write their speech or even take the bar/bat mitzvah parents shopping for give-aways. "I can be there for every step of the way; people should feel special during such a special occasion."

Other consultants advertising in this supplement are: Gayle Kertzman, 416-484-4467; Risa Gold, 905-882-4343; Cherry & Baker & Associates, 905-771-1121/905-731-8032; Tamara Temes, Bridal Consultant 905-770-7977; Entertainment Tonight, 416-459-1485.



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Party activities offer your guests something extra

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

These days, there's no shortage of party activities for kids and adults. These activities not only make your party more fun, they also provide many talented people with livelihoods and creative outlets. Here are two companies with ideas to liven up your special event.

Janice O'Bright of Party Extras (416-576-3506) left a successful ladies' accessories business to run Party Extras full time. As a mother of three, she knows what kids like – her son is almost 17 and her twin daughters are looking forward to their bat mitzvahs in August.

Trendy pillowcases is one of the activities provided by Party Extras [top]. Ariel Platt and Daniel Malen [right] do magazine covers for guests' photos.

She started her business with crystal tattooing and airbrush body art. To these, she has added rainbow calligraphy, "dream themes," rice jewelry, "cool slides," mystic astrology and fortune telling, "partycatures," braiding and more.

In rainbow calligraphy, the letters of a name are shaped to look like brightly coloured tropical flora and fauna. Dream themes are trendy pillowcase designs geared to both boys and girls. With rice jewelry, names are written on grains of rice, which can be strung on a necklace or key chain. Cool slides are rubber band bracelets with slide-on letters to create names or sayings.

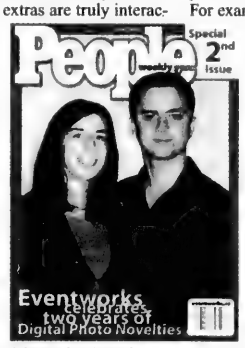
"I believe 100 per cent in networking," O'Bright says. "Sharing ideas within the industry and with clients. This makes my work more fun, and helps build my good name with other party professionals as well as the people we serve."

O'Bright enjoys introducing artistic activities to kids – give them something fun to do, and they'll do it, she says. And these party extras are truly interactive. They leave guests with a memento of the evening and supplement the entertainment offered by performers.

O'Bright says she will work with you and your budget, combining her ideas with yours. If you don't need something at your event, she won't push it. "Don't do it," she says.

Party Extras does long-term contracts as well as one-time events. They just finished a two-month airbrushing contract with Mirvish Productions for its Family Fridays theatre promotion, and they have a new contract with Mariposa Cruise Lines.

Ariel Platt of Eventworks (416-482-3984; www.eventworks.ca) is partners with designer Daniel Malen. Eventworks creates a variety of digital photo novelties: they take a photo and custom-design a border for it. For every party, they try to create something unique.



Eventworks is two years old, and Platt and Malen are full of enthusiasm for their work. Malen has just completed a joint York University-Sheridan College degree in design. Platt has a BA in fine arts and cultural studies from York and is finishing a master's degree.

One option that's popular with many hosts is to have guests' photos look as if they appeared on the cover of a magazine. For example, if your party has a sports theme, they could set the guests' photos in borders that look like the cover of *Sports Illustrated*.

Another option is to make customized photos of the guest of honour – say, the bar or bat mitzvah – as souvenirs of the event. Such a souvenir could have the date, location and other particulars, and possibly a brief message.

If you don't want a specific theme, you could ask for other patterns or colours, such as those which might match the invitations, the decor or the centrepiece. The only real limit is your imagination, Platt says.

Besides family celebrations, Eventworks does golf tournaments and other corporate events, using designs that may include your company logo.

This is fun for kids and adults alike. "It's also fun for my partner and me," says Platt. "Along with enjoying the outlet for visual creativity, we like working with people." If you visit Eventworks' Web site, you can see their work for yourself. If you book their services, your photos go up within a few days of your event, and stay up for the next few months.

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If you plan to host one or more of these special events, then you owe it to yourself and your guests to visit Dave & Buster's. Our Enormous size of 65,000 square feet includes upscale casual dining and world-class entertainment combining everyone's favorite traditional table games, with our Million Dollar Midway featuring 265 interactive games, simulators, redemption games and Winners Circle to create the Ultimate Entertainment Experience.

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Hire a pro to get the best pics, photographers advise

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Those organizing events celebrating the special moments in their lives or their children's are usually under stress and experience some tense moments.

But people look best in photographs when they're relaxed, so photographers must know how to put their subjects at ease.

Along with a good eye, artistic flair and technical skills, the ability to create a relaxed atmosphere is that "certain something" the best photographers have.

And photographers Elliot Sylman (905-889-0760) and Alex Himell of Platinum (905-709-7754) both have that certain something.

"I'm there to help people relax," Sylman says.

To that end, at no extra cost, he sets up a time before the big event to shoot some photographs of his clients.

Recently, he spent three hours doing engagement pictures of a couple, so when he arrived on the wedding day there were no awkward moments. "The bride came over immediately and gave me a hug." He adds: "I'm happy, I laugh, I try to lighten their day."

Sylman has a knack with children. Once he does the bar or bat mitzvah pictures of one child, the family asks him to return for the celebrations of their other children, he says. "With kids, I joke around and have fun."

Sylman says that professional photographers know what to do when problems arise on the wedding day. "I can deal with anything, even if it's not photography related. No one spends more time with the bride and the groom than the photographer."

Along with portraits and photograph albums, Sylman does digital albums, which are reasonably priced as part of a package. "Clients love them," he says. "If they want to send a digital album overseas, they can burn a copy for a few dollars. Only the first one is an expense, the rest are copies."

In keeping with his service philosophy, Sylman says if prospective clients aren't able to see him, he's happy to visit them and bring his laptop computer, where he stores 1,000 sample photographs.

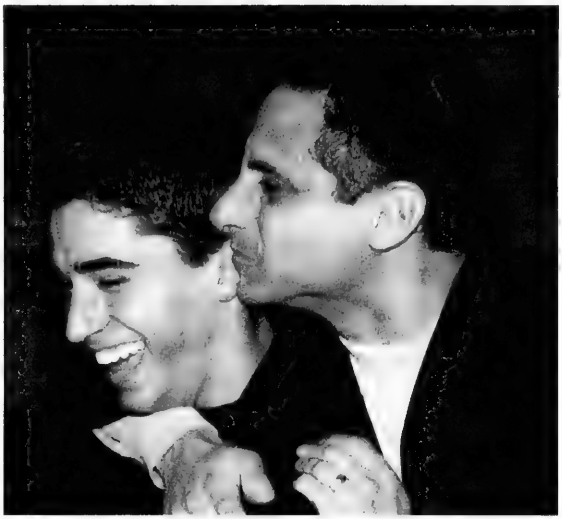

Photo provided by Elliot Sylman of Sylman Photography.

When you hire a professional photographer, Himell says you can be confident you'll see the whole process of your special day and "you're guaranteed all the specific photographs you want."

Himell consults with his clients before their wedding day to get a feeling for the kind and style of shots they want. Most couples ask for a combination of traditional posed and more casual pictures. Some couples also request photographs of candid moments, such as pictures of the bride getting her hair done.

"In terms of location, some people like a city setting, being downtown or in Yorkville," Himell says. "We've even taken people to gas stations for some pictures." He adds that clients sometimes request shots in natural settings, in parks or north of the city.

Himell also provides digital albums as well portraits and photograph albums. He describes his shooting style as "casual elegance," with an element of fun.

Himell's clients have told him that everyone appears wonderfully relaxed in his photographs. "I create a comfortable atmosphere for clients to be in, even in portraits," he says.

Other photographers advertising in this supplement are: Adrian Holmes Photography Limited (AHP), 416-481-9522; Ryan Eisen Photography, 905-886-7074; Florian Photography, 905-832-9576; Horvath Studio of Photography, 905-707-5770; Signature Photography, 416-784-4488.

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Always book in advance when planning a holiday

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Traveling can be fun – but only if you know where you're going and what you'll be doing.

If you need help planning your trip, whether it's a honeymoon, a wedding on the beach or a bar mitzvah, call the Summerhill Flight Centre (416-966-4333, www.flightcentre.ca), or for specialized Jewish heritage tours to Europe, call Intertours Travel (416-789-1291, www.intertours.ca). Experts at these centres can make your travel dreams come true.

"We'll arrange for your whole trip," says Aaron Levine, manager and a travel consultant at the Flight Centre.

"We arrange everything from the flight, accommodation and itinerary to insurance."

Among the variety of trips Levine plans, Israel is a popular destination.

"Even with conditions the way they are, there's such an attachment to Israel that I'm still sending people there to have bar mitzvahs," he says. "People still want to go and have this experience at a place of deep meaning."

Now more than ever, people are choosing to have their weddings at a resort.

"It's so popular because it's so easy," says Levine. "You get there and you're in paradise – you don't have to worry about anything. Resorts have wedding co-ordinators, videographers and even kosher catering." Group rates can be arranged for wedding parties.

The famous Dohany Synagogue in Budapest, Hungary. Part of a Jewish heritage tour.

Destinations such as Jamaica, Mexico and Panama are popular for honeymoons. The newest trend, however, is using the Flight Centre as a gift registry.

"Clients are registering with us so that their honeymoon is basically paid for."

No matter where you're going or why, Levine recommends booking early.

"You can never book early enough. There's a misconception that you can book last minute to get the best deal, but you will always save money if you book early."

If you wait for a last minute deal and there's no availability, Levine warns you could end up paying double the price.

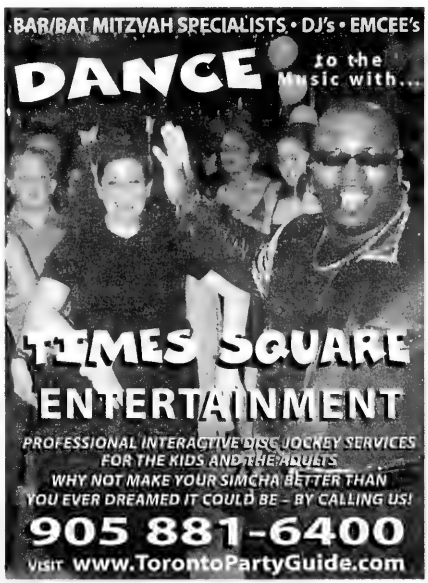
You should also book early if you're planning on taking a Jewish heritage tour to Europe. Robert Holzberg has been leading tours around Europe for about two years and says the demand for his trips is increasing.

"It's something wonderful," says Holzberg. "We go to important sites in each city, we travel by deluxe coach and stay in first class accommodations," he says, adding that his unique trips depart at various times during the fall and spring months.

One trip takes participants to Prague, Vienna and Budapest while another one, introduced last year, visits Rome, Florence and Venice. A tour to Poland is in the works.

Tours are perfect for those between the ages of 40 and 75 and include kosher meals. Holzberg begins taking reservations three months in advance.

"We usually don't take more than 20 people at a time. It's an exclusive tour and we don't want to overcrowd them," he says – a policy that enables him to maintain top-notch service.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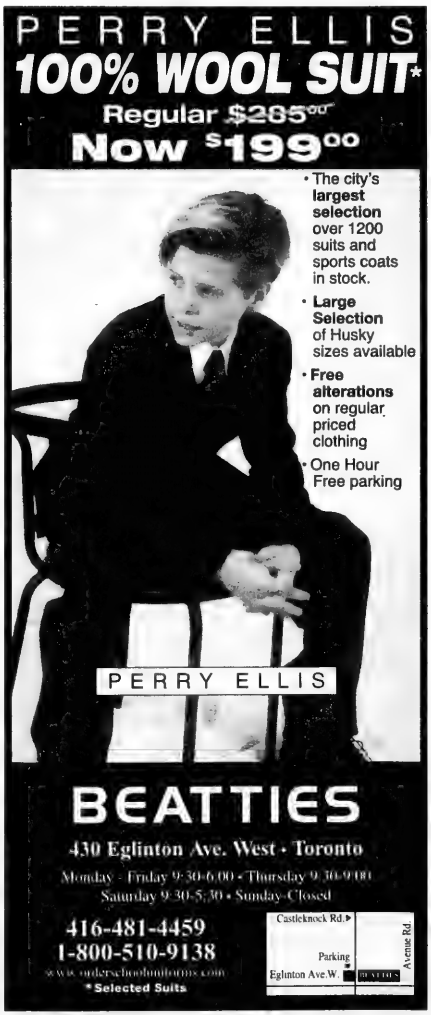

A dining room set up at the Richmond Hill Country Club.

Get away from it all at these scenic party venues

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

If you want to provide your guests with that "getting away from it all" feeling, book your next simchah at Estates of Sunnybrook (416-440-2500) or Richmond Hill Country Club (905-731-2800).

Emma Young, club director at the newly renovated Richmond Hill Country Club, says the club has two banquet halls and several rooms which are perfect for more intimate gatherings.

"Our Georgian Room, which accommodates up to 300 guests, is lit with sparkling chandeliers, and is surrounded by floor to ceiling, wall to wall windows.

"The Regency room holds up to 150 guests, and like the Georgian Room, overlooks a gracious countryside in an exclusive country club setting."

Smaller parties can be held in the Library, Wellington or Richmond Rooms or in the "beautifully renovated Bistro with a poolside view and 150 guest capacity," she says.

Special features include fireplaces, free parking, and access to the country club spa and fitness facility.

A banquet hall at Estates of Sunnybrook.

Young says the staff at Richmond Hill is always there to help plan parties "every step of the way, from hiring professionals such as musicians and florists, to decorating the rooms."

Kirk Brady, managing director of the Estates of Sunnybrook, says the estates, comprised of Vaughan Estate and McLean House, have been playing hosts to weddings and other affairs for almost 75 years.

For weddings especially, "there is a team dedicated to making sure that everything is exactly how you want it to be. Every wedding held at either McLean House or Vaughan Estate, reflects our commitment to helping you create the wedding of your dreams," he says.

Once the family has contacted the Estates, and has settled on the number of guests and style of reception, he says, "we suggest the ideal venue from among the many rooms available.

The wedding arbour at Vaughan Estate and the garden behind McLean House are two of the more popular options for outdoor services", he says, "and during the cooler months, there is a choice of of indoor rooms available."

For those who want to be sure every detail is attended to, he says, "the wedding team helps craft your ceremony and reception to the most exacting of standards.

"From table linens and cutlery choices, to making sure that anyone in your party with special needs is accommodated, to providing the bride and bridesmaid with a private, comfortable changing area that includes space for a hair stylist, makeup artist and the bridal party – we take care of everything."

Staff can also assist in additional services required for the wedding, "such as a florist familiar with the Estates, or a disc jockey who understands the particular acoustic quirks of McLean House and Vaughan Estate," he says.

All revenues generated by the Estates contribute to scientific advances and research projects undertaken at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre.

Other kosher places to party advertising in this supplement are: Baycrest Hospitality Services, 416-785-2500 ext. 2477; Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 416-221-3433 ext. 307; Inn on The Park, 416-444-2561 x5170; Four Seasons Hotel Toronto, 416-964-0411; Park Hyatt Toronto, 416-925-1234; The Royalton Banquet & Convention Centre, 905-851-2325; Sam Firestone Caterers, 416-782-8022; Trielm Catering, 416-222-1230; Windsor Arms, 416-971-9666; The Regency Banquet Centre, 905-760-1548.

The Estates of Sunnybrook have hosted parties for 75 years.

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Outdoor party places: everything from herb gardens to go-karts

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Now that the weather's finally warming up, it's time to put on lighter clothes and look for outdoor fun.

Here are two locations that offer lots to do, whether it's for a weekend with the family or a venue for a party.

Vijay Tailor of Black Creek Pioneer Village (416-736-1733) promotes this venue as *the* place to see how people lived between the mid-1800s and the 1870s – an era when most daily work was still done by hand, the telegraph was the fastest means of communication and the railway was the only means of transport faster than a horse.

At the workshops and stores in the village, interpreters in period clothing demonstrate the work of the various tradespeople: the tinsmith, the blacksmith, the harness maker, the cabinet maker and the cooper (who made barrels). Guests can take part in some activities.

At the village's print shop, you'll see how old lead type was set and a newspaper printed. In those days, a small-town paper came out every two weeks or so; it took that long to gather in the news from the countryside and then to put the paper together.

Pioneer Village also has a farm, where guests can see how crops and stock were raised in the days before most farmers had much machinery. There's an herb garden to show what herbal medicines were grown before drugs were manufactured.

The village has hosted plenty of bar and bat mitzvahs, as well as other functions. The outdoor patio is fully licensed and equipped, with a big tent, furniture, linen, power and water supply. There is catering on site; the menu includes a barbecue that can be adapted to kids' tastes.

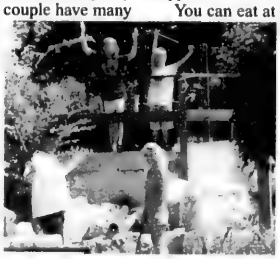
There are indoor rooms as well. In the Halfway House Inn, the freshly baked bread has become a favourite, and the restaurant menu there recreates meals of the 1870s.

For seven weekends from July 5 to August 24, with the help of seed money from the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Pioneer Village will host a music festival called Sensational Sounds of Summer.

Each weekend will feature a different theme with dancing and costumes. The themes include Celtic, aboriginal, Caribbean, European and Canadian folk music. And the weekend of the re-enactment of the American Civil War recreates the music of the times.

Funstation Fun Park (416-736-4804; www.funstationfunpark.com) in North York is owned by Michele Upton and her husband, who refurbished a decrepit amusement park and made it into a venue with a railway theme that has plenty of outdoor activities. The couple have many plans to increase the park's appeal for everyone from seniors to toddlers.

Funstation is a spacious, beautifully landscaped five-acre park with plenty of mature trees. You'll find it on York Gate Boulevard, two blocks from Highway 400 north of Finch. Upton sees it as a place where you can "get away from it all" without going too far from the city.



Plenty of outdoor activities at Funstation Fun Park.

Funstation's activities include two 18-hole miniature golf courses, which the Uptons have renovated and landscaped. You can play at night, too, with gentle music piped in.

The owners of Funstation also know it is the season to think about baseball. While you don't find many places around Toronto with even one batting cage, Funstation Fun Park has three, and they supply bats and helmets.

The park also has an arcade, air hockey and fooseball (like soccer, but with four players to a side). Its Go-Kart speedway is a challenge to kids' navigation skills, with plenty of hairpin turns. There's an easier track too for younger kids, and the Uptons are considering a simple oval track for two- or three-year-olds. The park supplies helmets and hairnets.

You can eat at Funstation as well. Along with the refreshment stands you'd expect to see in an amusement park, there's the Station Bar & Grill, with a spacious patio where you can relax.

Everything you need for good summer fun is at Funstation. The park hosts many group functions, ranging from birthdays to corporate events and fundraisers. They can section off an area for your party. And you can add them to your list of places to take the kids on a weekend or holiday.

Upton agrees with what a lot of parents and teachers are now realizing: kids don't really want to sit in front of a computer all day. All you have to do is offer them some outlet for the energy sitting inside them, waiting to go kinetic.

Other party places advertising in this supplement are: Annie's Art House, 416-781-7767; Beadology, 905-709-6562; Keri's Dancin' Kids (KDK), 905-731-5146.

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Mandell Xtreme opens up new party venue

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Mandell Xtreme's (416-923-7200) third event facility, The Lobby, is set to open on the ground floor of its offices at Bloor Street and Avenue Road.

Jared Florence, president of Mandell Xtreme, says the new venue was designed to look like a hotel lobby.

"In New York or Los Angeles, that is the hottest place to be. There are always events going on in a hotel lobby.

"We've designed our new venue to resemble a lobby, right down to the elevator door," says Florence, whose company, Entertainment Xtreme, recently joined forces with Cory Mandell's Mandell Entertainment Group.

As with their other two venues – the York Event Theatre at Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue, and the Capitol Theatre just down the street – the Mandell Xtreme team can put together a client's whole event, says Florence.

"Clients notice a recognizable difference when they deal with a firm the size of ours. There is a structure of people in charge so there is back-up, back-up and more back-up.

"With five full-time fully trained sales reps, there is always someone on hand to speak to, and when clients call they don't get lost in voice mail."

The venues lend themselves to any type of event, and with Mandell Xtreme, each party is unique, he says.

"A lot of kids go to bar or bat mitzvah parties every week, and we want ours to be different, from the initial introduction, right down to the entertainment. We don't want to give people a cookie-cutter party."

When people walk into the company's warehouse, they can choose from a huge array of products to entertain their guests, he says.

"Popular now is lenticular photo imaging, in which two digital pictures of the party guests are combined to create a three-dimensional effect,"he says. "We take their pictures and then create fake ID cards, such as official back-seat driver's license, or best friends forever card."

Clients can also make use of Mandell Xtreme's Prop Factory, which specializes in television, theatre and movie sets.

"We recycle the props into the event industry so we can do such things as convert a ballroom into a jungle, complete with elephants, tigers, trees and vines."

Corey Mandell invites you to The Lobby.

With summer almost here, says Florence, the Mandell Xtreme team is gearing up for its annual camp tour.

"We travel to summer camps across Ontario and put on a social for the campers complete with music, lights and prizes. The kids love it; it is something outside the realm of their day-to-day activities and it is totally exciting for them."

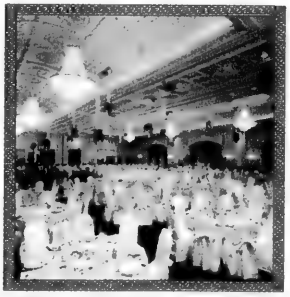
Some of the camps start off with an all-day program, and have the party as a finale at night.

"It adds something to their camp experience."

Florence's recent involvement with Mandell came after a three-year run at owning his own company, Entertainment Xtreme.

"I had worked for Mandell, and then left to form my own company. Since being back, I can't believe how much the company has grown. I was the competitor, but Mandell was always one step ahead. You never knew what he would come up with next."

An Affair to Remember... with Menus by Simcha Catering



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It's time for dessert and drinks

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

There's no end to the human ability to concoct delectable foods and drinks. Here are examples of one each: chocolate to eat, and wine to drink.

There's virtually no shape that can't be reproduced in chocolate, says Bob Levine, owner of Chocolate Charm (416-787-4256), who has elevated chocolate to an art form.

Chocolate Charm's specialty is an all-chocolate smash cake made with fine Belgian dark, Swiss milk or Swiss white chocolate. On the standard rectangular base, they will put any shape you choose. They've done animals, sports equipment, computers and cars.

Every cake is customized, so give some thought to what styles, shapes and colours you want. Chocolate Charm recommends booking a few months ahead. When you order a shape, they do a search among companies that make moulds, and some moulds take longer to find than others.

Chocolate Charm also makes truffles and small treats such as chocolate lollipops. And their chocolate swans and cornucopia-shaped baskets, which are filled with goodies, can be placed on sweet tables or sent as gifts.

Chocolate Charm is kosher under COR.

* * *

Looking for something to sip with guests in your backyard on a pleasant afternoon? Frances Ratcliffe, a product consultant for the LCBO, recommends coolers. "Casual coolers are always hot during summer," she says.

The earliest coolers were wine-based, but now there are coolers based on spirits as well.

One of the many new coolers is like rye and ginger in a bottle, based on Canadian Club. A sweeter variety is from vodka mixed with blueberry and pink-grapefruit juice. Pure Spring is less sweet and made with carbonated spring water and vodka. Smirnoff Ice contains higher-quality Triple Black vodka and citrus juices. These come in packs of four.

Customized cakes from Chocolate Charm.

Seagram's offers two new coolers. One, called Black, is cherry flavoured, made with clear sparkling vodka. Its partner, called White, is clear and softly fizzing, with a bit of citrus pulp. These also come in packs of four.

There are two tropical Tabu rum coolers, each in a single 500-millilitre bottle. Forbidden Fruit comes in a manly-looking Bacardi bottle. It is pineapple- flavoured, and not too sweet or too dry. Tropical Orange Smoothie tastes like a Creamsicle.

If you like beer, try Sleemans Cream Ale in a five-litre keg or Molson's Bubba keg. Stella Artois beer is fresh, crisp and lively, and goes with all kinds of food. Then there's Barveria from Brazil, with a very light hops taste and not at all bitter.

Jacqueline Corrigan is a product consultant for the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. The LCBO stores vary somewhat in the range of kosher wines they offer; so for detailed information, she advises you to call the board's Infoline at 416-365-5900. An officer there will be able to tell you whether a product is kosher, and under which certification.

Also, Corrigan urges you to call or visit your local store, and look their shelves over. And she refers to two Web sites: www.lcbo.com to search for products whose names you already know; and www.vintages.com for the LCBO's monthly release of new wines.

Traditionally, kosher wine meant sweet; but those days are long gone. The range of kosher vintages now available, from Israel and every wine growing region in the world, is truly vast. The products mentioned here are a small sample.

Rather than simply list vintages, Corrigan offers some suggestions on what goes with what. Match the weight of the wine to the weight of the dishes served, she advises.

But it's not just a question of matching the wine with a particular food, as in the old adage "red wines with red meat, white with fish or poultry." Take into consideration the size of the repast, and the style in which it is served.

Fish, for example, which has more fat content than red meat, generally goes best with a wine of some acidity, say a Sauvignon blanc or a Riesling. Sole, in turn, needs a lighter wine than salmon, because salmon is heavier and more dense.

Pino Grigio or Sauvignon blanc is good with sole. With salmon, Corrigan suggests a barrel-fermented Chardonnay, oaky in flavour, from California.

For roast beef, or the kind of traditional fare associated with weddings, a Cabernet Sauvignon Fortant de France is good, or an aged Bordeaux. Veal, however, which is a lighter red meat, is best with a Merlot or Beaujolais, which doesn't have a lot of tannins.

For light backyard fare on a summer afternoon, a lighter wine is the best match — say, a Pino Grigio. For poultry, a Sauvignon blanc is good, with a slight lemony or citrus flavour.

Other specialty food places advertising in this supplement are: The Chocolate Moose, 416-784-9092; Culinary Adventures, 416-447-9589; Kernels Popcorn, 416-993-2402; Mrs. Fruitflowers, 905-731-7549.

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Unfortunately, Mother Nature has her ups and downs and rain or chilly breezes are apt to prevail. Therefore, a tent, a covered balcony or an indoor contingency plan must be in place.

Nevertheless, many simchahs and other functions can be enjoyed at an outdoor party. Whether it's an engagement party or a toddler's second birthday, the garden lends itself to the occasion.

Here are some planning tips that can ease preparation and ensure a successful shindig.

- Order simple but comfortable garden chairs and tables.
- Buy plenty of sturdy, water-resistant paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery, drinking cups and serving pieces.
- Everything you serve should be kept covered and in the fridge or oven until just before serving time. It's so easy for food to be spoiled in hot weather.
- Food must be thoroughly cooked, especially fish, poultry and beef.
- Make sure you have enough barbecue burners; otherwise people will have to wait too long for food.
- Have a variety, so that everyone is happy, whether they are vegetarians or meat and potato eaters.
- Desserts can be fun to prepare and simplified during the summer. Fruit is in full season and nothing is more refreshing and healthy than fresh fruit.
- Squares and cookies can be prepared ahead and don't involve a lot of cutlery and plates, making them perfect for summer entertaining.

WINNING WEDDING: Detail from the wedding which garnered Up & Coming Events Inc. first prize in the Best Wedding category for the second year in a row at The Canadian Event Industry Awards. The floral arrangement by Fiori Design blends beautifully with the environment in the tented outdoor fantasy co-ordinated by Karen Jacobs of Up & Coming Events Inc.

[Photo by www.jacksonhuang.ca]

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PARTY PLANNER

Registries: good for guests and hosts alike

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

For good reasons, registries have become the usual way for wedding guests to give the bride and groom china, linens and a wide range of other gifts.

The extremes of gift-giving are handcrafted objects, which are the most personal, and money, which is the least so. Each kind of gift has its place, but for most of the guests at a wedding, neither will do. A handmade present requires talent, time and effort to do well, and must be something the recipient will cherish. Only if it meets all these requirements is it ideal.

Bedroom linen from Canalite Linens.

Money simplifies matters if you don't know the couple well, or don't know what they want. But for most people money feels too abstract. The bride and groom are more likely to remember you by something tangible.

Registries allow guests to buy something the couple wants and prevents duplication. The bride and groom choose the items and patterns the guests are to buy, and what is bought is recorded, so that every guest who uses the registry spends money on something that hasn't yet been purchased.

As far as products go, Rozsi Goodman of Goodman's China & Gift Store Ltd. (905-731-3564; www.goodmanschina.com), and David Yiu of Canalite Linens Superstore (905-886-2370) are in different businesses. Each, however, offers customers the advantages of a gift registry.

Select a registry with a high standard of service, Goodman advises. They will offer the best selection of gifts at prices to suit any budget and offer extras such as wrapping and prompt delivery.

Goodman, who has been in business for 34 years, urges people planning a wedding to choose a registry with a good, long track record. So does Yiu, who has been in business since 1988. A family store is best, where the owners take a personal interest in pleasing their clients, and staff are knowledgeable and helpful.

Look for a notification service as thorough as the one Goodman's offers. The bridal couple receive up-to-date notices in the mail, saying who bought what. The gift-buyer has the option of walking out with the present and taking it to the party, or having it delivered free to the bride and groom's new home.

At Goodman's, items can also be exchanged. If the bridal couple change their minds about what they want, money spent on one pattern or item can be applied toward something else.

This option is also useful if someone buys something from the store, but as sometimes happens, doesn't register it. And Goodman's will also let the bride and groom know if a pattern goes on special or is discontinued.

Also at Goodman's, brides and grooms stay in the system after the wedding, so they can alter their choices in the future. This is helpful if, for example, they get only two place settings in a pattern that turns out to be too expensive for them to buy more or is discontinued, or if, after choosing one pattern, they see another they like better.

Yiu warns brides and grooms to make sure they use a registry that holds all the goods for them until the wedding shower. Not every registry does so. Canalite will hold all the items on deposit and they also print out a list the couple can give their friends and relatives.

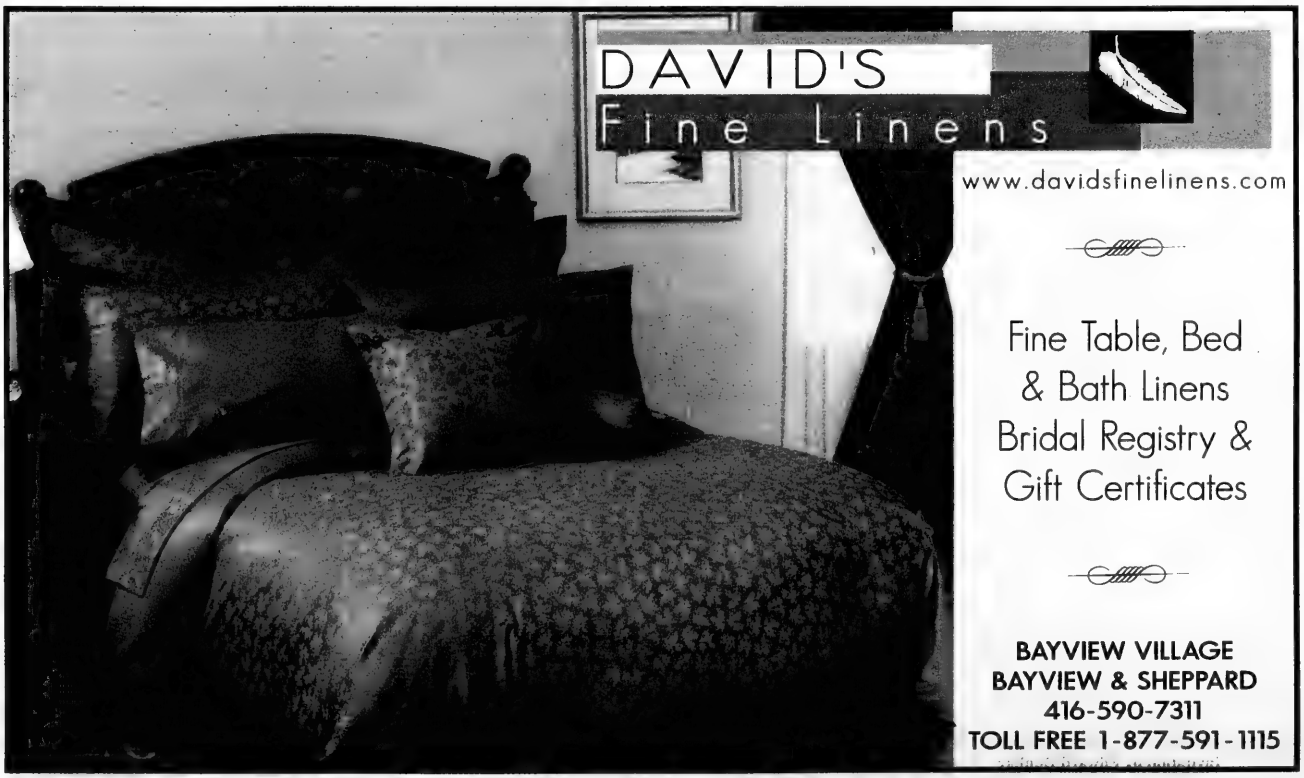
Also, says Yiu, guests shouldn't have to come to the store; they should be able to order by phone and credit card. This is especially important for out-of-town guests.

Dinnerware from Goodman's China .

Yiu says customers can't order Canalite stock online yet. He belives the Internet can't replace the firsthand experience of coming in, not just to see bedding and bathroom accessories, but to feel them: they're curious about the couple's tastes.

While Yiu estimates that about 90 per cent of his customers are women, he says they often bring their fiancés in. Even if the man doesn't come to the store, the fiancée can show him a pattern sampler. Having both spouses decide on items and prices, he says, makes for more domestic harmony.

Registering early helps avoid a last-minute rush. Goodman recommends choosing your registry soon after your engagement, and four to six weeks before the first major entertainment when guests will bring gifts. Most customers register three to four months ahead, says Yiu. While this is good, earlier is better.



Great invitations key to great first impression

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Making a stellar first impression is the key to many things in life and parties are no exception.

That's why a dazzling invitation, the prelude to a party, should make your guests excited to come to the affair.

"An invitation should set the tone for the event," says invitation creator Heather Hennick of Partyzazz (www.partyzazz.com or 905-881-5736).

"It's the first impression. It makes a statement."

Hennick says simple elegance is the trend for invitations these days, with many party hosts opting for eye-catching, but not ostentatious designs.

Rice paper wraps, origami and elaborate seals are quite popular, she says.

A trained graphic designer, Hennick likes to spruce up invitations with artistic innovations, such as fresh cut flowers.

Darcia Moskaluk-Rutkay of Invitations by Design (416-789-7367) says the invitation should match the type of affair.

"You wouldn't send a black and white invitation for a country wedding. You'd send something that's fun and full of colours," she says.

"For a formal affair, the card can be interactive, like having a tie to undo, so it's got a presentation to it."

She advises people to keep invitations compact and convenient.

"It's nice to have a contained invitation so you don't have pieces of paper flying everywhere," she says.

"So the invitation would have everything attached, [like] a pouch for the reply and an insert for maps."

One of the invitations she created was a compact design that folds up into a square, making its own envelope.

Moskaluk-Rutkay says there are some unwritten rules when sending invitations. For instance, they should be sent out six to eight weeks prior to the affair.

As well, she adds, "Thank you cards don't have to be elaborate, just as long as they are sent."

Both Partyzazz and Invitations by Design offer invitations with Hebrew print in addition to other languages.

Clients can also select a particular design from a book or have an invitation tailor-made for their party.

The style of writing on the invitation is another consideration.

"A company that offers calligraphy services will save a person a lot of time to do great addressing," Hennick says.

Price is always a concern. Hennick says people can save money by selecting the right size invitation.

"All my cards are standard size so the client doesn't have to pay extra postage," Hennick says.

Another way to save a few dollars is by selecting a standard colour of ink, she says.

"Fancy colours will add to the cost and may not be necessary if you have a good design to begin with."

Other invitation places advertising in this supplement are: Aragon Group, 416-597-0777; Barbara Mortfield Invitations, 905-738-1232; Paper Expressions, 905-764-7784; Papers 'N Prints, 905-764-7455; The Printed Word, 416-484-4600; Sendsations Invitation Shop, 416-322-5553.

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PARTY PLANNER

Keeping your guests occupied

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Whether it be a wedding or bar/bat mitzvah, planning events can be extremely time-consuming and stressful.

While you are busy running from your suit fitting to the caterer, you have no time left to entertain your out-of-town guests.

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Magic by Jordan will let you be a child again

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Once you've been a child, part of you always is. Inside each serious adult, that child is waiting for a chance to come out and play. For the child in you, the world is still fresh, and every event is a miracle. And for an adult, magic can still call forth that sense of wonder.

Jordan Rosencwajg of Magic By Jordan (905-674-8835) is 18 years old. He has been doing magic since he was five, when he was entranced by the magicians at Harbourfront. Soon after, he saw the movie *David Copperfield*. He was amazed, and wanted to recreate that feeling for others.

In 1997, Rosencwajg began putting on small shows for family and friends. At age 14, he worked for Browser's Den of Magic at Canada's Wonderland; and in 1998, he went into business on his own, starting with kids' birthday parties.

Now, as he's gaining a larger clientele, he's doing bar and bat mitzvahs, corporate work and shows at summer camps.

Rosencwajg enjoys the intimacy of a small party the most. There he can interact personally with each guest. Looking out from a stage over the heads of 500 people just isn't the same.

On stage, he explains, magic isn't as magical. The audience doesn't expect to see how the illusion is created. They think the distance is part of what makes a trick work.

"Magic is more amazing close-up because you think you should be able to see through it and figure it out, but you can't. And it's more fun for me, because I see that look of amazement and wonder on every face," he says.

Rosencwajg is candid about what magic does for him personally. People tell him he's more fun and relaxed while he performs. "It helps me interact with other people," he says. "Maybe it can do this for kids too."

Pick a card, any card. Magician Jordan Rosencwajg delights audiences of all ages.

Sponge balls are among his favourite items to work with. He tosses them back and forth in his hands, making one ball multiply into two or three. Then he hands you one, and suddenly it's two.

Another interesting device is a tiny guillotine about five or six inches long. You are allowed to examine the blade and feel its weight. Then you place your fingers under it and Rosencwajg presses it down. Just when you think the blade has passed through your fingers, they're still there, untouched.

In Rosencwajg's experience, adults like magic as much as kids do. Adults cherish the opportunity to go back to being children. They soon let their veneer of grown-up sophistication slip away.

Some bar mitzvah kids, in contrast, want to prove that they're wise to everything. They try to grab his props and call out that they know the tricks, even though they don't.

Rosencwajg doesn't want magic to be his full-time job. It's more fun as a something to do once or twice a week. He is also a film student at university.

He has made a small tie-in between film and magic. "Traditionally, they tell you to practice in front of a mirror. That way, though, you spend too much time looking at your reflection. When you see yourself on film, you concentrate more on your performance. You see yourself from the viewpoint of the audience."

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PARTY PLANNER

A beautiful party dress is like a work of art

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Every store can sell a dress, but to fit it perfectly is an art, say Joe Nourani, owner of Edith's Fashions and Jodi Weisleder of Jodi International Limited.

At Edith's, (416-633-4222) which has over 8,000 square feet of dresses and suits for party guests, and mothers of the bride, groom or bar/bat mitzvah, "the staff is trained to know what makes a woman look good."

Despite the huge amount of inventory, Nourani says that when a woman comes into the store, one of the 11 staff members can show her three dresses that will suit the woman and the occasion.

"Our staff knows who should wear what, and we tell our customers if something does not look right. We can always sell a dress to a woman once, but what about the second time? We have to make sure women walk out of our store with the right garment."

Edith's has a collection of items from Europe – they travel to Milan, Paris, Germany or Manchester at least five times a year – and from the New York fashion shows, says Nourani.

"To come into our store is like sitting on a plane and travelling from fashion capital to fashion capital. They can visit every place and pick the cream of the crop."

Edith's seven full-time seamstresses can then fit and finish the garment until it is perfect, he says.

'To make it fit, you have to be a Picasso.'

"Fitting an outfit is more difficult than making it in the first place. To make it fit, you have to be a Picasso."

Wedding and bar mitzvah guests are still choosing floor or ankle length dresses, he says, and the important colours are black, navy or grey.

"If they plan to wear an outfit again, it is better to choose neutral colours because those colours do not stand out. It won't register that they are wearing the same dress."

If a woman wants to wear the same suit again, seamstresses at Edith's can change the buttons in order to give it new detail, he says.

"We want our customers to be able to recycle their clothing. Women don't want to buy five or six suits."

Jodi Weisleder of Jodi International Limited (416-785-7270), a designer clothing company that manufactures women's day/evening suits, dresses and separates, says that wearing the right clothing gives a woman high self-esteem.

"Clothing is the first thing that people look at, and if a woman is dressed appropriately for an occasion, she is taken seriously."

One of her trademarks, she says, is to "take a suit and give it a little bit of glamour and sex appeal. I elevate the suit and give it a personality, but not so that it screams at you."

Her J by Jodi line is a sportier line that is geared to the 14 to 22-year-old. "This collection has blouses and skirts that have an added twist such as ruffles or funky buttons. It adds some novelty to the outfit.

'Elegant, sophisticated, adventerous and trendy.'

"Girls want to have their own clothes, not a version of their mothers' outfits. I design this line to be sometimes elegant and sophisticated, and sometimes adventurous and trendy. I want to make it fun for them."

For women's eveningwear, she has made liberal use of crystals and beads, says Weisleder, "and we've added lustrous pearls in shades of cream, grey or pink.

"Lace, grosgrain and ribbons are the highlight of the collection, and its signature look. Very popular is the ivory pearl embroidered suit, which has a timeless elegance."

Her message this season is "do it like a lady", she says, and the collection is brimming with soft feminine shapes and retro tailoring details.

She takes great care in choosing fabrics, she says, and she sources all her textiles, trimmings and novelites from mills in Italy, France, Switzerland and Asia. As well, many fabrics are custom made for her.

Other fashion places advertising in this supplement are: Celebration Shoes, 416-703-2789; Stefania Grande Haute

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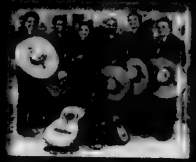

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Taking kosher standards to new heights

By **RUTH SCHWEITZER**
Special to The CJN

George Friedmann dispelled the myth that kosher food can't be delicious when he opened Royal Kosher Catering.

Friedmann owns Toronto's Windsor Arms Hotel and he knows good food, so it's not surprising that Royal Kosher Catering (416-971-9666) has managed to take the standards for kosher food to new heights in this city.

The Windsor Arms' restaurant, the Courtyard Café, regularly receives five-star reviews from local and international critics for its delicious food and excellent service. Using the same kitchen staff, Royal Kosher offers the same calibre of food preparation and presentation.

The company can prepare a traditional Sephardi spread, or go wildly modern, with dazzling visual displays that rival contemporary paintings. The broad range of options in between is only limited by the imagination. The bottom line, Friedmann says, is always quality and impact.

Royal Kosher Caterers operates mainly out of the kitchen of Sephardic Kehila Centre at Bathurst and Steeles and occasionally uses the kitchen of The Village Shul on Eglinton West. It caters to any location, whether it be a synagogue, a private home or the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Royal Kosher Caterers operates mainly out of the kitchen of Sephardic Kehila Centre at Bathurst and Steeles.

Friedmann founded Royal Kosher Catering after the Windsor Arms had disappointing experiences with two Toronto kosher caterers in 1999.

One of the caterers, he says, "did an absolutely horrible job." A few weeks later, he tried another one but the results weren't much better.

Friedmann says many Toronto kosher caterers use religious requirements as an excuse for preparing food that is neither tasty nor well-presented. The best cuts of meat are kosher, Friedmann points out, and baking without dairy can be problematic but it's possible to create some exquisite dairy-free desserts.

"One shouldn't have to compromise what one eats or drinks just because one has certain religious beliefs," he says.

Many people who are not kosher in their everyday lives but would like kosher food on special occasions end up foregoing it, he says.

"We had one function where someone was convinced that the food couldn't be kosher because it was so good."

He's critical of Toronto kosher caterers who use cooks instead of chefs to staff their kitchens.

"If you use cooks to cook the product and put it on a plate, then you get what you pay for," he says.

Friedmann says Toronto's kosher caterers ought to compete in high culinary style, without gouging it just because the food is kosher.

"It should be great quality product at great prices."

Other kosher caterers advertising in this supplement are: Beverly Hills Caterers, 416-822-7056; Caterers York/Sweet York Desserts, 416-783-4293; Ely's Fine Foods, 416-782-3231; It's An Occasion, 416-785-0996; Levy's Catering, 416-256-7886; Miriam's Table Catering, 416-633-6554; Opulence Catering and Event Management, 416-783-7000; Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers, 416-386-1086.

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PARTY PLANNER

Caricatures make a great party souvenir

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

While pleasant memories from a party can remain in our minds for years, it's also nice to take home a physical memento, especially one that's funny.

Caricaturist Mark Ciale (416-203-2514) says party guests with a portrait-like sketch of themselves engaged in a fun activity are taking home a long-lasting memento that others can enjoy.

"Friends gather around [when I draw] it, people laugh and it's a fun souvenir to take home," says Ciale.

"I run into people and they say, 'You did my caricature six years ago and I still have it framed at home.'"

Ciale says some partygoers may be shy and having a caricaturist on hand acts as an "ice-breaker." He usually starts doing the drawings, which take roughly three minutes, while the initial cocktails are being served.

Caricature by Mark Ciale.

Caricaturist Brian Montenegro (416-533-1809) says his illustrations are "a cross between a cartoon and portrait, with the big head and small body." While there is a slight exaggeration, "it still looks like them."

Montenegro allows guests to select the type of action or hobby they want portrayed in the caricature.

"If it's a boy who likes hockey, I may draw them with a stick and puck and a little girl (cheering) in the stands," Montenegro says.

While there is usually some humour to the picture, Montenegro prefers to keep the joke element "subtle."

"I tend to try to be complimentary," he says. "It really comes down to getting a good likeness."

Montenegro and Ciale usually work for the entire length of the party if that is what the hosts request.

"Being punctual, giving them their dollar's worth…working the room," is how Ciale approaches a night's work.

Montenegro and Ciale encourage clients to ask for references from other people who have had a caricaturist work at their affair.

"Ask for samples, either from a Web site or hard copy," Ciale says. "Decide if it's the style you like and if it's appropriate to your party."

Ciale says kids tend to like caricatures that are "loose and funny," but he will check with them to see what style they are looking for.

Montenegro says themes such as the hillbilly look go in and out of style, but right now there aren't any specific trends.

At one party, he created five different caricatures of the bar mitzvah boy that were drawn onto the sign-in board. At another affair, all of the caricatures were done on pillowcases.

"It's really what they want [as a reflection] of their own taste," Montenegro says.

Another caricaturist advertising in this supplement is: Chris Klein, 416-391-3774.

Caricature by Brian Montenegro.

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Let the party planner help arrange your simchah

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Partners Karen Garscadden and Karen Jacobs of Up & Coming Events Inc. (905-886-8148; www.upandcoming events.ca), and Dana Zita of aNd Logistix (416-593-7744; www.andlogistix.com) have unique approaches to their work. But both companies offer high standards and the advantages of having professionals plan your party.

"Let us do the shlepping," Zita says

"You could do it yourself," Garscadden admits, "but do you really want to?"

Better to benefit from the experience of someone who knows the ropes.

The planner only does as much as you delegate, Garscadden adds. If you want to do part of the work yourself, you can.

Garscadden and Jacobs have been partners at Up & Coming Events for 15 years, working on every kind of social and corporate celebration. Most of their work is repeat business. And they've earned the acclaim of their peers; in 2002, they received the Canadian Event Industry Award for the best wedding.

Zita also does party planning for every kind of event. She and her partner Beatriz Leonardo are continually learning and upgrading skills. Zita is a certified Special Events Professional, Leonardo a certified Meeting Professional.

Zita and Garscadden both use only the best venues and suppliers. And knowing which are the best is easier for a professional than it would be for us. Garscadden says it's an ongoing task. New entertainers, themes and activities are always appearing on the scene.

Garscadden also stresses the importance of good organization. This means seeing to details we might miss, like getting copies of the speeches. It also means dealing with unexpected problems – preferably with such finesse that we don't even know there's a problem until after it's solved.

Garscadden recounts how, at one bar mitzvah, speeches ran so far overtime that the kids had to leave in a hurry because a bus was waiting to take them to the pickup spot for their parents. Would the evening be spoiled? What to do?

Garscadden quietly organized rapid deployment of loot bags to the bus. Then she organized a conga line with music, and led the kids dancing out the door. On the bus, they found loot bags waiting. What could have been a disappointment was transformed into a pleasant surprise.

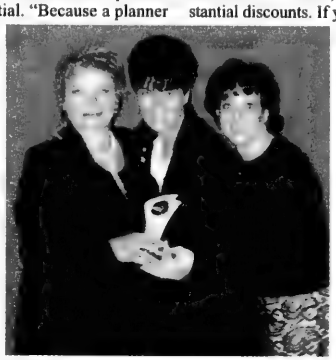
aNd Logistix has been in business 9½ years, first near King and Spadina, now in Little Italy. It's a good neighbourhood; lower rent enabled them to expand their staff and they're still close to downtown, but also now to the 401, so it's easier to keep in touch with clients and suppliers.

"We have as many suppliers in the northern part of the city," Zita says.

Garscadden recommends booking as much as two years ahead, the sooner, the better. And, she urges, choose someone who will help make your event reflect your personal style.

"At my first meeting with a client," she says, "I ask more questions than she asks me. I have to get to know her."

Rapport and confidence between planner and client are essential. "Because a planner is neutral to family politics," Garscadden observes, "she may be easier to talk to than a family member."



Lidia Taconnelli of Fiori Floral Designs with Karen Jacobs and Karen Garscadden of Up & Coming Events with their award for Best Wedding in Canada.

Garscadden takes the adage about "going the extra mile" one step further. A few days after the event, when you may be suffering from the letdown known as post-party depression, she calls to see how you're doing.

aNd Logistix has a lot of experience with corporate events and non-profit organizations. Recently, they did the high-profile Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation gala, held every two years, where the entertainment featured singer Tony Bennett.

"We enjoy non-profit work," Zita says, "and we offer lower rates for it. We put in extra time and we try to get suppliers on board, with items at cost or donated."

They can do this because their high-volume corporate work lets them benefit from economies of scale, which may mean substantial discounts. If you're planning a family event such as a bat mitzvah, they can pass these savings on to you.

At aNd Logistix fees are itemized, so that you always know how much you're paying and for what. You see not only how much you spend, but also how much you save. Corporate clients, with their eye on the bottom line, love this.

"A family planning a bat mitzvah should enjoy this same transparency," Zita says.

Other party planners advertising in this supplement are: Ricky Bessner Party Planning, 905-731-2005; Be Your Guest, 416-488-9399; Designing Trendz Inc., 416-665-6794; Judy Stein Bridal Consultant, 905-764-2728.

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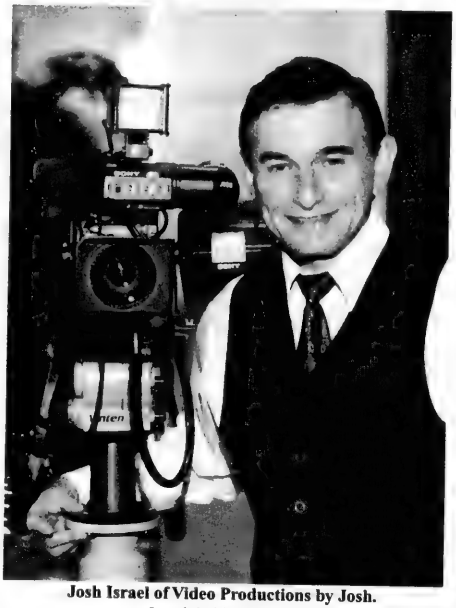
PARTY PLANNER

Planning a party? Don't forget the videographer

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN



Josh Israel of Video Productions by Josh.

You fuss over invitations, organize seat arrangements and the caterer's menu and finalize the DJ's song list. Inevitably, the videographer is last on your mind as you plan your party.

"That is a recipe for disaster," warns Josh Israel, who runs Video Productions by Josh (905-709-9277). The videographer has heard many stories of people ignoring the importance of videotaping their event. Later they regret not having put enough money and thought into how the party would develop on tape.

Israel says clients should look for a reputable videographer, and get references. "Call and ask these former customers about the quality of the video," he says. "You don't want to end up with an unusable product."

Israel assures his clients he uses the high-end cameras his competitors avoid (his camera and lens combined cost $50,000). He also brings along "lights, tripods and microphones a step above what the cheapie guys are using," he says.

But since you spend thousands on DJs, food and hall rental, shouldn't the videographer be light on the wallet?

"In this business, you pay for what you get," Israel sums up. "If the cost is lower than $1,200, that's thrown-out money."

He says many clients aren't aware of the costs of taping a party, especially when videographers dedicate their capital to buying top-notch equipment. Air-pressurized tripods – "shaky shoulders equals shaky cameras" – and cordless transmitor mikes add to professional credibility.

Giving clients options of a DVD or VHS recording, Israel charges $1,500 to $2,000 for a bar mitzvah or wedding. But he finds more clients interested in his hourly rate – $100 per hour of videotape. That package is more attractive to those planning small weddings or bar mitzvah luncheons.

With the DVD option, Israel can toy around with graphics and editing features. One trick, he says, is to edit a dance session by wrapping the image in a box, and then open the box to the next scene. Special effects like that, Israel says, make customers call him and exclaim, "That DVD was unbelieveable!"

He stresses how important the video experience can be, after the fact. "The event goes by so fast, the organizer is deluged by guests and friends and alcohol, that the video becomes the memento. But it becomes the biggest investment in the end because it brings the party back to life."

Israel, in his 25th year in the field, advises party-planners to find a videographer who is both personable and professional. For example, during the obligatory table-to-table interviews, Israel will "gently twist an arm" if someone isn't too forthcoming. A videographer should be kind and gregarious, but not so much that he pressures relatives to speak on camera.

"And if he's organized, the videographer will be following the schedule so there's no surprises," he says.

Clients should also be aware of lead time. Videographers' schedules fill up quickly, and Israel suggests booking at least a year in advance.

"If you hold until a couple months before the party," he says, "you're getting new guys with less experience because the most popular ones are very busy."

Are there events where people need not worry about hiring a professional to videotape?

"At small parties in basements or restaurants, say 75 people… a normal home camera will do the job fine."

Israel adds a quick "But."

"If the event is important to the client, then it's important to keep that memory for the future."

More advice on choosing a videographer is available on Israel's site, www.videobyjosh.com.

Other videographers advertising in this supplement are: D.M.S. Video Productions, 905-470-4040; Lisa Productions, 905-764-1033; Northern Memory Productions 905-763-6513; Redstone Pictures, 416-256-4666; Vivid Video, 905-771-9889; Video Excellence, 905-731-4355.

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Transform the humdrum into the ultimate fantasy

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Richard Winkler and his team can transform a boring, humdrum room into the party room of a child's dreams.

A specialist in bar and bat mitzvah décor, Winkler of Happy Days (416-789-4438) creates party environments based on themes – drama, sports, music or whatever else may fascinate a child. He recently did two party themes based on the television show *Survivor*.

Winkler and his team, which includes his sister-in-law Marsha Winkler and 30 part-timers, work much of their magic with balloon decor, including balloon sculptures such as arches and trees.

"Balloons enhance the room," he says. "When you walk into the room, it gives you a good feeling inside."

Winkler's consultation process includes visiting the party room before the event, then describing to his prospective clients how it can be transformed into the room they envision.

"We guide them through the process," he says, adding that the service is offered without obligation.

Party organizers are invited to drop by the Happy Days showroom in the Toys 'R Us Plaza at Yonge and Steeles for coffee and a look at samples and photographs.

"A lot of people come in here very tense," Winkler says. "We put them at ease."

Happy Days' décor service includes the set-up for candlelighting, centrepieces, sign-in boards and lighted name boards.

The sign-in board, reflecting the party's theme, incorporates the guest-of-honour's photograph. Guests sign the three-foot-high board when they arrive and afterward, the board becomes a keepsake for the family.

A lighted name board for a party with a music theme might be inscribed with music notes as well as the guest of honour's name. The five-foot-high board, with lights behind it, is placed behind the head table.

For dessert time, Happy Days offers a complete range of party machines, including cotton candy, Sno Kone, mini doughnut and mini pretzel machines, as well as popcorn carts. A staff member comes to dispense the kosher treats.

"Our machines are enjoyed not just by the kids," Winkler says. "Adults enjoy them, too."

And for kids who have an extreme sweet tooth, Happy Days can provide a deluxe candy sweet table. At the candy table, which opens at the same time as the adult sweet table, the children fill bags with wrapped kosher candy to take home.

Winkler recommends his kosher chocolate "smash" cake, guaranteed to be the highlight of any children's party.

The guest of honour uses a specially provided hammer to smash the cake, then the other kids attack it. "It's a fun thing," he says.

Winkler says his prices are reasonable and he always comes in within budget. Depending on the complexity of a job, it can take up to a day to decorate a room.

Kids enjoy the novelty items used as party giveaways, especially the buttons that light up and the necklaces that glow.

These items serve a purpose at a party beyond their obvious value as loot. They are the prizes used in the contests and games that help kids interact.

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Glow necklace is all-time favourite party giveaway

Dominion Smallwares (416-665-9526) has a vast selection of novelty items, including light-up buttons, glow eyeglasses, blow-up guitars, noisemakers, hats and much more.

The all-time favourite party giveaway is the glow necklace, says Dominion Smallwares' Steve Dennis, but recently, the glow necklace's popularity has been superseded by the light-up buttons or light-emitting diodes (LED), their technical name.

"The prices of the buttons have come down to the prices of necklaces," he says, "and they're selling briskly." Available in different shapes, including hearts, stars and flowers, the buttons can be worn on clothing or ears.

Along with light-up buttons and glow necklaces, the 44-inch bubble-gum tub is another hot seller at Dominion Smallwares.

Dennis says his party shop's strength is "selling but not overselling and fitting the items and budget to the venue."

Dominion Smallwares has been in the toy/novelty/candy business for 25 years. A wholesaler of glow products to outdoor vendors in the mid-'90s, Dennis opened a party shop because he got frequent requests for novelty items for bar and bat mitzvahs.

For a look at some of the many items Dominion Smallwares carries, check out their Web site at www.dominionsmallwares.com/index3.html, or visit the company's warehouse at Finch and Dufferin.

Other one-stop party shops advertising in this supplement are: Kosher 'n Natural, 416-789-7173; Tyme To Party, 905-737-2789.

— R. S.

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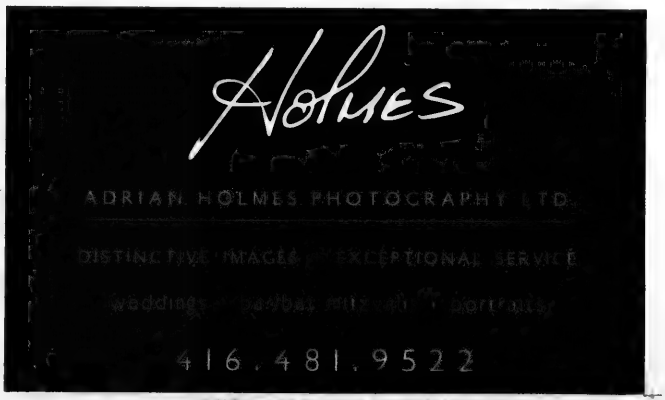


Revolutionizing the way you celebrate events

Freedom of Sound's current themes include this Survivor/Jungle setup.

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Miki Klevan of Freedom of Sound (905-760-0040; www.fos.ca) wants every party to be unique, memorable and fun well into the wee hours of the morning.

Since 1996, Freedom of Sound has "helped revolutionize the way you celebrate special events," Klevan says.

The company has three divisions: entertainment, games and amusements and decor centre. They co-ordinate every kind of celebration: bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and corporate events. They supply all your needs from special effects to linens – everything but dinner. And their professional services cover all fields from florists to videographers, including an event producer to make sure things run smoothly.

Freedom of Sound entertainment offers 200 entertainers and DJs. These include celebrity look-alikes, impersonators, musicians, singers, comedians, airbrush, henna and tattoo artists. For high-end events, there are acts such as Kool & the Gang, or Earth, Wind & Fire.

Freedom of Sound doesn't hire people who entertain as a sideline, but full-time professionals. Klevan says people take work more seriously if they earn their living from it. Some of them, such as the DJs and MCs, work only for Freedom of Sound. Specialty acts, such as Kool & the Gang, also perform elsewhere.

Producing a successful event can be a challenge that requires long hours of research and endless decisions. Freedom of Sound's one-stop shopping makes party planning less stressful and saves time and money. Their event specialists help create an entertainment package based on your needs, and guide you throughout the process.

Klevan advises booking one to two years ahead; the farther ahead, the wider your choice of entertainers. He won't take more parties than he can handle at a high level of quality.

"Fewer events, but higher quality give us a good name," he says. "This takes a long time and lots of work to build, but it's the basis for solid growth. We don't spread ourselves too thin."

The company's performers take the word "interactive" seriously. They're good at breaking the ice: if the crowd is a bit shy, they're out there, teaching dance steps, joking, handing out give-aways, doing what it takes to warm things up.

Freedom of Sound's games and amusements division offers a broad selection of inflatable games, carnival and casino games and video arcades. Inflatable games include perennial favourites, such as castles kids can crawl around and bounce in. The company also provide sound, staging and entertainment personnel, if these go with a game. And there's an in-house novelty store for items like party hats.

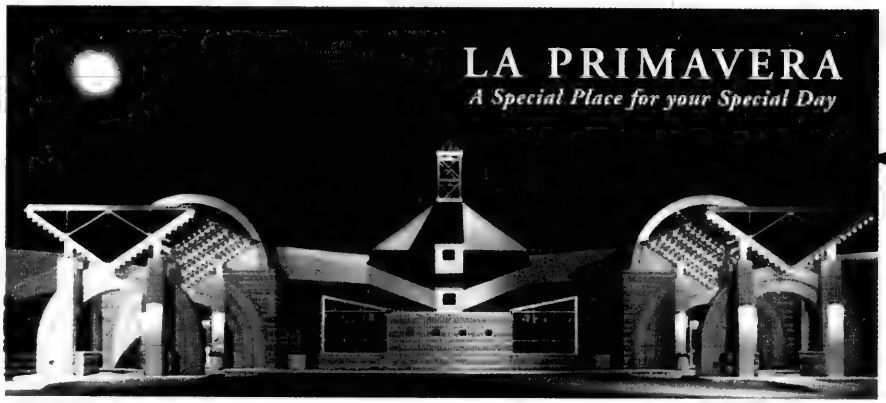
Freedom of Sound's games, like its sound and lighting systems, are constantly updated. Twice a year, the company brings in the latest games from American trade shows; they like to introduce state-of-the-art games early in the year, before Purim.

The company recently moved into new facilities in the Dufferin-Steeles area and held a grand opening of its the decor centre on Feb. 3. Open by appointment only, the centre is a 5,000-square foot showroom, set up as two different theme parties at any given time. The company makes its own props and scenic backdrops; you'll see the artists at work when you go in.

These themes change every two months, and with enough notice, the company can also make changes for a client. Klevan recommends booking the decor centre six months to a year ahead for your party.

The centre's current themes are Hollywood and *Survivor*/Jungle. The backdrops and props for the *Survivor* party include 16-foot palm trees, animals and zebra chair covers. For the Hollywood party, props include a red carpet with stanchions and red velvet rope, 10-foot Oscar statues, acrylic centrepieces that light up and a Hollywood Hills backdrop.

If ice sculptures go with your theme, check out the ones the company keeps in its giant freezer. Freedom of Sound also has a large selection of chair covers, linens and overlays; elegant Chiavari chairs in mahogany and black; decorative dishes; silver and gold candelabras for a traditional look; computerized lighting for a contemporary look; and drapes in a variety of fabrics, colours and heights.



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PARTY PLANNER

Jewelry makes a great gift

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

The world of jewelry is rich with history and contemporary creations continue to sparkle.

Depending on whom the gift is for, you can jump back in time or go ultra-modern, as long as the workmanship is superb.

"A lot of people put an emphasis on superior, quality workmanship," says George Klein of George Klein Creations (416-730-1755).

Klein says the company primarily makes custom-order designs tailored to the desires of the client.

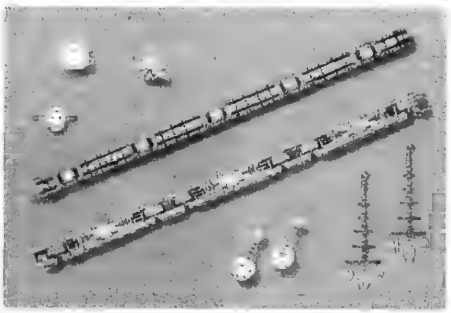
"We sit down with the customer and create whatever they have in mind," Klein says. First Klein makes a wax carving, and once the customer approves it, he goes ahead with the final product.

If a customer is a little uncertain, Klein says, "it's my job to come up with brilliant ideas."

He notes diamonds and gemstones are popular bar/bat mitzvah gifts, but unusual sapphires, emeralds and rubies have just as much flair.

"Most people lean towards a better grade stone," Klein says.

For lovers of Victorian, Edwardian and other types of antique or estate jewelry, Harvey Kessler Inc. (416-260-4653), formerly known as Gold Traders, offers a trove of historical jewels.



Various jewelry pieces from Harvey Kessler Inc.

Kessler says the craftsmanship in old times was dynamic and perhaps unmatched today.

"In [Victorian] times, a craftsman would sit down for a month and make everything by hand," Klein says.

"You'd see incredible designs… People in these periods had strong artistic influences that came through in the jewelry."

Along with the unique designs in antique jewelry, Kessler says clients are attracted to dated pieces.

"When somebody buys an engagement ring [from us], they know they will never see anything else that will resemble it. They feel they are buying something that there is only one of in the world," Kessler says, noting some people like to wear jewelry that was once worn by the rich and famous.

He urges clients in search of estate jewelry to select unique designs and good-quality workmanship.

Kessler says that speedy, high-calibre service is also something clients should look for when selecting the right place to buy jewelry. Kessler has sold bands and rings from as early as 1765 and his jewelry has been on the wish lists of such famous people as Jane Fonda, Whoopi Goldberg and Elizabeth Hurley.

Harvey Kessler Inc. also sells antique furniture, silverware and oil paintings.

Other gift places advertising in this supplement are: Incredible Novelties Inc., 905-881-9900; Laurentian Jewellers T.O. Ltd., 416-782-3588; Odyssey Jewellery Designs Inc., 905-737-5266.

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PARTY PLANNER

Kids' boutiques offer designer fashions for everyday use

By RUTH SCHWIETZER
Special to The CJN

Boutiques selling kids' fashions found a new niche in formal wear after discount and chain stores moved into high quality children's clothing, formerly the exclusive territory of boutiques.

"The market has been changing," says Santina Mariani of Zero 20 Bambini (905-851-6041, www.zero20.com), with most parents now shopping at discount and chain stores for their kids' play clothes and heading to boutiques for clothing for special occasions.

Mariani says the children's fashion market shifted when the quality and styling of the clothing at discount and chain stores improved dramatically, while prices stayed relatively low.

But those stores are far from the top retailers of children's formal wear or dressy casual wear, a new high-end category in kids' fashions, or of high-end kids' designer fashions for everyday. In those areas, boutiques such as Zero 20 excel with their superior selection and service.

Boutique customers need not fear the prices, Mariani says, adding some of the prices of American and European kids' designer lines have come down in the past 20 years.

Infants' sleepers from France used to retail at $70 to $80, but now sleepers of comparable quality from Spain are $40. "You can buy $10 pajamas from Wal-Mart that are good quality," Mariani says, "but they don't compare with what we have for $40."

Mariani goes on regular fashion-buying trips to Europe, Italy and New York. She won't buy anything that's too expensive, she says. Miniman, a popular line of boys' casual dressy wear from France, costs 20 per cent less at Zero 20. "For the past two years, people have been buying here instead of in Europe."

Mariani says Zero 20's customers are usually blown away by the store's 3,200 square feet packed with kids fashions. "I'm sure we have the biggest inventory in Toronto," she says. "We carry all the brands."

The store name, Zero 20, indicates the size range that the store carries, for both boys and girls. The higher end of sizes used to be for boys only, Mariani says, but manufacturers have responded to the demand for girls' clothing in larger sizes. Zero 20 has a good selection of clothes for chubby children, she adds, so "hard to fit is not really a problem for us."

Zero 20 carries the usual children's formal wear, suits for boys and full-length gowns for girls, but Mariani says the hottest category of kids' clothing for special occasions is dressy casual. Dressy casual has become a popular style for guests at special events, who want to dress a little more casually than the bar mitzvah boy or the birthday girl, but still feel dressed up.

Continued on page B40

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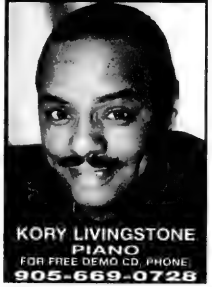
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PARTY PLANNER

VHS memories can be transfered to DVD

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to the CJN

The family that still relies on VHS tapes and VCRs may feel taunted by the refrain, "C'mon, everyone's doing it." And "it" means DVDs, the format surging into the home-entertainment video market.

Toronto resident Janet Morais recently discovered that the new technology can alter the home-video experience, giving her the idea to start DVD Memories (416-785-5545). The eight-month-old, home-based business transfers VHS tapes to DVDs, peppered with Morais' editing and music touches.

"Instead of watching hours of unedited footage," she says, referring to the majority of video-captured memories, "a DVD is more interactive, with menus and chapters and skipping options."

Indeed, Morais' discs let you jump from scene to scene, so you can pass on Uncle Morty's slightly inebriated rant and skip to little Nathan dancing the horah.

The idea came to Morais when she attended a friend's wedding and watched a slide show that included hundreds of old pictures. Realizing how valuable pictures and their memories are to those reaching a milestone — be it a wedding or a birthday — Morais harnessed the video-editing power of her iMac, bought the software programs iMovie and iDVD and started a business that is staking new ground in post-party entertainment.

"People care about preserving their memories," Morais says, adding that the popularity of DVD players bridges the technology gap between young and old.

Of her 40 clients so far, some have requested DVD video cards for Father's Day or 60th birthdays.

"Most people love this idea because it's new and exciting and original," Morais says.

Morais doesn't limit herself to VHS transfers. She can scan photos, invitations, transparencies and additional media. She also works with super-8 reels.

A straight video-to-DVD transfer costs $50 to $75 per hour of videotape, plus the same additional rate for editing services. For extra copies of the finished DVD, Morais charges $20 each.

A graduate of Ryerson University's photography arts program, Morais is knowledgeable about what makes an attractive visual.

But as a parent, she also knows all about attention spans — she edited a 45-minute tape of her daughter's birth down to a two-minute music video.

"Kids don't want to see their parents' unedited wedding video," she says. "They want the condensed one-hour version. I can do that, while also adding music and memory timelines."

The timelines Morais produces are similar to those chronological slide shows that trace, for example, a bar mitzvah boy from newborn to new Jewish mensch.

Interested clients should be aware of several facts, though: their DVD players must be DVD-R compatible; they can involve themselves as much as they like in the time-consuming editing process; turnaround time is two to four weeks; and Morais advises clients to organize pictures so she doesn't have to guess at their sequential order.

Morais finds the job satisfying but work occasionally leaks into off-duty hours, albeit sometimes in a pleasantly surprising way.

"I'll be walking down the street and I'll see someone that looks familiar. Then it hits me: He was in the video footage I just edited. I feel quite connected with the client, especially because he's showing me personal pictures of his family. It's an honour."

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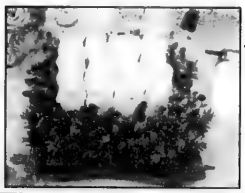
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Always have 'classics' in your wardrobe

'Navy suits continue to be Korry's top sellers'

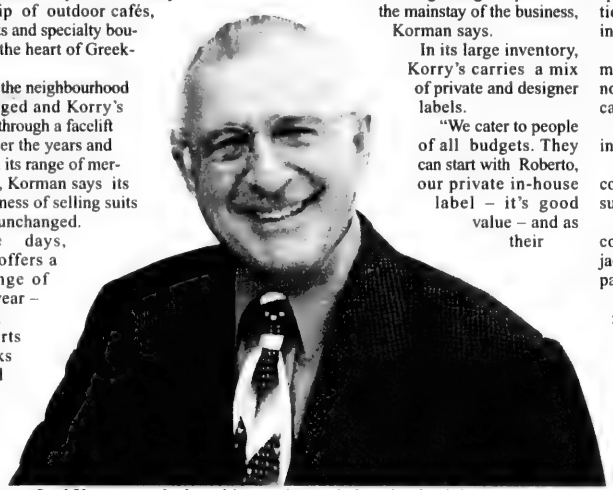
By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Korry's Clothiers, one of the best-known menswear retailers in Toronto, has specialized in selling suits since the company opened its doors 51 years ago.

President Saul Korman staked out the store's current location at 569 Danforth Ave. in 1969, long before the east-end neighbourhood became fashionable. Today, Korry's (416-463-1115) striking stone and glass storefront is part of a trendy retail strip of outdoor cafés, restaurants and specialty boutiques in the heart of Greektown.

While the neighbourhood has changed and Korry's has gone through a facelift or two over the years and expanded its range of merchandise, Korman says its core business of selling suits remains unchanged.

These days, Korry's offers a wide range of leisure wear – sweaters, sport shirts and slacks – and business wear – suits, blazers and dress shirts – as well as a variety of accessories. But suits in the mid- to high range in price are the mainstay of the business, Korman says.



Saul Korman staked out his store's trendy location back in 1969.

In its large inventory, Korry's carries a mix of private and designer labels.

"We cater to people of all budgets. They can start with Roberto, our private in-house label – it's good value – and as their income grows they can move to designer suits by Arnold Brant, Strellson, Coppley, Hugo Boss and Canali. As their budget grows, we grow with them."

Korman has seen many changes in the merchandising of suits in his 51 years in the industry.

One of the biggest changes he has seen is the move from made-to-measure to ready-to-wear suits. According to Korman, the improvement in the quality of ready-made suits changed consumers' buying patterns.

Ready-made suits are more common today than made-to-measure ones, he says, because the quality of the factory garments has improved with the automation of the tailoring. He says Korry's used to specialize in made-to-measure suits, but the off-the-rack suits are far more popular. Alterations help customize the fit, which is why he has six full-time tailors on staff.

"Our Roberto two-for-one-suit-and-slack program and the dress-shirts program have been an introduction to our store for young people. This special pricing is very popular with them. We also get a lot of sports celebrities. They like our huge selection and customer service and shopping in this great neighbourhood."

Korman says it used to be customary for men to buy winter and summer suits, but now they buy suits of lighter material that can be worn year-round.

He emphasizes the importance of classics in a man's wardrobe.

"Navy suits and black and navy blazers continue to be Korry's top sellers. The navy suit is still in 12 months a year."

He advises overweight men to buy dark-coloured suits with two or three button jackets and to wear suspenders and pleated pants for a better fit.

"A vested suit in solids or nice gentlemanly stripes in navy, black and gray is also very slimming."

He recommends two-button suits for short men, because this style will make them look taller.

As for elegant attire, Korman says a tuxedo is still the trend at black-tie events, particularly the black tuxedo, but the once-popular white dinner jacket is now only seen on the occasional cruise.

Korry's carries one of the world's best-selling tuxedos, a black three-button vested tux by Hugo Boss, he says.

Korry's offers another alternative – "the tuxless tux," a black suit with removable silk collar.

Though black is the most common colour, Korman says, some people look too harsh in black, so a dark blue suit can be substituted.

"A lot of young people like a three-piece black suit done by Hugo Boss or Canali for weddings and graduations."

These days, he says, suits are more tailored, with more side and centre vents, while pants are narrower, with one or two pleats (though he advises heavier men to stick with a double-pleated pant).

Korman says there's nothing like a great-looking suit. "When you wear the right fitted suit in the right colour, the right style and accessorize it correctly, you feel better and perform better in every aspect of your life."

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PARTY PLANNER

Liven up a party with a band

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Live Jewish music can set the tone for your simchah.

"The music creates… an atmosphere where people feel relaxed. It's a Jewish atmosphere. The music is enjoyable to listen to. It's very relaxing," says Jonno Lightstone, leader of the klezmer band, Hu-Tsa-Tsa, (416-651-7521).

The use of klezmer bands has become increasingly common at bar and bat mitzvahs and weddings, he says.

"Usually the first thing is to get people dancing. We play *freilachs* – happy, lively songs for dancing. That's how we start a party."

Hu-Tsa-Tsa creates a Jewish atmosphere.

Lightstone says they play lively songs to get people dancing, and then during the meal, they usually switch to quieter, slower songs that don't drown out dinner conversation.

Three musicians make up the core group of Hu-Tsa-Tsa: Lightstone on clarinet, violinist Rona Goldensher and Eric Stein, who plays the Hungarian cimbalom and the mandocello, a mandolin with a cello range.

They may play as a trio or with only two members, and they can add musicians such as a bass player, or singer David Wall, who does the Yiddish repertoire.

Hu-Tsa-Tsa is skilled in a variety of styles, Lightstone says. "We're very versatile. We can do classical and jazz, and swing for later in the evening. Eric plays keyboard, so we can do some swing and jazz."

Swing, which refers to music with a 1930s sound, has become popular for dancing in the last seven or eight years, Lightstone says. "It's the kind of music that people in various age groups like to dance to."

Hu-Tsa-Tsa can also do classical music during dinner, he adds, noting that Goldensher is an accomplished classical musician; she plays in Tafelmusik, a Toronto-based baroque orchestra.

Whatever the musical style they play, the goal of the band is the same, Lightstone says. "We want to make the party the best it can be by creating a happy and *leibedik* atmosphere."

When Hu-Tsa-Tsa is booked for an event, Lightstone and the host meet to discuss the music. "We talk about the evening's flow of events. We can organize the music around what they're planning. We're also used to working with the DJs."

Hu-Tsa-Tsa has played many concerts around Toronto. "When we're playing concerts, we play a repertoire not as commonly known," says Lightstone. "Most of the klezmer repertoire is listening music. The concert is more contemplative, slower. They are songs that show off the ability of the players."

Last year, the group was awarded a Canada Council grant to produce a CD, which is to be released in the fall. "It will be a collection of traditional songs using our own arrangements based on the traditional style," Lightstone says.

Lightstone, who is from Detroit, did not grow up hearing traditional Jewish music at home. "No Yiddish was spoken. The closest thing was *Fiddler on the Roof*."

Continued on page B38

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PARTY PLANNER

A live band has many advantages

Continued from page B37

He had been playing saxophone in a band when he heard klezmer music for the first time 15 years ago while travelling on the west coast. "I knew right away that this music felt right for me."

He then took up the clarinet so that he could play klezmer music. "It took time to play with an authentic sound. I learned by listening to the authentic recordings."

Isaac Oziel, leader of the band Nu-Rhythm and president of Rio Entertainment (905-882-5252), a live music entertainment company, comes from a musical family. He was immersed in traditional Sephardi music as a young child growing up in Morocco. When his family immigrated to Canada – he was 13 at the time – they joined their large extended family in Toronto.

The Oziels have been very active with Petah Tikvah congregation for some 40 years.

"I have 57 first cousins in Toronto," Oziel says. "We're all Orthodox. My uncle is the cantor of the shul Petah Tikvah; so was my dad at one time. We're a singing family."

A trumpet and keyboard player, Oziel has an extensive music background. As a teenager he played in his father's band (Samuel O and his Orchestra), continuing throughout university.

Oziel got an engineering degree and an MBA and for many years, he relegated music to hobby status. When his eldest son had his bar mitzvah 12 years ago, Oziel put together a live band for the occasion and played at the simchah. That evening led to many other bookings for the band, which later came to be known as Nu-Rhythm.

"It sounded so good at the bar mitzvah the guys asked me to keep the band going and to get back into the market. In a couple of years, we were doing 60 events a year, and we've never looked back."

Eventually Oziel quit the corporate world and focused on Nu-Rhythm. He says the band was so successful he couldn't keep up with the demand. So he created another band, the Rhythm Kings, to provide the same musical sound and repertoire.

"The formula works. Rhythm Kings is very popular on its own. They do almost as many weddings as Nu- Rhythm."

His bands are in demand for many reasons, Oziel says. "They are very successful in keeping people on the dance floor. It's a combination of many different ingredients – excellent musicians and singers, being able to read the crowd to know what the party needs. That's my skill – producing the music required for the evening. Knowing what to play is key. You need to keep the material new.

"The music includes Jewish favourites as well as Motown, disco, rock 'n' roll, the oldies. We have good, current, dance music. It's a balance between older fun music and new music.

"The Jewish content all depends on the party. Some people want one horah, others want more. It all depends on the host's wishes. We meet and talk to discuss the client's needs."

Nu-Rhythm and the Rhythm Kings are nine- piece bands with six musicians and three singers.

Rio Entertainment also has four- and five-piece bands, says Oziel. "A four- to six-piece band is a better fit for smaller parties with 100 to 175 guests. They cover the same material. Budget-wise it makes more sense."

For bar mitzvahs and other events, he offers DJ services, noting that his entertainers can make a smooth transition between the band and the DJ. "Kids enjoy the DJ. The combination is very successful."

Rio Entertainment has also put together a new band – Simcha-Nu – which plays religious music to serve the Orthodox community better, Oziel says.

"Some… young couples prefer this type of music. The men and women dance separately. That's the market we're going to be addressing. We have a couple of weddings lined up already."

Rio Entertainment can also provide a band on short notice because the company has a wide pool of musicians, says Oziel.

"We have a large group of talented subs to draw on who play in all the different groups. We can create the same effect. We can duplicate ourselves without ever diluting the quality. I make sure we have the same high quality performers."

The extended Oziel family members make up the Oziel choir, Oziel notes. There are about 20 male cousins who sing for each other during wedding ceremonies. Oziel is making these live performers available for simchahs through Rio Entertainment.

"We're now going to be offering the choir services for wedding ceremonies. The choir is entwined in the service. It's beautiful music. A lot of people are very emotional when they hear the choir singing. It sets the tone for the family."

Other services available through Rio Entertainment include special performances of The Three Tenors, Canadian singers who do 20- to 30-minute shows; string quartets; mariachi and klezmer bands; and performers who impersonate Tina Turner, Rod Steward, Elvis and others.

Oziel says using a live band has many advantages.

"It's not just the music, it's also a performance. We entertain people. People feel they're participating with the dancing. When we have the three singers harmonizing, moving and shaking, it's a special ambiance."

Other bands advertising in this supplement are: The 42nd Street Band, 416-441-1555; Ambiance Flute & Guitar Duo, 416-693-8778; Elegant Jazz, 416-781-1222; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment, 416-225-6977; Flying Bulgar Productions, 416-603-7237; Fabulous Harvey Siegal Band,416-782-9202; Joe Star Band, 905-881-1378; The Kenny Simon Band, 416-638-2549; Kory Livingstone Band, 905-669-0728; Lorraine Ingle, Pianist, 416-698-6824; Matt Pines Band, 416-234-5500; Paul Zurin, 905-770-3084; Rhonda Silver, 416-269-5703; Rio Entertainment Ltd., 905-882-5252; Mark Selby, 416-784-1554; The Rick Levine Band, 905-881-6400.

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Hart provides a host of fun things to do

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

The hipper the initial tone of a party, the greater chance the evening will be a hit, says Phil Hart of interactive entertainment giant Hart Entertainment (416-762-2200).

"It all starts right before [the party] begins," Hart says. "You have to set the tempo."

Hart says he is in the "foyer business" because it is in the foyers of synagogues and banquet halls that Hart Entertainment provides guests with a host of fun things to do.

Themes like casinos are huge.

Casinos, air hockey, Polaroid booths, arcade games and miniature golf are a few of the activities Hart Entertainment offers.

Hart says the activities can coincide with themes. For instance, if the bar mitzvah boy or girl is a car racing fan, Hart will provide remote control slot cars.

What matters most is fun, not merely from participating, but from observing, says Hart.

"I always tell parents that they should [have things] that are as much or more fun to watch, as to play," he says.

"If you want a party where will people will laugh and smile, that's our type of party."

Hart Entertainment dates back to 30 years ago, when Phil would take his 11-year-old brother, David with him to put on magic shows at corporate gigs.

The company has since expanded. Today, there are 12 full-time employees and 45 part-time staffers.

The company specializes in corporate events, but works on roughly 100 bar and bat mitzvahs each year.

Who's going to beat the Mighty Ducks?

Because Hart uses so many different games and activities, the company has collected an extensive arsenal of entertainment equipment. If they don't have it, they'll buy it.

"We own [lots] of the equipment, so we are able to pull things together," Hart says.

While themes vary, Hart says hockey and casinos are "huge."

The company has even brought live performers to an affair, such as a Marilyn Monroe impersonator.

"People want all sorts of different things," Hart says, adding that a recent bar mitzvah included a rock climbing display.

Although the party business is a competitive one, Hart says he prefers to "coexist" instead of competing with other entertainment companies.

Recognizing that some people may not enjoy dancing, Hart can tailor the entertainment to the crowd, bringing in caricaturists or magicians, as well as popcorn machines and snow cones.

"We include things that really add to the evening," he says.

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PARTY PLANNER

High-quality daywear can double as party wear for your kids

Continued from page B33

Boys' dressy casual wear includes the Miniman line, which Mariani says is popular but not the most expensive line she carries. A Miniman suit for infants and toddlers includes pants, a T-shirt and a loose-fitting jacket made of linen instead of wool. "French makes have found a look that's not everyday but not formal," Mariani says.

For girls, in dressy casual, Zero 20 carries a large selection of dresses, starting at $49 and going up to $300, with the most popular selling at the mid-range of $100.

Zero 20 has a large staff as well as on-site seamstresses. As a party-supplement special, customers who mention Zero 20's ad get their next purchase tax free.

Because of its location on St. Clair West, the children's department store, Amore Children's Boutique (416-654-8117), used to be a well-kept secret, and had mainly an Italian and Portuguese clientele.

But the rest of the community has finally discovered what Amore's Italian and Portuguese customers have known for years, that a large selection of unique kids' apparel – clothing you won't find in a mall – lies behind Amore's unassuming storefront.

Susan Young of Amore Children's Boutique.

When Susan Young, a former elementary-school teacher, opened her first children's clothing store 16 years ago, after the birth of her own two children, someone suggested she locate the business on St. Clair West.

"The store was geared to the ethnic community," she says, "as the ethnic community likes nice clothing."

Her first store was 900 square feet, but when it developed a following, she moved to a 2,000-square-foot building down the street.

"It became a vibrant business," Young says.

"I love what I'm doing," she says. "I do all the buying, the marketing and sales. I'm hands-on."

Amore's specialty is casual elegance for boys with lines such as Miniman, which Young says is "designed for mothers who like their children to look well-dressed without looking formal."

For boys, Amore carries high-end suits and shirts by designers such as Perry Ellis. This season, the store has a varied selection of shirts and ties in blues, greens, golds, blues and mustard. Young says Amore is "a little bit like Harry Rosen for kids."

Amore doesn't carry formal wear for girls, nor girly, frilly dresses, but offers high-quality daywear that can double as party wear.

"It's the European look: bright colours that make a statement without being gaudy," Young says.

Amore also carries the recently launched DKNY line for girls.

Young says in children's wear, spring begins in February and by July, she starts getting a selection of European winter coats. Sale time for spring and summer clothing begins in June. Many parents take their children shopping to the store after they get back from camp, to outfit them with fall and holiday clothing.

Amore's sales staff has been with Young almost from the time she opened her first store. Staff members will help customers put together co-ordinated wardrobes and a seamstress is available to do alterations.

"Service is first and foremost in our philosophy," Young says.

Other kids fashion places advertising in this supplement are: Beatties, 416-481-4459; Crawford Boys, 416-782-8137.

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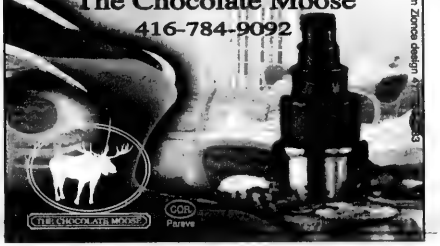
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Make a spectacle of your guests with body art

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Melanie Marcus and the artistic staff of Little Miss Henna can bring colour and fun to a simchah with safe and fun body art.

Founded by Marcus six years ago, Little Miss Henna (905-731-0067) was one of the first Toronto-area companies to introduce the traditional henna painting to bar and bat mitzvahs and sweet sixteens, says Marcus. "I saw people using henna in Europe and thought that it would be an activity children and adults could enjoy at simchahs and other parties."

Henna, a flower from the Middle East and India, contains an all-natural dye that can last from two to three weeks. It is traditionally used by Hindu, Indian and Sephardi Jewish women before a wedding, she explains. "It's just a temporary tattoo."

These days, most of Little Miss Henna's clients prefer a quick-drying body paint instead of the traditional henna, which takes longer to dry, Marcus says.

"The paint dries instantly and can last three to six days. That's our most popular service. It takes one minutes to do and one minute to dry. Parents and kids love it. The bubbies and zaides love it too."

Tiny crystals can be added to the art to embellish the design, she notes. "These sparkle tattoos can last up to one week."

Guests can choose designs from a design board with themes that appeal to both boys and girls, she adds.

Little Miss Henna has also introduced other services, such as personalized leather bracelets, and beaded pens and key chains, which are very popular with party guests, Marcus says.

"We try to add something new every year. The pewter key chain is a new hot item," she says.

"People fill out their order form for the personalized items, which are done on the spot in about an hour-and-a-half so guests can take them home after the party," she says. "It's a party give-away, but the kids have input, so they appreciate it more. It combines a memory of the party as well as entertainment."

She says the leather bracelets and key chains appeal to boys because there are a lot of sports designs to choose from.

"Parents are happy that we've been able to come with a lot of boy's themes."

When Marcus started Little Miss Henna, she was its sole artist. Today, she has 35 part-time staff who can provide a number of services, depending on a client's needs.

"Parents love our service. They love how our staff is so friendly, and so outgoing. We get a lot of repeat customers all the time. It makes me feel great that we've provided such a good service that they're re-booking for their next child's simchah."

Total Bodyart (416-706-6317), offers a variety of artistic body painting services to enhance any party or simchah. People can choose from a number of body art forms, including temporary tattoos, henna, body paint, body crystals and nail art.

Karen Dubiner, founder of Total Bodyart, is now in her fifth year of providing this multi-dimensional art cum entertainment service. The Thornhill resident is a former art student in Arts York, a four-year intensive arts program at Unionville High School.

She applied her arts training to body painting and henna art when she was a student at the University of Western Ontario and continued after she graduated because there was such a strong demand for the service, she says.

Today, Total Bodyart has 10 part-time employees, most of whom have art backgrounds, "so they're really good," says Dubiner. "Some even have full-time jobs, but they come out on weekends because they love the work."

Total Bodyart does summer and corporate events, street festivals and bat and bar mitzvahs. "We give people the best prices and the best value for their money."

The company does some henna, but because multicoloured body paint needs only a short time to dry, it has been extremely popular in the last year or so, Dubiner explains.

Clients can choose from Total Bodyart's large design collection, she says.

"I have roughly 1,500 designs to choose from. I can gear the design to any kind of theme, from sports to music to dance. But it's not necessary to choose a theme. The clients choose whatever they want for the mini tattoo parlour."

To view a sampling of the Total Bodyart portfolio, visit the company Web site at www.totalbodyart.com.

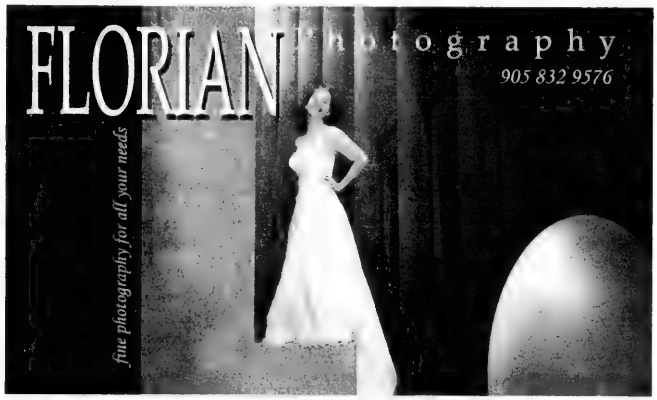
The company is also known for its temporary tattoo transfers, Dubiner says. "I have them custom made for the bar or bat mitzvahs or corporate events. I can special design ones for bar mitzvahs to fit with the party theme – a picture, a logo. It's all in the planning. Even the backing can be customized."

Total Bodyart offers different kinds of packages that can incorporate several services, depending on a client's needs.

"The kids love the service," says Dubiner. "We always have friendly outgoing people who ensure that the tattoos look good and every one has a good time."

Total Bodyart is not just for kids, she adds.

"The adults love it as much than the kids. At a recent bat mitzvah, the adults waited until the kids were done with the body painting. And then it was their turn. They really had a lot of fun with the stuff."



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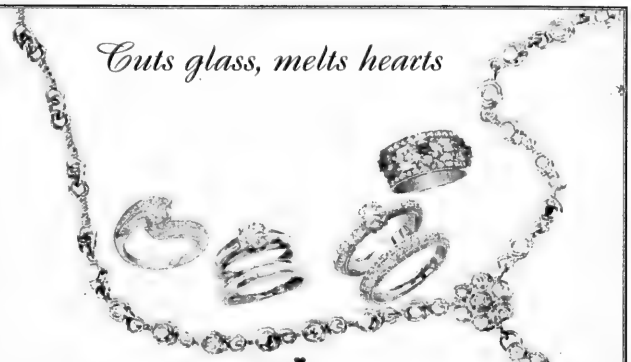
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Rental companies make great party affordable

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

If you're throwing a party this season, you may need to rent a few items to make your bash a smash hit.

If it's tents, linens or cutlery you're looking for, go no further than D & D Party Rent-All (416-665-9570; www.ddpartyrental.com).

"We do complete party service rentals and tents," says owner Tony D'Amato, whose family has been in the business for over 30 years.

The company even rents fine bone china, coffee urns, dance floors and lighting, which comes in handy for the increasing number of people choosing to host their party outdoors. "The trend is becoming more and more popular," says D'Amato.

"Having an outdoor event creates a more relaxed environment and puts people at ease. It's also great to make use of a nice backyard."

Since summer is the busiest season for parties, D'Amato recommends calling four to six weeks in advance to discuss your needs and place an order. "I encourage customers to call in and speak with a party rental consultant. We'll be happy to answer their questions and invite them into our showroom," he says.

For tent rentals, the company will visit the client's home to take measurements, recommend a tent and discuss the event.

"We also offer delivery and pick up services. And most convenient of all, cutlery and dinnerware can be returned unwashed," says D'Amato.

If you're looking for a unique way to keep the kids – and adults – at your party entertained, why not call Starburst Coin Machines Inc. (416-251-2122; www.starburstcoin.com)? The company is the largest vendor, renter and operator of full-size arcade games in the GTA.

"Our most popular games are full-size simulators," says Allan Howe, rental manager and promotions manager for the company.

Continued on page B43

All images on this page from Starbust Coin Machines.

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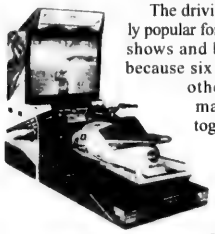
www.coppercreek.ca

Rental companies make the greatest party affordable

Continued from page B42

"Our ski simulator includes a 50 inch screen, which you stand in front of on a platform, and you simulate the movement of skiing with your body," he says, noting they also rent snowboard, surfboard and driving simulation games, as well as pool tables, air hockey tables and table soccer, or foosball.



The driving games are especially popular for corporate events, trade shows and bar and bat mitzvahs because six people can race each other at once when the machines are linked together.

"It can be so hard to entertain kids at the bar mitzvah age, so these games are perfect," says Howe. "It's something different and interactive. It's even entertaining for adults!"

He recommends calling at least a week in advance. Prices range depending on the game.

Other rentals advertising in this supplement are: Chair Decor, Etc., 905-731-9217; Chair-Man Mills Inc., 416-391-0400; Premier Linens, 905-737-3497.

An arcade game (left) from Starbust Coin Machines; and a complete party setup from D & D Party Rent-All (above.)

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By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

It may be a cliché, but like all clichés it has the ring of truth.

"The Net is the wave of the future," says Rick Levine, founder of the site www.torontopartyguide.com.

This coming from a man who "is old enough to remember watching the Beatles on the black-and-white *Ed Sullivan Show*." Who says age matters in the dot-com world?

For the party planner in need of quick and accurate information on party-related businesses, Levine's site is the complete package: it lists vendors and links to their Web sites, from wedding organizers to party consultants to balloon-makers.

Levine's three-year-old site, which attracts an average of 10,000 hits per month, is linked to his twice yearly party-planning shows, also called TorontoPartyGuide. More than 80 exhibitors display their wares at the events – the next one is Oct. 22 at Beth Tzedec Congregation – and have the opportunity to market their products year round on the Web site.

His site offers a free listing and link to businesses that participate in the show. Companies can also get an e-mail address, or a domain name, from torontopartyguide.com.

Levine (rick@torontopartyguide.com) aims to ease the hectic party-planning experience. "Who wants to run around from store to store?" he asks rhetorically. "My site is the place to check out up-to-date info when planning a simchah."

Asked why he started the site, Levine said people want to access the show's vendors 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Forget the phone book, he says.

"The advantage of the Net over the Yellow Pages is that you can see colourful detailed pictures, you can obtain more info, and hear audio clips [from bands]."

Involved in the party-planning business for 25 years, Levine is also bandleader of the Rick Levine Band, so he understands the importance of marketing and name recognition, and that all vendors need maximum exposure.

Levine points out the site doesn't promote "the whole world." You won't find hundreds of links, just a few in each section.

Why not include everyone?

"We attract the top vendors to our show," he says, "and they in turn end up on the site. It's up to the client to find the most suitable business. And twice a year, the client can actually meet and see the vendors they have been learning about through the Net."

(Traffic surges to 30,000 hits per month closer to the show.)

Also ideal is the no-pressure option of window-shopping online.

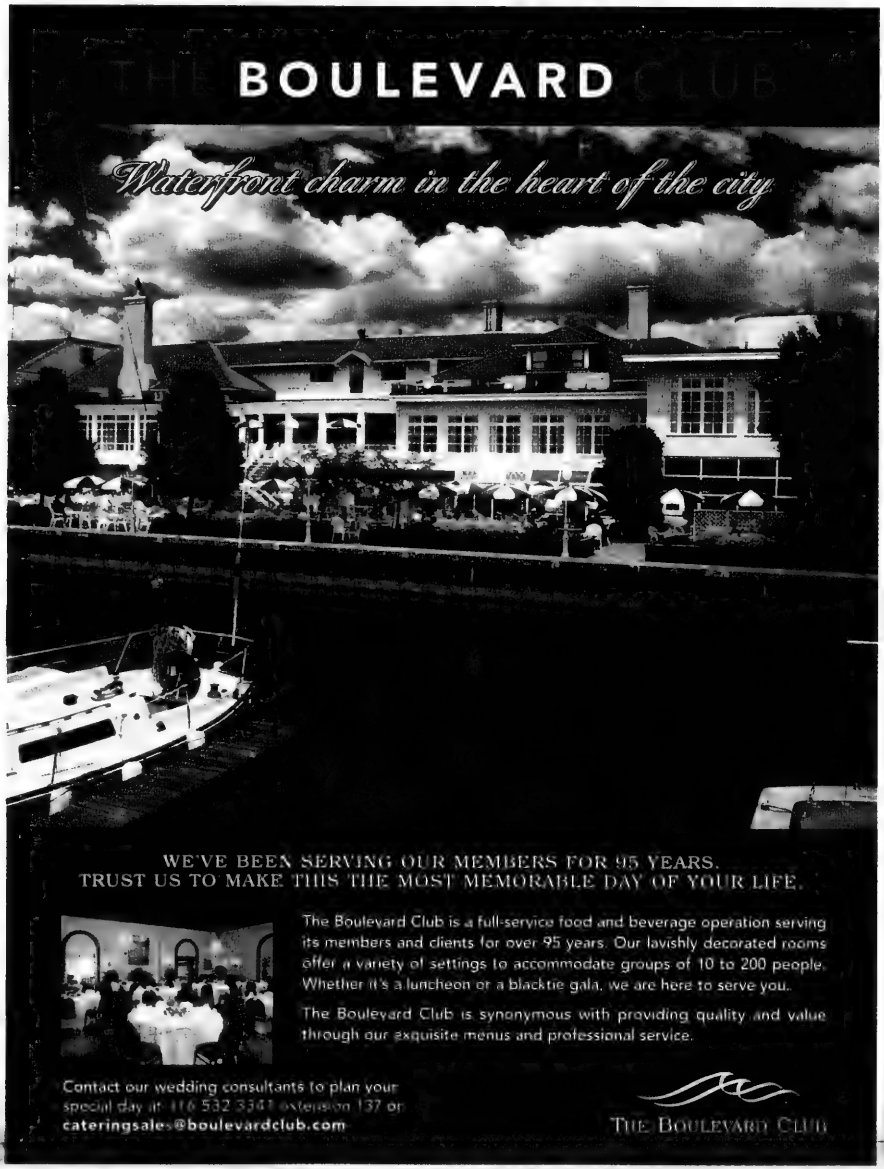
"When shopping, you generally want information without [making] commitments," Levine says.

For Jewish customers, the link to bar/bat mitzvah resources is a unique feature. "We're open to everyone, but we seem to cater to a niche crowd," Levine says.

While that crowd is predominantly Jewish, old and the young visit the Web site, Levine says, adding it's not uncommon for party-planners to seek information from the comfort of their home, without battling road traffic.

And who is the site's typical customer? Levine doesn't miss a beat. "A smart one."

Another directory advertising in this supplement is Eventtips.Com.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THE BOULEVARD CLUB

Mr. Disc Jockey provides 'seamless entertainment'

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Entertainment is responsible for 80 per cent of your party's success, says Ed McMurtry, owner of Mister Disc Jockey (1-877-473-3800, www.mrdj.com). Good music and dancing make the food taste better, and a modest venue looks great, he adds.

McMurtry has been a pioneer in his field since 1989, when many people had never heard the word "interactive." Familiar as the term is now, he gives it an aura of freshness, and welcomes the challenge of trying to please today's sophisticated audience.

"We push the envelope in blurring the line between stage and dance floor, guest and entertainer," he says.

The watchword is "seamless entertainment" – everything blends into a whole. If there's a theme, everything meshes, from dancers to decor.

"If we do Hawaii," McMurtry says, "bring suntan lotion: it's gonna be hot, hot, hot!"

Under parent company Edwin Allen Productions, Mister Disc Jockey competes for awards with such names as the Walt Disney Company and the Calgary Stampede. Corporate clients include Petro Canada and Prudential. This year, Mister Disc Jockey received the Canadian Events Industry Award for Best Entertainment for a Private Individual.

The company serves every demographic from schoolchildren to businesspeople, at events for dozens of participants or thousands. Five of its parties this year have been all-women events, the most recent sponsored by CHUM-FM and Blue Mountain.

Staff are highly trained and attend ongoing workshops to hone their skills and develop new ones, including improvising, impersonating guests and dealing with contingencies like a power outage.

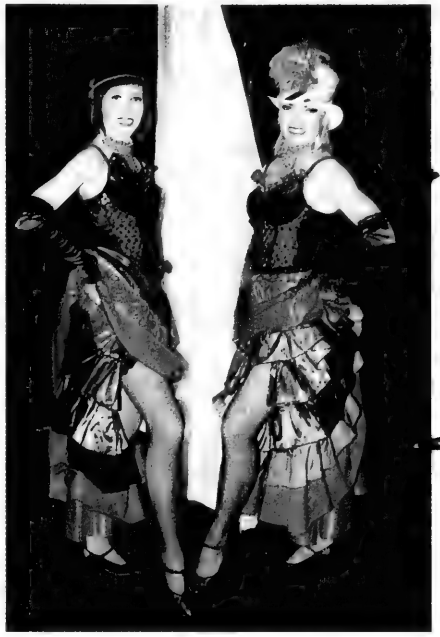
Teamwork is essential, McMurtry says. One team member, Amber Richardson, is enrolled in the Special Event Management course through George Washington University. Another, member, Laurie Rose, is responsible for bar mitzvahs and for developing computerized music systems.

Then there's Paul Saunders, leader of McMurtry's current project, "Loud Neighbours." These are interactive party animals that fill the void between human jukebox and live band.

Cont'd on page B46

"Good thing I didn't tell him about the dirty fork."

Ed McMurtry



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Interactive entertainment meshes everything from dancers to decor

Continued from page B45

In one of the Loud Neighbours' scenes, for example, a flamboyant maitre d' frantically directs waiters around the room, sometimes hindering, sometimes helping. A greasy-spoon cook emerges from the kitchen, slaps down a dish, says to a guest: "Here's your damn dessert," and complains about the performers.

The whole staff, including the maitre d', join the complaints – and segue into the featured act. At one event, with the theme Winter in Paris, they danced the can-can and enticed the guests to join a conga line.

At an entirely different Mr. Disc Jockey event, guests get to make a grand entrance – and how many hosts put their guests on a Chanel runway?

Arriving at a family event, the guests enter the ballroom, only to face an obstacle course of technical equipment, makeup artists, a large plywood backdrop and a surprised stage manager who wants to know what you're doing backstage.

The stage manager asks if they've ever been in a fashion show, and they say no. He tells them to follow Bimbi and Bambi up the stairs around the backdrop – and they find themselves on a real catwalk, as audience members applaud. They join the audience and applaud the next guest, and so on.

Guests at another simchah, which used Mister Disc Jockey's award-winning bat mitzvah theme, Starry Night, guests arrived on the second floor sound stage of a movie studio. After cocktails, Charlie Chaplin directed them into a steel cage freight elevator that lowered them into a pool of mist. Then they rounded the corner to the main sound stage, which was a Starry Night – a large wall lit as a night sky, with shimmering bits of glass to simulate stars.

While the adults enjoyed their meal, the children returned to the upstairs cocktail area, which had been retro-fitted into Studio 54, complete with go-go cages, dancers and fluorescent lighting. An hour later, the kids returned to the main room for a horah and all-ages party.

The idea is to get guests to participate, McMurtry says. An MC, for example, tosses an inflatable rubber mike into the audience. An introvert lets it go by; someone else picks it up, and the MC invites him or her onstage. If that person feels shy, the mike passes on until it is in the hands of someone who wants to perform.

McMurtry offers quality prizes, such as chrome scooters or leather Chicago Bulls jackets.

In case you find it hard to catch up with McMurtry, who's working at events as far away as Hawaii, he invites you to his headquarters at comfortable Edwin Allen Ranch, north of Markham. "It's out here," he says, "that we raise the party animals."

No party is too big, or too small. He promises to make any event unique, "from two speakers and a microphone to a gala."

He likes smaller, intimate parties for their special ambience, he says. It's easier to get guests involved.

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PARTY PLANNER

Tom's Place offers designer quality without the designer price

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

If you're in the market for a designer men's suit without the designer price tag, head over to Tom's Place. (416-596-0297)

While this high-fashion store is in an unlikely place – at 190 Baldwin St., it's next door to a fish store in Kensington Market – the discount designer fashion retailer draws savvy shoppers who want to buy quality name-brand apparel without having to take out second mortgages on their homes.

For men, Tom's Place carries such designer labels as Armani, DKNY, Jones New York, Calvin Klein and Strellson, says store owner Tom Mihalik.

And while he offers both men's and women's clothing, menswear makes up the bulk of the business, he says. "Per square foot, I sell more menswear than anyone else in the city."

In addition to the designer labels, Tom's Place has its own label. "We offer ready-to-wear suits made of cloth from the finest mills in the world. We sell a lot of suits. That's the mainstay of our business."

Suits under the Tom's Place label are manufactured in Montreal from super 120- to 150-grade purchased in Italy. "These are lightweight, soft on the hand. We buy these materials from Cerutti. A lot of these fabrics are not usually available in ready-wear suits."

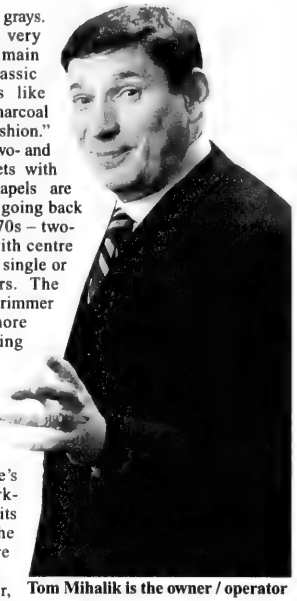
These suits are priced at $695 to $795, while designer DKNY suits retail for $399 to $499. "I recommend the DKNY suits for a younger crowd in their 20s and 30s."

Mihalik says this year there are more wool suits – 100 per cent lightweight wool – and more pin stripes and subtle checks in blue and grays. "Brown is also very important as the main colour. The classic standard colours like navy, black and charcoal never go out of fashion."

He notes that two- and three-button jackets with slightly narrower lapels are the trend. "We're going back to the '60s and '70s – two-button jackets with centre or side vents, and single or no pleat trousers. The emphasis is on a trimmer silhouette and more tailored clothing instead of wide-bodied garments."

The suits should hug the body slightly, he continues. "There's more hand workmanship in the suits than before. The waistlines are narrower."

For the summer, cotton and linen suits in pastel colours are popular here and in Europe, and beige, olive green and black linen suits are important.


Tom Mihalik is the owner / operator of Tom's Place in Kensington Market.

Tom's Place also boasts a large assortment of shirts, ties and other accessories.

These days, Mihalik is showing a lot of white and blue-checked and striped shirts, while ties, which are more subdued, are in regimental stripes and traditional patterns.

The store has been at its current location at 190 Baldwin St. since 1980, the year Mihalik bought his father's second-hand clothing business, which was established shortly after the family emigrated from Hungry in 1958.

The original business was housed in a tiny 500-square-foot space located behind a kosher slaughter house on Kensington Avenue. Mihalik took over the business after his father relocated to Baldwin in a space almost double the size of the original store. Mihalik says initially he was not sure how he would use the additional space. "I didn't know how we were going to make a living."

Cont'd on page B49

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Continued from page B48

Much of the business at the time included leftover merchandise and seconds from manufacturers. "I was selling leather jackets – they were seconds – for $20 to $25. In the '70s [and] early '80s, everything was still sold outdoors."

He credits much of his early success to advice given to him by his friend, Bobby Kutner, a former president of Jones New York. Kutner talked him into buying some designer clothing — Norma Kamali and Jones New York — at a discount, Mihalik recalls.

"I didn't know from labels. I was next to a chicken slaughtering house at the time. But it was a great deal. As soon as people heard I was selling Norma Kamali, we never looked back."

Another big break came when he became friends with Al Israel, then president of a company selling Armani. "Al told me to try selling some Armani men's samples. That gave me a real boost. Everybody began shopping here."

> Classic colours never go out of fashion

Tom's Place, now 12,000 square feet, has expanded to a space more than 10 times the size of the original Baldwin location. Today, it has 28 full-time and 10 part-time employees, among them, sale clerks, seamstresses, tailors and fabric buyers.

"We were one of the first stores to offer off-price designer merchandise," says Mihalik. "From a small beginning we built a big business. Today we do $10 million a year."

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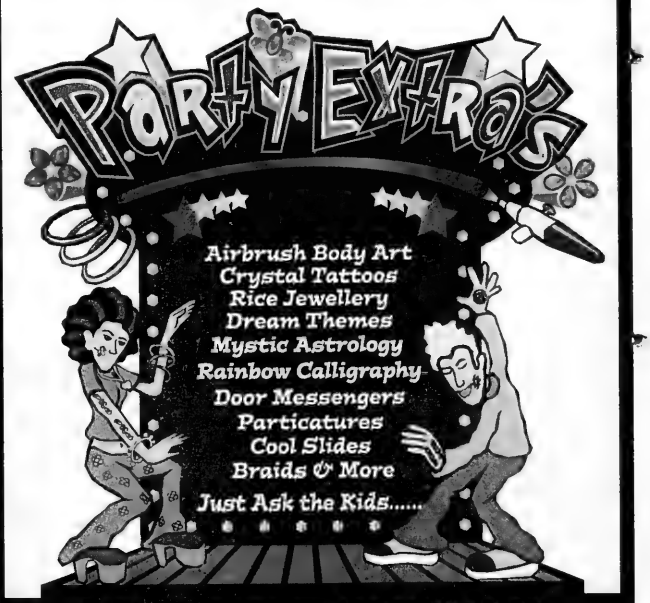

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By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

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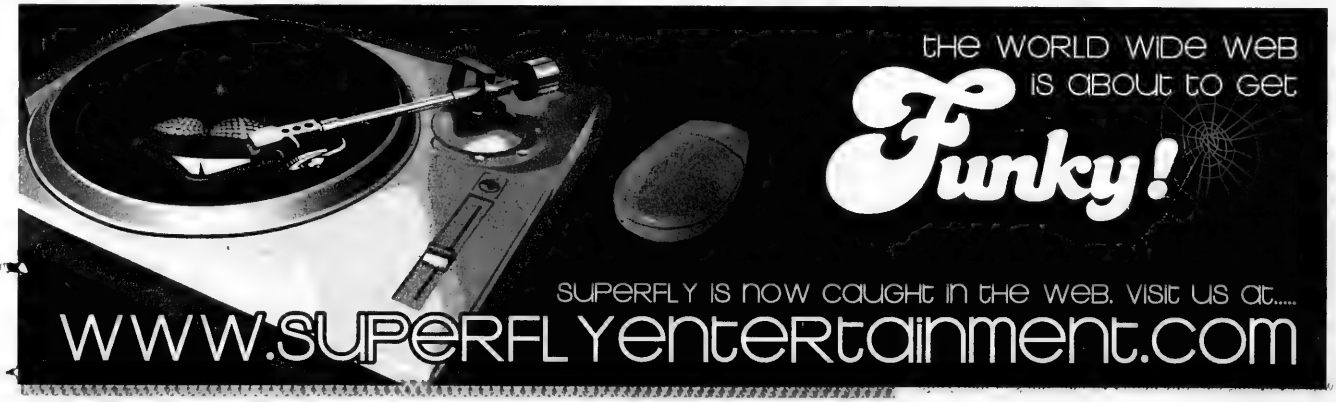
Services are only offered to overnight guests staying in one of the seven luxurious rooms in the 19th-century beaux arts-style Victorian manor.

"Our approach to wellness is based on stress management," Copeland says. "To get the full impact of the wellness benefits, we love for our guests to stay for a couple of nights, so they can really enjoy what we do here.

"We have a very intimate property here. At any given time we only have 16-20 people at the Hillcrest, making it feel more like a home."

Guests at Haldimand Hills in Port Hope, Ont.



One is the loneliest number when the wedding day isn't yours

By TERESA STRASSER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

To all the people who have invited me to events with those two fateful words, "and guest," I apologize.

I'm sorry you have to look through your wedding or shower or bar mitzvah photos and say, "Who's that?" when looking at my date.

"What was his name?" asked my aunt, squinting at the uncomfortable-looking guy standing next to me in a wedding photo.

It's a familiar question for me. In my defence, I'd like to say that at the time, it always seemed that "Mr. And Guest" is "The One," soon to be a permanent fixture in my life and my family. Is it my fault I'm either exceedingly optimistic or hopelessly misguided?

It's not like I intended to burden the world with my endless stream of McBoyfriends. I didn't mean to squeeze that extra platter of mass-produced salmon out of you. I never wanted to give you another mouth to feed, one you don't know or care to know.

It's just that it's no fun going solo.

Case in point: a wedding I once attended in Catalina, Calif. Sure, there were a couple possibilities in the "And Guest" pool, but none seemed close enough to bring. I couldn't handle the guilt, the photo review session, the "Who was that guy?"

I spent the weekend alone, a lone star in a galaxy of couples. All that beauty – the postcard blue ocean, the sailboats – seemed to mock me all weekend long.

> 'I'm beautiful, and you're not'

"Look at me," said the sunset. "I'm beautiful, you're not. Otherwise, you'd have an And Guest, you loser. Goodbye."

I woke up one morning that weekend with an early morning inner vortex of need, that stomach-twisting, "I need my mother or a good cup of coffee" feeling. I went and sat on the sidewalk with my cellphone and called home.

"Just bring a date next time," my mom said. Right. How obvious.

But those magic words "And Guest" have begun to disappear from my invitations. Throwing a big party is expensive, and who wants to foot the bill for someone's disposable guest? I completely understand.

According to the Internet etiquette specialists known as the Wedding Women, unless you're married, engaged or living with a boyfriend, it's not wrong or rude to make you go it alone.

"Sure, everyone has a better time when they're invited with a date, but many couples limit the number of guests by inviting co-habitating partners only," they advise.

Let's face it. Budgetary constraints aside, those wild card "And Guests" can add colour to any affair. Sometimes they're weird computer programmers, or scantily clad new girlfriends, or other gossip-worthy types that give everyone something to discuss. "And Guests" can really break up the monotony of socializing with the usual suspects, even if they are only begrudgingly welcome.

I have to be clear about one thing: it's not so bad to be single. I embrace it. I choose it. I'm not complaining. For now, that's just the way it is for many of us 20-somethings who are taking our time before co-habitating or marrying.

Still, think of us when you're debating whether or not to invite with guest. Picture us driving to an unfamiliar place all alone. Imagine us clutching a hard little dinner roll and scanning the room with a look of calm and confidence artificially etched on our faces. Picture us dancing with your six-year-old nephew because it's that or trade "How do you know the groom?" small talk with an accountant and his wife from Ohio.

Ultimately, it's just as rude to thrust some unwanted guest on a party-giver as it is to dispense with the feelings of single guests. I say, "Trust us." Give us the option of "And Guest" or "And Escort" and let us use our discretion to decide who would be appropriate. Sometimes, we'll mess up.

Trust me, we'll feel guilty about it. Mostly, though, we'll be able to enjoy your celebration more with someone in our corner.

Again, my apologies to anyone I've imposed upon. But the more I think about it, the less I feel bad.

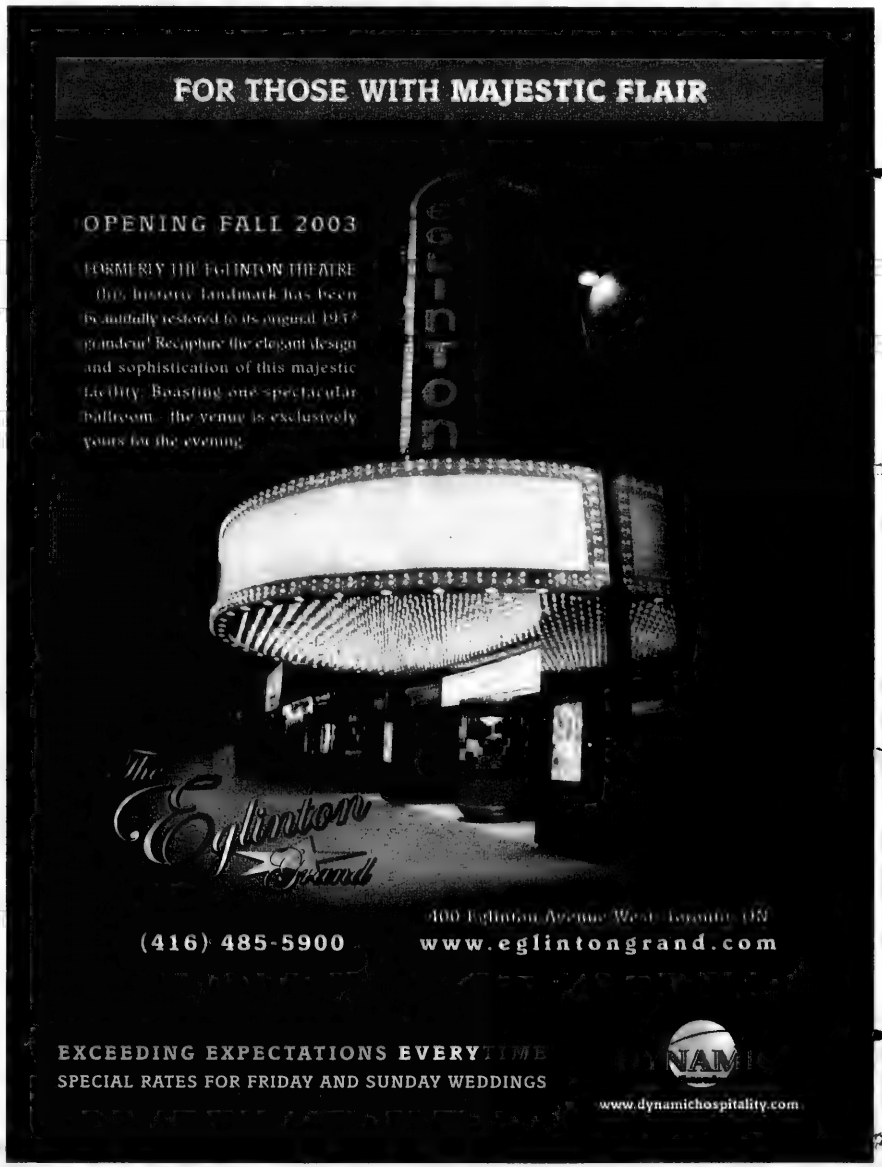
Of all the etiquette advice I read online, I think my favourite was from a *Town & Country Monthly* article.

"While changing times have raised new questions about propriety, the very questions that will help you answer them, thoughtfulness, sensitivity, maturity are the same ones upon which strong marriages are built."

The article continues: "In the end, good old-fashioned manners, and kind hearts, can be the most reliable compass for navigating all questions of etiquette."

Isn't that well put? I thought so.

Teresa Strasser is a 20-something writer and performer in Los Angeles.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PARTY PLANNER

Funky jewelry is hip and foxy

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

It was on a car ride to the University of Western Ontario in 1998 that Jen Kluger and Suzie Orol planted the seeds for Foxy Originals, a line of funky jewelry that can be worn in multiple ways.

Kluger and Orol, both 24 and graduates of the school's Richard Ivey School of Business, began talking about their common passion for jewelry.

"We hadn't known each other until then," Kluger said. "The ride was fateful. Susie's family was involved in jewelry manufacturing, and we both had been designing our own jewelry. It was in both our bloods," said Kluger.

Jen Kluger and Suzie Orol.

Coincidentally, she said,Orol had been in Paris and had come home with a floating bead necklace. "I had been making one. Our partnership was inevitable."

They began designing together, and by December of that year, they registered their name. "We named it Foxy after looking the word up in the dictionary. It means crafty and cunning; it fit us perfectly," said Orol.

They sold their work to fellow students, and then began approaching stores in London, Ont. "They were happy to take the jewelry and help support local students," she said.

Through their sales, they were able to obtain enough money to set up booths in festivals such as the Beaches arts and crafts show, Lilith Fair, the Toronto Pride Festival and the Canadian National Exhibition, as well as festivals in Oakville and Fort Erie.

"Our product and our price made our jewelry a hit. We were affordable so people could make impulse buys. We helped them choose pieces that went with their colouring, or we guided them in buying gifts; we put in that extra time. When you love a product yourself, other people love it," they said.

Selling in shows is a favourite part of their business, they said, because they are meeting their customers face to face. "There is something irreplaceable about selling your own product in public," said Kluger.

In 2001, they received the ACE Canada/CIBC Student Entrepreneur of the Year award, geared towards university students who were running a thriving business with unlimited growth potential.

"We were thrilled. Most of the others were Internet companies, so they recognized the growth potential of an innovative bricks and mortar business. It meant that Canada's business community had sanctified us," said Orol.

When they graduated in April 2002, they went into business full time, and now sell to more than 100 stores including Sporting Life, Over the Rainbow, Storm, Propaganda and the Muskoka Store, as well as on-line at Karmaloop.com.

"We still design all the jewelry ourselves, and before our last collection we ran a focus group so we could see what people wanted to wear.

"Our line stays true to our philosophy of being fun, fashionable and affordable. High quality, high fashion and low maintenance are key when we dream up new designs," said Orol.

Many pendants are reversible in order to offer two unique colour choices and contrasting looks, and "with prices ranging from $18 to $40, people can indulge without spending a fortune."

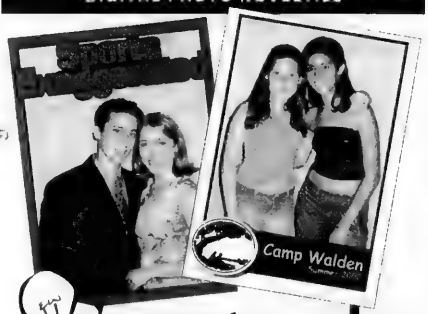
The jewelry, which is designed and manufactured in Toronto is a collection of reversible necklaces, lariats, belts, earrings and rings, made from pewter, and coated in sterling silver with a matte finish. "We also love to experiment with a variety of materials including enamel, faceted Czech glass stones, leather and ultra-suede.

"Our philosophy is to make high fashion jewelry accessible to young working women who do not have frivolous money to spend," they said.

Running their business, they said, is like running a three-ring circus. "We need to focus on sales, marketing, accounting and inventory, and we still design the jewelry. We love it, though."

They have big plans for themselves, they said. "We're going to New York and Los Angeles, and we have a sales representative in Quebec. This summer, we'll be in the Distillery District, the new arts and cultural centre with stores and coffee shops."

DIGITAL PHOTO NOVELTIES



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DJs are there to bring fun to your party

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Like any performer in front of a crowd, DJs should be brimming with energy. Generally, up-tempo, fun parties involve the audience, get Zaidey out of his seat and find partygoers dancing their boredom away.

"If we're not having fun, then the crowd won't be having any fun," says Aaron Kaufman, president of Crown Entertainment (416-204-1900). The one-year-old entertainment company trains DJs from the bottom-up, only offering seasoned entertainers to pump up events. (Kaufman believes too many companies thrust 18-year-old DJs out into the industry.)

But can't bands do the same thing?

"A DJ provides creativity that a band can't replicate," Kaufman says. "The interactivity is very important, and a DJ has to make sure he keeps it fun and exciting."

Fun usually means dancing, and entertainment companies are often accompanied by dancers. For bar mitzvahs, Kaufman usually brings two dancers along with a DJ (and four "intelligent" lights). Crown is known for its customized dance move, the cha-cha slide – a nimble piece of footwork that includes seniors and youths alike.

For the kids at such events, dancing plays second fiddle to the music. Kaufman says every DJ should be knowledgeable about current music, and analyze how the crowd reacts to certain tunes.

Mike Benhaim, who DJs under the name Mikey B. for Spirit Entertainment (416-233-4499), says he can bring along 10,000 songs to please virtually any partygoer. DJs can also travel with a percussionist or a karaoke machine, as Benhaim does with Sing Your Heart Out. More popular as a booth-type entertainment, the karaoke addition allows singers to record their tunes on a VHS tape, at an extra $1,000 above the normal DJ costs.

Mickey B. and his partner Zev of Sing Your Heart Out.

About prices, Benhaim is surprised that clients still believe the days of the $500 DJ are still alive.

"People should be [more] suspicious of a company that doesn't charge enough than one that charges too much," he says, noting that an average 100-person-plus event costs a minimum of $2,500. Kaufman says his high-end events range from $2,400 to $4,500.

No matter the DJ's price, his enthusiasm should be contagious. "A DJ's first priority should be his energy," says Benhaim, a 15-year veteran.

"Each show has to be different," Kaufman says, adding that an accomplished DJ should be personable, open-minded and amusing.

But Benhaim points out that weddings call for a different character. "A wedding is more elegant. You don't want to see a DJ at the Four Seasons wearing a funny hat and a glow-in-the-dark bow tie."

Musical tastes differ, too. A bar mitzvah DJ can survive off top-40 and dance tunes, while a wedding requires a musical range from ballroom to swing to Sinatra. And a competent DJ will not only follow his client's playlist, but also gauge how the party reacts to the songs.

Continued on page B55

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PARTY PLANNER

Jewish mystical texts reveal secrets of intercourse among married couples

By DR. RUTH WESTHEIMER and JONATHAN MARK

In the Jewish marriage ceremony, sexual satisfaction is part of the contract. Under the wedding canopy, a groom promises his bride that he will provide her with comfortable standards of food, shelter and sexual gratification. The holiest men are required to marry. Celibacy is not a virtue; orgasms are.

Judaism is intensely sexual. The medieval rabbi Ramban, or Nachmanides, taught in *Igeret Hakodesh*, *The Holy Letter*: "When sexual intercourse is done for the sake of heaven, there is nothing so holy and pure. God did not create anything that is ugly or shameful. If the sexual organs are said to be shameful, how can it be said that the Creator fashioned something blemished?"

Adds the Zohar, the main Jewish mystical text: "The divine Presence rests on the marital bed when both male and female are united in love and holiness. After the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, the bedroom in each home was considered as an aspect of the once glorious and sanctified Holy of Holies."

How is a young religious couple to know how to go about having good sex?

There's a story in the Talmud about a rabbi, known simply as Rav, who was having sex with his wife on Friday night after a very good Shabbat meal, when he suddenly had a strange feeling that there was a third person in the room.

He got up, looked behind the curtain, in the closet, under the bed, and lo and behold, there was his favourite student, Rabbi Kahana, hiding under the bedsprings.

Rav said, "Is this proper behaviour, for a yeshiva boy to be under the rabbi's bed while the rabbi performs the mitzvah of intercourse?"

The yeshiva boy answered: "Rabbi, what you are doing is a mitzvah from the Torah, and I must learn from you!"

What is interesting here is Judaism's braiding of sexual openness and sexual modesty. The yeshiva boy convinces the rabbi that his audacity is legitimate because knowing how to perform intercourse is a legitimate part of his religious and spiritual education. Nevertheless, the boy understands that he must hide.

This dialectic is ongoing, not only within the tradition, but within each of us who seeks to balance our need for modesty and privacy with our need for sexual education.

Sex, in and of itself, has never been a sin for Jews, nor has it been something not to discuss. Within Sinai's conventional boundaries, it is a mitzvah, or religious commandment. And what is a mitzvah except a blessing, or a guide on how our lives can be more heavenly?

In the Jewish tradition, sex is very much in the eye of the beholder, in the mind where a healthy approach to sex made good sex possible for Jews in the most trying of circumstances and situations.

As the Talmud teaches us in tractate Sanhedrin: If a man and a woman are truly lovers, they can make their bed on the edge of the sword; if their love goes bad, the best bed in the world is not big enough.

Reprinted from Heavenly Sex: Sexuality in the Jewish Tradition, *by Dr. Ruth K. Westheimer and Jonathan Mark, 1995, New York University Press, then reprinted with permission in* Jewish Family & Life: Traditions, Holidays, and Values for Today's Parents and Children *(Golden, 1997) by Yosef I. Abramowitz and Rabbi Susan Silverman.*

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Continued from page B53

Benhaim recounts a story of how an inexperienced DJ played at a bar mitzvah where the client's son requested hip-hop tracks all night.

The DJ agreed and predictably the party died whenever the rap music blared. The DJ decided to switch the rap off, and played some dance-friendly tunes, and some rock, and the guests began to dance. But the boy stormed up to the DJ and shouted for more rap music. The DJ agreed (since the parents went along with their child's wishes) and the 40 kids at the party left the dance floor to loiter outside.

That amateur DJ should have changed tactics, Benhaim says, even if his playlist only demanded rap music.

"You can choose a menu for a caterer, but you don't tell him how to cook the food," Benhaim remarks.

"DJing takes times and skill, and it's a recipe for disaster if you grab your neighbour's kid and tell him to play CDs."

That kind of money-saving tactic will likely result in seated and silent guests, a DJ's nightmare.

Even before a client buys a DJ's time, Kaufman suggests collecting as many free price quotes as possible. Although a company's name may sound reputable, don't always rely on star power, he says. In this competitive industry, there is incentive to sell bigger parties but don't go over a budget because of company pressure.

In the end, though, a DJ has to be a party consultant, a one-night minister of fine arts. If the music pumps with the same energy as the dancers and the DJ's attitude, then you should feel like you can rock 'n' roll all night and party every day.

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Message from Jonathan Wener

As outgoing President, it is my duty and honour to review the accomplishments of the JGH during the past three years. Before I begin, I must say that it has been my privilege to work with an amazingly committed and professional group of people who have dedicated themselves with such passion to the treatment and wellness of our population.

Every success we achieved was the result of a focused, talented and high-energy team, tirelessly overcoming obstacles and working through challenges together, never losing sight of our goals.

Accomplishments:

- It was my responsibility to chair our new five-year strategic plan that set forth the objectives, goals and aspirations of our hospital. This thoughtful, inclusive and thorough process was designed to seek and integrate the points of view of all interest groups in the hospital in order to create a comprehensive plan that everyone would support. The outcome was an unprecedented enthusiasm and high level of cooperation by our doctors, nurses, administration and healthcare professionals who participated in defining priorities, and guided us in meeting the plan's numerous objectives. One of the most significant results of our efforts to date, which gave me great personal satisfaction, was the endorsement of the Comprehensive Cancer Centre Program across all disciplines. We have an extraordinary concentration of clinical oncological scientists and are moving towards a designation by the province of Quebec as a Comprehensive Cancer Centre.
- Due to the ongoing financial reality of running a high calibre, public institution, one of our first objectives was to expand our capital base. We immediately put emphasis on areas where we could obtain relatively quick increases in revenue to fund the many programs operating in the hospital. Revenue generation has increased from $935,911 in 1999 to $1,752,000 at the end of 2002. This was done under the capable leadership of Paul Lowenstein in conjunction with an active committee. We commend Paul and his team for their dedication and willingness to dwell on each and every area to ensure we maximize revenue wherever possible, and at the same time, improve services. This committee's continuous drive for

Continued... please turn to page 18.

New President elected

The hospital is pleased to announce that Mr. Stanley K. Plotnick has been elected President of the Centre Board for a two-year term, effective June 2003.

Having served as Vice-President of the hospital and as a member of the Foundation Board, Mr. Plotnick is familiar with the challenges, strengths and achievements of the Jewish General Hospital, and excited by the opportunity to lead the hospital through what promises to be a period of unprecedented growth and development.

"The Jewish General Hospital is an outstanding health care institution – one of the best in Canada," states Mr. Plotnick. His goals are to continue the hospital's distinguished tradition of striving for excellence in patient care, academia and research. More specifically, in the next few years, special emphasis will be placed on the establishment of a Comprehensive Cancer Centre Program—the first of its kind in the province—and the development of a modern Cardiovascular Sciences Centre. "We remain committed to providing compassionate, first rate care to our patients and to improving the working environment for our outstanding physicians, nurses, professional and support staff," he adds.

Stanley K. Plotnick has a distinguished history of volunteerism, both within the Montreal Jewish community and the broader community. The many leadership positions he has held include Past President of Federation CJA, the Jewish Education Council of Greater Montreal, and Solomon Schechter Academy, Founder and Co-Chairman of Pro Montreal, Editor-in-Chief of InMontreal magazine, Chairman of the 10th Anniversary Special Gala of the Gala des Étoiles and Chairman of the March of the Living.

His commitment to the welfare of others has been recognized with numerous awards including the Distinguished Leadership Award from Federation CJA, and the Outstanding Montrealers Award from the State of Israel Bonds. In May 2002, Mr. Plotnick was the Honoree at the Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner.

Mr. Plotnick is President of AVS Technologies, a company that designs, develops, imports and distributes consumer electronic products. He is a graduate of both McGill University and the Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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A McGill University Teaching Hospital

People in the News

Congratulations to **Dr. Saul Frenkiel**, who was appointed Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology at McGill University. This appointment, which followed a nation-wide search and selection process, includes an appointment as Chief of the Department of Otolaryngology at the McGill University Health Centre.

Dr. Frenkiel, who has been Chief of the JGH Department of Otolaryngology since 1992, is a specialist in rhinology and endoscopic sinus surgery. Under his leadership, the department has built upon its expertise in all aspects of otolaryngology including head and neck surgery. A professor in the McGill University Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Frenkiel is dedicated to the practice and promotion of academic medicine and has been voted Best Teacher by students in the McGill Department of Otolaryngology.

Dr. Frenkiel is the author of over 150 publications, including peer-reviewed journal articles, textbook chapters and multi-media works. He has been an invited lecturer and presenter at many national and international conferences, where he has presented the results of his work in the subspecialties of nasal and sinus surgery, nasal airflow testing and the molecular biology of chronic sinusitis.

A warm welcome as well to **Dr. Martin Gyger** of the Division of Hematology. An associate professor of Medicine at McGill University, Dr. Gyger is Director of our hospital's Stem Cell Transplantation Program and Director of the Apheresis Unit. Dr. Gyger specializes in hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, a relatively simple, painless procedure that does not require surgery or hospitalization. In patients suffering from Hodgkin's or non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, the procedure has a 30-50% success rate. His primary research interest is non myeloablative allogeneic stem cell transplantation. This procedure, which is more complicated and carries with it the risk of rejection, involves transplanting bone marrow from a relative (usually a sibling), and is reserved for patients whose own stem cells are too contaminated.

We welcome **Dr. Walter Gotlieb**, who recently joined the hospital's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Gotlieb, who is an Associate Professor at McGill University, has the distinction of being the first gynaecologic oncologist at the Jewish General Hospital. (There are only 1000 such specialists world-wide.) Gynaecologic cancers include cancer of the vulva, vagina, uterus, cervix and ovaries.

After earning his medical degree in his native Belgium, Dr. Gotlieb spent six years pursuing subspecialty training in the United States, at both the National Institutes of Health and the University of California at Los Angeles. He was then recruited by Tel Hashomer Hospital in Israel, where he founded and developed the department of gynaecologic-oncology.

It was the challenge of doing the same here, combined with our hospital's advanced translational research capability, that attracted Dr. Gotlieb to the Jewish General Hospital. In fact, his primary research interest is in developing new treatments that are based on genetic engineering, particularly for ovarian cancers.

"My goals are to provide specialized services to patients with gynaecologic cancers as well as access to new, innovative and improved treatment options," Dr. Gotlieb explains.

Congratulations to **Kotiel Berdugo** who has been appointed Director of Technical Services. "My goals are to raise the quality standards of the division's services, improve the physical facilities of the patient care units and to efficiently manage the many different expansion projects within the hospital," he explains.

The Division of Technical Services at the JGH consists of the following departments: Maintenance, Security, Housekeeping, Laundry, Mail Room, Purchasing, Telecommunications, Central Supply and Boiler Room. The division is also responsible for overseeing all of the various renovation projects throughout the hospital, consulting with staff members to understand their needs, supervising architects, contractors and other specialists, and ensuring that projects are completed on time and on budget.

Continued... please turn to page 12.

Campaign Launch Aims to Deliver Dream

On May 12, 2003, the Jewish General Hospital launched its most ambitious campaign in the hospital's seventy-year history.

CAMPAIGN TEAM

We are proud to introduce the team of outstanding leaders and visionaries who are committed to the success of this ambitious campaign:

HONOURARY CHAIRMEN
Stephen Bronfman
Hugh Hallward
Honourable Pierre Marc Johnson
Dr. Bernard J. Shapiro, O.C.

CHAIRMEN
Morton Brownstein
Edward Wiltzer

ADVISORS
Marvin Corber, CM
Steven Cummings
Boris G. Levine

CABINET MEMBERS
James Alexander
Evelyn Bloomfield-Schachter
Harold Brownstein
Leonard Ellen
Brahm Gelfand
Leo Goldfarb
Aubie J. Herscovitch
Gail Karp
Senator E. Leo Kolber
Mark Krakower
Micheline Martin
Alice Raby
Stephen Reitman
Harvey Rosenbloom
Allan Schouela
Jeff Segel
Mark Sherman
Bernard Stotland
John Swidler
Joyce Tanner
Gary Ulrich
Stephen Vineberg
John Waxlax
Jonathan Wener

Left to right: Mark Krakower, Larry Fisher, Stephen Bronfman.

Left to right: Steven Cummings, Marvin Corber, Sue Carol Isaacson, Alvin Segal.

Reaching out to the greater Montreal community, guests were given a unique opportunity to talk with leading physicians, surgeons, researchers, department heads and other medical personnel of the JGH about the current state of medicine and their goals for the future.

The campaign demonstrates our combined determination to take the Jewish General Hospital to new levels of medical service, patient care and research. Emphasis was drawn to the four "pillars" being addressed: the Comprehensive Cancer Centre Program, the Cardiovascular Sciences Centre, the expansion of the Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research and department enhancement and support.

The multi-media event featured presentations that highlighted critical hospital needs, departmental profile brochures and the premiere of the "You Have the Power to Heal" campaign video.

The campaign team, championed by Morton Brownstein and Edward Wiltzer, clearly elucidated the substantial dollars needed to build this hospital for the future—a need that requires the recruitment and retention of top-notch professionals, additional and renovated space, facilities and equipment, and the expansion of our overcrowded research facility. While the campaign's goals are ambitious, indeed, they accurately reflect the real needs of a first class medical institution in this, our 21st century.

The message is clear—our number one commitment at the Jewish General Hospital is to provide patients with quality care that meets the highest standards. The generosity of our donors will ensure that our commitment is fulfilled.

Multidisciplinary care

— the key to recovery

As anyone who has ever been hospitalized is aware, recovery from serious illness or injury often requires input from a team of health care professionals, each with his or her own area of expertise. In this issue of the JGH News, we shine a spotlight on a handful of allied health care professionals—well-trained, highly skilled individuals who, working as part of a multidisciplinary team, are dedicated to helping patients regain their strength, health and autonomy.

Speech therapy

Imagine the frustration of knowing the words in your head but being unable to formulate them verbally so that you can express your needs, thoughts and ideas. This is a common challenge for stroke patients and by extension, their families.

"The goal is to train the brain to compensate for deficits while building on the skills that patients have retained," explains speech pathologist Lisa Hargraves, a member of the JGH Stroke Team. This team, coordinated by nurse Marie-Ann Yang, provides a holistic approach to patient care—an approach that research has shown to be extremely beneficial for patients.

The Department of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology consists of four speech pathologists and four audiologists. They work virtually everywhere in the hospital and have a major presence in medicine, neurology, oncology and the head and neck and otolaryngology services.

Speech pathologist Lisa Hargraves conducts a swallowing evaluation with patient Rose Tannenbaum.

When meeting patients for the first time, Ms. Hargraves conducts thorough swallowing, language and speech assessments. Swallowing disorders, also known as dysphagia, are a common side effect of stroke and must be assessed immediately. This condition is potentially fatal, as patients who cannot properly protect their airways are in danger of choking or aspirating food or liquid into the lungs. Ms. Hargraves tests patients' oral pharyngeal functioning by providing them with different consistencies of food and liquids to see what they are able to tolerate. During the course of their stay in the hospital, she will continuously monitor their progress, upgrading the consistency of food as their ability to swallow improves.

"There is a lack of knowledge about swallowing disorders among the general public," notes Ms. Hargraves. "That's why it's important to provide patients and families with lots of education about safe eating strategies and compensatory techniques."

Language and speech assessments are also important. "Usually, there is an overlap between speech and language difficulties, but it is possible to have one without the other. It depends on the extent of the damage and the location of the stroke in the brain," Ms. Hargraves explains. A language assessment evaluates the patient's ability to comprehend and express language, often including an evaluation of reading and writing ability. Speech assessment involves checking for difficulties with articulation and voice production. Here again, patient and family education is important.

Once the assessments are completed, Ms. Hargraves works closely with the patient and family, teaching them techniques to enhance communication. These include communicating in a calm and quiet environment free of distractions, giving information to patients in smaller pieces so that they can process and absorb it more easily and incorporating non-verbal methods of communication such as using gestures, visual aids and other tactile cues.

Occupational therapy

"As an occupational therapist, my goal is to help people regain the skills they need to live independent and productive lives," explains Gabi Rosberger, who specializes in occupational therapy for the geriatric population. Examples of skills that we take for granted include walking, getting dressed, bathing and cooking.

Occupational therapist Gabi Rosberger fabricates a splint for a patient.

Studies show that it often takes patients longer to recover their functional autonomy than it does to recover from the illness that necessitated hospitalization. "The connection between autonomy and overall health is not always clear to patients and their families. Incapacity is not an inevitable part of aging," notes Ms. Rosberger. Consequently, education—of families as well as staff—is an essential component of her work.

An occupational therapy consultation begins with a review of the patient's history, medical chart and interviews with the patient, family and caregiver(s). Functional and cognitive evaluations are designed to determine what the patient is capable of doing and what his or her maximum level of functional autonomy was prior to the current illness. Home visits, in the presence of caregivers or family members whenever possible, provide the occupational therapist with the opportunity to assess the patient's skills and identify any deficits in terms of everyday living. "Sometimes, small alterations to the home environment are all that is necessary to help caregivers maintain the patient's safety," Ms. Rosberger explains.

Occupational therapists also recommend and make adaptive aids to facilitate autonomy. These include adaptations for more effective seating and positioning of the elderly to prevent bedsores and skin breakdown, orthotics such as splints and slings, and special aids to maximize the patient's independence in self care activities.

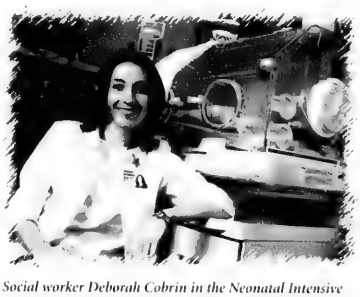
Interdisciplinary collaboration is an integral part of the philosophy of the Division of Geriatrics. "We are all partners who rely on each other's expertise," says Ms. Rosberger. "Our biggest ally is the family and it's our job to help family members create a comfortable and safe environment where the patient will function at the highest possible level of autonomy."

Six occupational therapists work throughout the hospital, with a particularly active presence in the Division of Geriatrics and the Department of Psychiatry. In addition to providing services to patients, the Department of Occupational Therapy provides staff with ergonomic consultations upon referral, to help minimize the risk of injury.

Social work

In North America, there is a tendency to view new parenthood as a happy and beautiful time coupled with an unwillingness to accept that the birth of an infant can be a cause of great stress. When problems do arise, when women and men exhibit difficulty adjusting to their new role as parents, when high-risk psychosocial issues threaten to endanger the safety of infants, social worker Deborah Cobrin steps in to assess the situation, help smooth the transition to parenthood, make recommendations, develop action plans, and, when necessary, contact the CLSC and/or Youth Protection.

"My first priority is the well-being of the infant, and I try to be available to help parents with their concerns," states Ms. Cobrin. "I'm fortunate that the nursing team on the Maternal Child Health Unit and in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit are very attuned to social issues and respect my expertise in this area," she continues.



Social worker Deborah Cobrin in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit where she helps parents of premature newborns deal with their concerns.

Dr. Stéphane Richard a recipient of the 2002 Young Investigator Award

Dr. Stephane Richard, a recipient of the 2002 Young Investigator Award from the National Cancer Institute of Canada, is an example of the many promising young researchers working at the hospital today.

Recruited to the hospital's Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research in 1995, Dr. Richard is a project director in both the Terry Fox Molecular Oncology Group and the Bloomfield Centre for Research on Aging. As well, he is an Associate Professor at McGill University. His research interest is concentrated on two areas: cancer and multiple sclerosis (MS). More specifically, he discovered proteins that are implicated in each of these diseases.

Recognized as an outstanding young scientist, Dr. Richard was responsible for identifying a novel nuclear structure in cancer cells, called sam68, that appears to correlate with how malignant a tumour is. In an experiment using 200 breast cancer cells stained with the sam68 antibody, he found that approximately 30% of the cells have this nuclear body. "This may help in grading tumours, which is important because accurate diagnosis often leads to more precise, effective treatment," explains Dr. Richard. Scientists greeted the publication of his paper in Molecular Biology of the Cell (1999) with great enthusiasm, and he was awarded the Young Investigator Award as a result of this work.

In the area of MS, Dr. Richard is studying a gene related to the sam68 protein that exists in quaking mice—so named because they lack myelin, the protective covering of the central nervous system (the brain and spinal cord). MS is an autoimmune disease in which the body's own immune system malfunctions, attacking the myelin and often destroying it in patches. The disease is especially prevalent in northern latitudes and countries like Canada that are farther away from the equator.

Through his research, published in the journal Neuron (2002), Dr. Richard has demonstrated that the quaking proteins are directly involved in the process of myelination. The next step, which he is now examining, is to try to use the quaking protein to stimulate myelination (a process called remyelination). "This can potentially lead to the development of an effective strategy for treating MS and reversing its debilitating effects," notes Dr. Richard.

A native of Montreal, Dr. Richard completed his B.Sc. in Biochemistry and Ph.D. in the Division of Experimental Medicine at McGill University. He completed post-doctoral training in a unique program that combined industrial and academic experience at Pfizer in Connecticut and Washington University in St. Louis, considered the Harvard of the Midwest. Focusing on immunology and the signaling process, it was here that he discovered the sam68 protein. "Working in both worlds—industry and academia—was a unique experience that gave me a good understanding of the needs and challenges in each of these environments," Dr. Richard says.

When he was offered a position at the LDI and the opportunity to be part of the faculty of McGill, he was excited by the chance to return to Montreal. In addition to the award from the National Cancer Institute of Canada, Dr. Richard was recently named a William Dawson Scholar by McGill University. This award recognizes junior professors for their outstanding achievements in research and academia.

ANNOUNCING AN EXCITING NEW PROGRAM

Learn from the experts about Cancer Prevention & Treatment, Infectious Diseases, Diabetes Prevention, Heart Health, Aging, and more…

JGH Mini-Med School

A six-part public lecture series featuring JGH physicians and researchers

Tuesdays from September 23 – October 28, 2003

Limited space available

Details at www.jgh.ca or call 340-8222 x3337

This program is made possible by an unrestricted grant from Pfizer Canada Inc.

Neurosurgeon establishes links with colleagues in China

In the fall of 2002, Dr. Gérard Mohr, Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery, spent two weeks in China, where he was an invited guest lecturer at the Beijing Neurosurgical Institute as well as visiting professor and guest lecturer at the First Guangzhou International Neuro-Oncology Meeting.

The invitation to the latter had an interesting Jewish General Hospital connection—it was organized by Professor Chen Zhong Ping, who was a research fellow at our hospital's Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research from 1993 1999, and is now Chairman of Neurosurgery at the Sun Yat-Sen Cancer Hospital in Guangzhou.

Overall, Dr. Mohr was extremely impressed by the modern and spacious treatment facilities he visited, all equipped with the latest technology and staffed by highly skilled, knowledgeable neurosurgeons and support staff. The Beijing Neurosurgical Institute, for example, is a 330-bed hospital with 18 operating rooms, where 95 neurosurgeons provide treatment in 10 distinct neurosurgical services including skull base, cerebrovascular, pediatrics and spine surgery. While visiting China, Dr. Mohr discovered that the country's health system appears to be undergoing major changes, with a private system being introduced alongside the public one.

"I was able to establish valuable contacts which will allow us to exchange fellows and possibly scholars as well as to collaborate on various research projects including epidemiology of brain tumors and minimally invasive endoscopic skull base surgery," Dr. Mohr noted. In fact, this July, Dr. Gong will arrive from China to undertake a one-year fellowship in image guided endoscopic pituitary microsurgery under the supervision of Dr. Mohr.

Surgical Education Resource Room

Since it opened in December 2002, the newly created Surgical Education Resource Room, dedicated to Dr. Harvey Sigman, has been a hit with surgical residents, medical students and surgeons.

Featuring the latest in multimedia and presentation equipment as well as educational resources such as videos describing current surgical techniques, and computer equipment for on-line searches (linked to the Health Sciences Library), this resource room encourages self-study and the preparation of case presentations. Teaching rounds are also held here.

Celebrating the completion of the Surgical Education Resource Room dedicated to Dr. Harvey Sigman, left to right: Dr. Martin Black, Dr. Anna Derossis, Dr. Harvey Sigman, Dr. Bernard Shapiro, Mr. Henri Elbaz.

"Our goal is to foster educational fervor in our medical students and residents as well as ourselves," explains Dr. Anna Derossis, Director of Surgical Education. "In an era where ambulatory care has changed the face of surgical practice, where techniques are rapidly evolving and where evidence-based practice is the norm, we need to provide our students with a conducive learning environment equipped with the necessary resources," she adds.

At a special dedication of the room, Dr. Harvey Sigman, Chief of the Division of General Surgery, was honoured for his longstanding commitment to medical and surgical education. In speaking about Dr. Sigman, Dr. Bernard Shapiro, O.C., former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University noted that, "…he teaches us all what it is to be clever, knowledgeable, modest and empathetic… We, his colleagues, are lucky to have him as a model of quiet yet supremely competent integrity."

Also at the dedication, Dr. Martin Black, Chief of the Department of Surgery, announced the appointment of Dr. Anna Derossis as Director of Surgical Education at the hospital as well as the formation of a committee to address educational issues in surgery. Since joining the JGH in October 2001, one of Dr. Derossis' first priorities was the creation of this educational resource room. An Assistant Professor of Surgery and Oncology at McGill University, Dr. Derossis completed a master's degree in medical education and then obtained specialty training in breast surgery.

Helping Children Cope With Death

"Sorrow, like the river, must be given vent, lest it erode its banks."

Rabbi Earl A. Grollman

In a misguided effort to shield children from pain, they are often not included in discussions about death, noted psychologist Dr. Judy Gradinger and Child Psychiatry Head Nurse Rosemary Short in an informative Nursing Grand Rounds presentation entitled Discussing Death With Children. Both emphasized that children need to be told about death, with explanations that are clear, honest, straightforward and appropriate to their chronological age.

Children of all ages tend to be egocentric and concerned about their own emotional needs and sense of security. They require reassurance that their needs will be met and should be encouraged to express their emotions and to mourn.

Often, however, when parents are preoccupied with their own grief and other serious issues, they neglect to include children in these discussions. After the age of five, the child should attend the funeral, but someone who is not a chief mourner should be assigned to sit with the child and take care of him or her. "A child who is denied the opportunity to say goodbye at the funeral or the cemetery will feel even more abandoned," Dr. Gradinger explained.

Very young children (age 3-6) in particular, take things literally. They also have no sense of time and think that death is reversible. Therefore, euphemisms such as "passed on" or "went to Heaven" should be avoided because to a young child, this sounds like their relative went on a trip and will return. Children can be told that when people die, they can't think, feel, walk or talk.

While older children (age 6-9) begin to understand the finality of death, they may also fear that death is contagious or that even a healthy parent will soon die. Anger at being abandoned, guilt at having wished ill on someone in the heat of the moment, and grief are common emotions among children age 9-12, whose schoolwork may also suffer. "It is very important for children to understand that they were not responsible for the death of a relative," Dr. Gradinger stressed.

Teenagers also feel anger and guilt but may try to cover up their emotions. Just because they are hanging out with friends and seem to be fine doesn't mean that they are not suffering, noted Dr. Gradinger. Teenagers who do not get help with their feelings may indulge in risk-taking behaviour.

While expressions of anger and sadness are common, children who exhibit the following behaviours for several months after the death of a loved one may require professional help: persistent difficulty talking about the dead parent, aggressive behaviour, anxiety in the form of behaviours such as excessive clinging to the surviving parent or phobias about going to school, sleeping difficulties and/or persistent nightmares, eating disturbances, marked social withdrawal, school difficulties or serious academic reversal, persistent self blame or guilt, self destructive behaviour or expressing a desire to die.

The Child Psychiatry Service can be reached at 340-8222, ext. 5994.

HOPE & COPE

Denim & Diamonds

Sponsored by Parasuco Jeans and organized by the Young Adult Division, the Denim & Diamonds bash raised $75,000 for the hospital.

The dynamic organizing committee (left to right): Rita Fargnoli, Judi Milstein, Elayne Baron Starr, Pamela Ungar Berbrier, Ingrid Zimmer Rosenbloom, Lisa Singer Miller, Pam Salzman, Sheryl Miller Adessky, Debra Schwartz, Mona Iny Shiri, Randi Milstein Cohen, Debbie Bridgeman.

Golf tournament

Each year, a portion of the proceeds raised at the Linda Saab Golf Tournament is generously donated to Hope & Cope, a cancer support program based at the hospital. Pictured here, tournament organizers Charlie Belozian (left) and Mel Peress (right) present a cheque to Hope & Cope President Susan Polisuk and Chairman Sheila Kussner.

Opening of the Cancer Prevention Centre

The JGH Cancer Prevention Centre (CPC) was officially inaugurated in October 2002.

Headed by oncologist and cancer researcher **Dr. Michael Pollak**, the CPC provides specialized, up-to-date information and resources to the public, and is committed to advancing research efforts in the field of cancer prevention. With affiliated experts in all of the major medical and surgical disciplines, including Associate Director Dr. Michael Dworkind, the CPC offers practical medical, lifestyle, dietary and screening advice to teach about ways to reduce the risk of developing certain forms of cancer.

The staff of the Cancer Prevention Centre. From left to right: Sonya Zaor, Kimberly Kotar, Rupa Narasimhadevara, Dr. Michael Pollak, Dr. William Foulkes and Nora Wong.

Through its medical and counselling services, the CPC staff informs patients about the genetic risks of developing cancer and provides referrals for appropriate screening tests. Smoking cessation, nutrition programs and lifestyle recommendations to reduce the risk of cancer are also offered.

The Cancer Prevention Centre is located in Room C-107, and can be reached by calling 340-8222, extension 4947.

Herzl Family Practice Centre offers unique breastfeeding program

Research shows that within the first six weeks post-partum, 40% of mothers report problems with breastfeeding. The newly established Goldfarb Breastfeeding Program in the Herzl Family Practice is an innovative clinic that provides new and expecting mothers with information, guidance and coaching about breastfeeding.

Generously supported through a donation by Robert and Lenore Goldfarb, the program is the brainchild of **Dr. Perle Feldman**. "Most doctors know that breastfeeding is good," says Dr. Feldman. "But they haven't learned how to manage and treat breastfeeding problems." While other breastfeeding programs exist in Montreal, this is the only one to have the involvement of physicians. One of its main objectives is to increase the knowledge and skills of family medicine, pediatrics and obstetrics residents. In addition to Dr. Feldman, the program is staffed by lactation consultants **Carole Dobrich** and **Lenore Goldfarb** as well as three obstetrics fellows.

Lactation consultant Carole Dobrich (left) assists a new mother.

At the official launch, Lenore Goldfarb shared her personal experience and motivation for supporting the program. Although her child was being carried by a surrogate mother, she was determined to breastfeed. After contacting Dr. Jack Newman, a Toronto based pediatrician and world-renowned breastfeeding specialist, she agreed to go on a protocol to induce lactation. She subsequently breastfed her son successfully for 8 months, went on to co-author a guide entitled "The Protocols for Induced Lactation: A Guide for Maximizing Breastmilk Production," and took courses at the Lactation Institute in California. Thanks to the assistance of Dr. Feldman and Carole Dobrich, she was able to complete her practical training and receive certification to become a licensed lactation consultant.

The Goldfarb Breastfeeding Program is open by appointment Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. A drop-in breast-feeding support group is held on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling 340-8253.

JGH hosts Jewish Chamber of Commerce power breakfast

On April 30th, approximately 60 young businesspeople from the Jewish Chamber of Commerce (JCC) gathered at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis – Jewish General Hospital (JGH) for a power breakfast.

Justin Vineberg, Co-Chairman of the JCC, said that the objective of the organization is to provide its members with networking and outreach opportunities.

Hospital President Jonathan Wener compared the hospital, with a budget of $200 million (including research grants), to the economy of a small city. He spoke about the business of the JGH, the recent introduction of successful revenue generation ventures, and future business opportunities. "As the greatest gift of the Jewish community to Quebec, the hospital is about take-home value. There is a direct relationship between input and output, and if you offer your time and your expertise, you will find it a very satisfying experience," concluded Mr. Wener.

Tour of the Emergency Department.

Executive Director Henri Elbaz spoke about the hospital's results-oriented management philosophy and practice. He explained that the goal is to achieve and preserve high standards in the three axes of the hospital — patient care, teaching and research — and to do so in a fiscally responsible manner. "As one of the most important and most efficient hospitals in Quebec, we constantly evaluate patients' needs and integrate quality issues into every meeting and every process," he noted.

Dr. Marc Afilalo, Chief of the Emergency Department described how the hospital resolved the overcrowding crisis that still exists in many emergency rooms, not only in Quebec, but throughout the world. Treating an average of 170 patients per day, many of whom have complex medical problems, the JGH Emergency Department is one of the busiest in Montreal. "Our goal is to treat patients in a dignified and humane way. The key to our success is teamwork — within the Emergency Department itself, with other medical departments and our Department of Nursing, and with the Board and the Administration, who made solving the overcrowding crisis a top priority," said Dr. Afilalo.

The breakfast was followed by tours of the Emergency Department, led by ER physicians Drs. Stephen Rosenthal, Richard Kohn and Willis Grad.

Introducing Kotiel Berdugo

Continued from page 4.

Mr. Berdugo first joined the JGH in 1994 as Chief of the Boiler Room, a position he held for five years. From 1999-2002, he was in charge of Plant Operations and Maintenance. His responsibilities included supervising and managing all phases of construction and renovation projects from the initial conceptualization to finalization. Examples include the installation of a linear accelerator and the expansion of the Neurology Division. He is particularly proud of three energy conservation projects he initiated, all of which were self-financing. In fact, these projects, which saved the hospital a total of $7.5 million, recently won the Prix d' excellence en gestion de l'efficacité énergétique from the Association of Quebec Hospitals.

After completing his Master's degree in applied sciences (mathematics) from the Université Paul Sabatier de Toulouse in France, Mr. Berdugo graduated from Ecole Polytechnique (Université de Montréal) with a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering. He later completed additional studies, earning a post-graduate diploma in management from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales de Montréal. Prior to joining the JGH, he worked as a factory engineer at Peerless Electric and a project engineer at Racan-Carrier Co.

Training lab scientists

Drs. George Chong and Elizabeth MacNamara are doing their part to train the next generation of laboratory scientists. As part of the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network (CDGN)/ Institute of Genetics, CIHR funded program called "Gene Researcher for a Week", they welcomed Ms. Audrey Dussereault, a CEGEP student from Lennoxville, Quebec, who was one of the 16 lucky students chosen out of 330 applicants to this Canada-wide program. Dr. Will Foulkes, JGH Director of the Program in Cancer Genetics, and a principal investigator of the CDGN commented,

"This will be a great opportunity for Audrey to experience molecular genetic diagnosis as it actually happens in the hospital, with real live DNA samples being tested for mutations in important cancer-related genes."

Dr. Foulkes also arranged for Audrey to spend time in the Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory.

Managing Menopause

This article is based on two lectures that took place in March 2003. The first of these was a public lecture entitled "Sex After Menopause and Hormone Replacement Therapy", featuring Dr. Wulf Utian, Executive Director of the North American Menopause Society, and Dr. Laurie Betito, sex therapist and psychologist, organized by the JGH Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in conjunction with the Quebec Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. The second was a lecture sponsored by the Auxiliary's Roslyn Liebling Memorial Body & Soul Health Series, featuring Dr. Louise Miner, an obstetrician-gynecologist and Director of Obstetrical Ultrasound at the JGH.

The average age of menopause, defined as the cessation of menses, is 51. Perimenopause includes the period that begins from 2-8 years preceding menopause and the first year after the final menstrual period.

Perimenopause is characterized by fluctuating hormone levels, irregular cycles and the onset of symptoms that may increase as menopause approaches. Symptoms can include hot flashes and night sweats, insomnia, emotional unrest, skin aging and dryness, short-term memory problems and decreased sexual desire. Not all women are affected to the same degree. For example, while 85% of women report having hot flashes, this symptom is severe enough to cause major difficulties with sleep and daily activities in only 15% of these women.

Experts agree that lifestyle factors can play an important role in minimizing the severity of symptoms as well as delaying and/or preventing the onset of health problems. According to Dr. Louise Miner, the perimenopausal period is an ideal time for women to develop a healthy lifestyle. Regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight, quitting smoking, cutting back on alcohol and caffeine, controlling cholesterol levels, hypertension and diabetes, are all essential. It is a little known yet startling fact that consumption of two or more alcoholic drinks per day increases the risk of breast cancer by 60%. By the same token, less than four hours of exercise per week also substantially increases the risk of breast cancer.

As Dr. Miner explained, there are alternatives to hormone therapy that many women have found helpful in alleviating symptoms of menopause. In addition to lifestyle changes mentioned above, strategies include drinking cool water during hot flashes, dressing in layers, using moisturizers and lubricants, keeping a regular sleep schedule, and engaging in relaxing activities such as yoga and meditation. Short-term use of St. John's Wort for mild to moderate depression as well as conventional antidepressants also can be helpful.

The controversy and confusion surrounding hormone replacement therapy (HRT) has caused fear and panic, acknowledged Dr. Wulf Utian, Executive Director of the North American Menopause Society. The decision as to whether to prescribe hormones is based on several factors including an individualized risk assessment for every patient (based on family history and lifestyle factors), the current recommendations in the medical literature, the severity of symptoms and the patient's own wishes. "Selected medications can be prescribed to specific women based on a risk-benefit assessment," explained Dr. Utian.

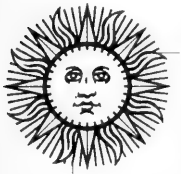
At the Menopause Symposium, held on March 21st, a plaque was presented to Dr. Morrie Gelfand, Director of the McGill Menopause Clinic and former Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the department over a period of 48 years. Pictured with Dr. Gelfand (3rd from left) are: Dr. Togas Tulandi, Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Norma Gelfand and JGH Executive Director Henri Elbaz.

Short-term hormonal replacement therapy (four years or less) to alleviate specific symptoms of menopause, as opposed to HRT for prevention, is considered safe. HRT has many benefits including protection from osteoporosis, the alleviation of hot flashes, a reduced risk of colorectal cancer, and a reduced risk of developing Alzheimer's disease (although it will not slow down the progression of this disease if it has already started). Dr. Miner noted that HRT should be avoided by women with a strong family history of breast cancer (mother, sister, aunt), serious heart, liver or kidney disease and/or a strong family history of blood clots or thrombophilias. "In consultation with their gynecologists, women should reassess the need for HRT on an annual basis and when new medical information becomes available," suggested Dr. Miner.

Capital Campaign Launched May 12, 2003

Campaign co-chairmen, Morton Brownstein and Edward Wiltzer.

Honourary chairman, Dr. Bernard J. Shapiro, O.C.



Hold The Date...
for the hottest party of the summer!!

Thursday, July 24, 2003

Leadership JGH
6th Annual Tennis Classic

Fiesta Sun Sets

at

Jarry Park Tennis Centre

Proceeds to purchase equipment for the Division of Pulmonary Medicine

For further information or to register, please contact Elana Sckolnick, Director of Special Events at 340-8222, ext. 5836.

Two winners: Domenic Diaco and the Comprehensive Cancer Centre Program

Domenic Diaco, Senior Manager, Global Solutions with RBC Investments, set out to accomplish two goals: to earn the Gold Level – coureur des bois in the Canadian Ski Marathon and to raise money for the JGH Comprehensive Cancer Centre Program.

Undaunted by the cold and a grueling two-day course, Domenic earned the Gold Level and raised close to $6000 in sponsorships.

What an achievement!
Congratulations.

Campaign online

With the capital campaign in full swing, prospective donors and canvassers can log onto the "You Have the Power to Heal" website for complete information on the campaign and the Sir Mortimer B. Davis - Jewish General Hospital's needs. The site follows the award winning "You Have the Power to Heal" theme, and contains not only pertinent information on the capital campaign, but also the history of the hospital and its centres of excellence, as well as answers to frequently asked questions. On-line donations can also be processed through the site. To visit, simply enter **www.powertoheal.ca** in your web browser.

For more information regarding the capital campaign website please contact:

Nick Lakoumentas
I.T. Coordinator, Foundation
(514) 340-8222 ext. 2792
nlakoume@fon.jgh.mcgill.ca

www.powertoheal.ca

The JGH Foundation creates partnership with Charitel Inc.

Charitel is a company specializing in residential and commercial long distance services. They are affiliated with an international carrier (Sprint), offer excellent competitive long distance rates 4.9¢ per minute anytime and anywhere in Canada and the USA), and they donate 5% of all their revenues to charity.

The Jewish General Hospital's partnership with Charitel allows all subscribers to their service to designate 5% of their monthly invoices (before taxes) to our Foundation.

The transfer of your long distance service is a virtual process and has no impact on your telephone line or your telephone system and its functions.

You won't have to dial a number before making a long distance call.

Char tel

By choosing Charitel as your long distance service provider, you will not only pay less than the current market fee, you will ultimately help the Jewish General Hospital Foundation.

To sign up or for more information, please call 1-866-940-6070 and mention that you would like to support the JGH Foundation.

Magda Freundlich, JGH gift planner

Mrs. Magda Freundlich recently informed the Foundation that she has made a bequest in her will to benefit the hospital. As well, so that the hospital can benefit from her generosity today, she dedicated a plaque, to be located in the hospital's chapel, in memory of her late husband, Emanuel. Magda and her husband, originally from Romania, arrived in Canada in 1954, learned a new language, worked hard and created their life together in their adopted country. They always believed in helping others. "It is the right thing to do and besides, it feels good," explains Magda.

Mrs. Freundlich wanted to show her appreciation for the excellent care, kindness and compassion her late husband received at the JGH.

"Although I am not rich, I wanted to be sure that a part of our hard earned savings would be put to good use. I know that the hospital needs the money and will use it wisely."

Anyone can be a JGH Gift Planner. For more information on gift planning options, please contact Beverly Kravitz, Director of Planned Giving, at the Foundation office 340-8222, extension 4123.

Research Governors Society 2003 lecture series

The Research Governors Society started off the 2003 lecture series for its members on May 21st. Drs. J. Enrique Silva, Andrew C. Karaplis and Alicia Schiffrin spoke on "Endocrinology: Directions for a Better Life & Disease Prevention". The lecture was preceded by optional tours of the laboratories of Drs. Mark Trifiro and Andrew C. Karaplis.

You can become a member of the Research Governors Society (annual donation of $250 or more) by calling Cindy Hershon at 340-8222, local 2235.

An evening in Athens

The JGH Hellenic Committee, under the leadership of Mrs. Sophia Demetelin, is undertaking to raise money to renovate the Nuclear Medicine Division. Plans are underway for a gala to be held on October 26, 2003, an evening of dining and dancing. Mrs. Demetelin, well known in the Hellenic community, says, "The JGH has provided outstanding care and support to the Hellenic community and it is only fitting that the Hellenic community shows its support to the hospital".

For further information, please contact Mrs. Sophia Demetelin at (514) 739-5263 or Larry Sidel, 340-8251.

HOLD THE DATE

Sunday, October 26, 2003

We wish to pay tribute and express our deepest gratitude to some of our most recent benefactors for their generosity and support.

Zofia Binick, pictured here with her family, honours Dr. Wahbi Hammouda with a generous donation to the Division of Hematology.

Claire Lightstone and family pay tribute to the memory of Jack Lightstone, QC, by installing a brass plaque on the hospital's donor wall.

Esther Zipper and family made a generous donation to the Department of Oncology in memory of their loving husband, father and grandfather, Alex Zipper.

Norman Zavalkoff and family honour the memory of Mona Zavalkoff with the creation of an annual grant for pulmonary oncology.

Sammy Rapps and family honour the memory of Phyllis Rapps, loving wife, mother and grandmother, with a generous donation to the Division of Colorectal Surgery.

Rose Sonabend dedicated five mobile blood pressure machines in memory of her beloved husband, Simon Sonabend.

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

Membership is an important source of funding, enabling the Auxiliary to provide quality services and help the hospital purchase much needed equipment. Membership is open to men and women, and all are encouraged to join. For more information, please call (514) 340-8216 or e-mail: &co-pres@aux.jgh.mcgill.ca

New Presidents

The Auxiliary is proud to announce that Hela Boro (right) and Eileen Fleischer (left) were installed as Co-Presidents for the 2003-2005 term. They welcomed their new executive and board members at the 67th Annual Luncheon, held on May 8th in the hospital's Pavilion 'A' Auditorium.

Bridge Luncheon

Enjoying another successful Bridge Luncheon, left to right: Ticket Co-Chair Bonnie Rothstein, Event Co-Chairs Phyllis Karper and Dorothy Rotholz, Ticket Co-Chair Peggy Fixman.

The 23rd Annual Bridge Luncheon, held on April 30th at the Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Synagogue, was enjoyable for the more than 300 serious bridge players who participated. Proceeds of the event, chaired by Phyllis Karper and Dorothy Rotholz, were used to purchase much needed equipment for the hospital's Maternal Child Health Unit.

Casino Royale

All smiles at the Casino Royale, left to right: Harriet Krakower, Dr. Marie-Laure Brisson and Eileen Fleischer.

The mood was festive and the atmosphere electric at the Casino Royale fundraiser, held on April 10th at the Shaare Zion Synagogue. Master of Ceremonies Andy Nulman greeted over 400 guests who enjoyed sumptuous food and dynamic entertainment. Eddie Rogo, from Empire Auctions, auctioned off a variety of exciting gifts such as a helicopter excursion, a flight aboard a private jet to New York, golf packages and sports memorabilia.

Over $125,000 was raised for the Department of Pathology, a department that provides vital diagnostic expertise to virtually all branches of medicine and surgery. Dr. Marie-Laure Brisson, chief of the Department, was on hand to address the crowd and thank them for their support.

Hats off to Co-Chairmen Eileen Fleischer, Harriet Krakower and Paul Azeff for their hard work and organizational savvy. Special thanks to major sponsor CIBC Wood Gundy.

Flower Corner

Located in the Main Lobby Cote Ste. Catherine entrance.

We offer flowers, plants, and gift baskets for all occasions.

Outside deliveries are also available.

Call the shop at (514) 340-8222, local 5512.

Message from Jonathan Wener

...continued from page 2.

entrepreneurial activities will be a key component in securing the future of the JGH.

- It was also our commitment to bring strong leadership and management to the Foundation. Myer Bick, our Foundation President for the past two years, is a CEO with the capability to open doors and merit the respect of donors, the community at large and the hospital community. His vision, commitment, "menchlechkeit" and leadership of a talented team will enable us to expand our activities and ensure a future of unlimited possibility for the JGH.
- The launching of the most ambitious campaign in the history of the JGH to pay for the priorities of the hospital was of paramount importance. The goal was not arbitrary. It is a totally realistic objective based on the needs established in the strategic plan. Initially, there was some resistance regarding the viability of this goal; however, our leaders, campaigners, supporters and donors have come to embrace our objective with unparalleled energy and enthusiasm.

Under the capable leadership of our seasoned co-chairs, Morty Brownstein and Eddie Wiltzer, assisted by our President, Myer Bick, and Foundation Chair, Jimmy Alexander, there is no question that we will succeed. They have broadened our base of campaigners, attracted new, enthusiastic and talented individuals and have the resources and full support of the entire hospital community—all the necessary ingredients to mount a successful campaign and ensure the future protection and success of one of the prize jewels of our community.

- We have actively worked for eight years on the acquisition of the Soeurs de Ste Croix Property from Côte Ste. Catherine to Legaré, just north of the hospital. As this step is generally believed to be as important and strategic to the future of the JGH as the original purchase of our land on Côte Ste. Catherine was by our founders, we are thrilled to report that the documentation is virtually complete, and we will take title and possession of the property in January 2005.
- Recruitment of young leadership to take ownership and responsibility for the future of the hospital was one of our main objectives, and we are all incredibly pleased with the extensive addition of young people to our ranks at all levels. Thanks to the very considerable efforts of Jimmy Alexander and other members of the Board and President's Advisory Committee, we have laid the foundation for a future solid succession of lay leadership.
- Another of our objectives was to see a more equitable handling of some of the matters pertaining to the JGH and McGill University. We made some major inroads with the appointment of Dr. Gerald Batist as Chairman of the Department of Oncology at McGill. We also were able to persuade McGill to refocus its allocation to the JGH to be far more reflective of our teaching mission. The channels of communication have been strengthened, and we look forward to many years of collaboration between our two institutions.
- It was also the intention of our administration to support and advance Continuous Quality Improvement and Humanization of Care within the hospital. The members of these committees deserve praise for their extraordinary job in continuously driving our hospital to go further ... keeping us at the forefront as an institution that truly demonstrates that we care. I recently had the opportunity to witness our excellence of care as a patient. The incredible quality delivery to all patients from emergency to the recovery room to the floor was evident throughout and to all patients. The passion and commitment of our caregivers was heartwarming.
- Our searches were successfully concluded for Chief of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology with the appointment of Dr. Togas Tulandi, and Chief of the Department of Surgery with the reappointment of Dr. Martin Black. We wish our chiefs well as they continue to build their specialties and recruitment at the JGH. As a result of strong teamwork at all levels, we also succeeded in completing some very challenging recruiting of critical medical specialists.
- Reducing nursing vacancies was also a major objective of our administration. With the implementation of a number of strategies set forth by Associate Executive Director (Nursing) Mona Kravitz and her team, along with a group of very dedicated nurses, last year's average vacancy rate was 7.4% and this year it is 5.2%. We have gone from 150 vacancies in June 2000 to 25.8 this year, which is extraordinary given the critical world-wide shortage of nurses. Kudos and appreciation also go to the administration for instituting and maintaining a policy of treating nurses as respected partners in the process of patient care.
- Our doctors perform miraculous acts on a daily basis under challenging conditions. Although we don't always take the time to express our thanks, we are sincerely grateful for their efforts. During my term, we were determined to establish an event to formally show our appreciation to our doctors for the exemplary work they do at the JGH, and we're delighted that the first such event will take place on September 21st this year.

In conclusion, given the need for our healthcare professionals to have adequate space to work and to fulfill our strategic objectives, it was essential to complete a master plan, commissioned and reviewed by the administration with all of the diverse interest groups in the hospital. It was also imperative to enlist the approval of the Régie régionale and government. The master

plan is active and quickly evolving, as we go back to the drawing boards to include the acquisition of the property adjacent to the hospital. I am pleased to report that during the latter part of my term and just prior to the election, the government had approved $20 million which, when combined with the $7.6 million of CFI grants and approximately $22 million of Foundation funds, will enable us to proceed immediately with the expansion of the "E" wing, (the Cummings Pavilion). Further negotiations with the government will be needed in the very near future to obtain the additional funds required for our research mission and the much-needed "H" wing.

I step down from my position as President at the end of May, knowing that I will follow in the footsteps of so many of our dedicated past Presidents who have remained involved and passionate about our mission and our future. I step down with a smile knowing so much has been accomplished, and certain there is a powerful team in place, ready to overcome any potential obstacles to fulfilling our strategic objectives and long-term goals. I also leave knowing that the leadership of the hospital is in good hands as Stanley Plotnick takes his place at the helm of the JGH as President. I wish him well, knowing that he is a first class community leader with a long and successful record of achievements and a sincere devotion to maintaining the integrity of the JGH.

I am also confident that with Henri Elbaz as his CEO, he can't go wrong. Henri's vision, experience, firm-handed leadership, guidance, friendship and relentless diligence of execution—always in the most beneficial way for the hospital—make him the ideal partner in navigating and steering this wonderful and complex institution.

On behalf of myself and our community, I thank you one and all for your collaboration, friendship and support.

Social work

...continued from page 7.

One of these difficult issues is conjugal violence, which often is expressed physically during pregnancy. Part of Ms. Cobrin's job is to teach nurses how to pick up signs of conjugal violence what types of questions to ask, what language to use and how to react appropriately and sensitively in these situations. Ms. Cobrin is particularly excited about being part of a newly created workgroup on conjugal violence, whose long-term goal is the development of a violence screening and assessment tool for nurses.

Other major issues that can have a tremendous impact on adjustment to parenthood include substance abuse, depression or other psychiatric illnesses, and teenage pregnancy. In addition to the usual stresses of parenthood, newly arrived immigrants and refugees must deal with adaptation to a completely new culture and language.

Parenthood can also be traumatic when things go wrong. The unexpected death of an infant, a baby born with birth abnormalities or potential chronic problems, very ill, premature babies whose prognosis is uncertain—these situations can be very difficult for new parents to deal with. "Parents whose babies are in the NICU often feel anxious and helpless," notes Sherrie Poplack, social work supervisor. "Parenting an ill baby is stressful."

Social workers are assigned to virtually every service throughout the hospital. To respond to occasional requests from those few areas (such as One Day Surgery) that do not have an assigned social worker, the Department of Social Service operates an intake system upon referral. There are 27 part-time and full-time social workers and social counsellors in the department.

Clinical nutrition

Patients undergoing radiation therapy typically come to the hospital every single day, five days a week for a period of one to seven weeks. It is the job of the clinical nutritionist to meet with patients on a weekly basis to ensure that their nutritional requirements are being met and that they are not losing weight. As Clinical Nutritionist Heather Nathens explains, the calorie and protein requirements of these patients are higher than normal because of the stress that radiotherapy treatments place on the body. Paradoxically, fatigue—one of the side-effects of treatment—may interfere with patients' ability to prepare meals for themselves.

Nineteen professional dietitians work in the Department of Dietetics. Clinical nutritionists are assigned to every in-patient unit as well as all out-patient clinics.

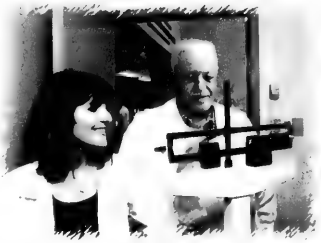
Generally, Ms. Nathens works with patients undergoing treatment for prostate, colorectal, lung and endometrial (the lining of the womb) cancers. She meets new patients at the beginning of their treatments, weighs them, recommends specific diets and offers menu suggestions and/or dietary supplements when appropriate. Prostate and colorectal cancer patients, for example, may experience diarrhea and a low-fibre, low residue diet is taught. Lung cancer patients who have difficulty swallowing are given advice on modifying the texture of foods and provided with high calorie, high protein supplements when necessary.

Please turn the page.

Clinical nutrition continued.

Since dehydration is a serious risk, patients are encouraged to drink lots of fluids. If a patient has lost a significant amount of weight, the clinical nutritionist will immediately speak to the nurse to have her check for signs of dehydration.

The Division of Radiation Oncology consists of a tight knit group of professionals – from radiation oncologists to nurses, technologists, dietitians, clerical staff, orderlies and Hope & Cope volunteers and staff – who respect each other's expertise. "This is an extremely rewarding place to work. The staff is very caring, committed and approachable, and the patients are so appreciative of everything we do for them," concludes Ms. Nathens.



Clinical nutritionist Heather Nathens weighs patient Leo Laberge.

Physiotherapy

The Department of Physiotherapy consists of approximately 20 physiotherapists. The department maintains an active presence on most units throughout the hospital including orthopedics, medicine, geriatrics and all surgical services. Physiotherapists are also on call to the Emergency Department, the Maternal-Child Health Unit, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Psychiatry. Physiotherapy is also offered on an outpatient basis upon referral.

"We view patients as partners in managing their care," states Lynn Gillespie, physiotherapy inpatient coordinator. Keira Cape and Audrey Abikhzer, the physiotherapists currently on the cardiac surgery service, play an important role in helping patients recover from this complicated surgery that affects not just the cardiovascular system but also the musculo-skeletal and respiratory systems.

The goals of physiotherapy include preventing respiratory complications, assisting patients in regaining their mobility, evaluating their readiness for discharge and educating them about what to expect during and after surgery as well as which activities they can perform once they are at home.

Physiotherapist Keira Cape helps patient Dante Di Biase regain mobility.

As much as possible, continuity of care is maintained, meaning that the same physiotherapist sees the patient pre-operatively, and post-operatively in the Intensive Care Unit and on the Cardiac Surgery Unit. This allows the therapist to develop a rapport with patients, evaluating their needs, their level of anxiety, their ability to process information and their progress following surgery.

During the pre-operative education session, the therapist evaluates the patient's respiratory status and functional level, lifestyle factors and any other health issues that may affect their recovery. "We show patients exactly what to do after surgery—how to cough, how to move and how to exercise to maintain strength in their legs," explain the therapists. "This is reassuring for patients, who take comfort in the knowledge of what to expect. It's also important in terms of preventing post-surgical complications."

In the immediate post-operative period, physiotherapists, in conjunction with the rest of the team, assist with breathing exercises and respiratory care. Despite the complexity of the surgery, most patients are encouraged to become mobile as early as the day after surgery. In most cases, they are walking by day two and may be home as early as day four or five.

Physiotherapists provide detailed teaching prior to discharge. Instructions are often given in the presence of a family member. Written material, including diagrams, is provided and patients are encouraged to call their physiotherapist should they have any additional questions during their recovery at home.

"There is a great deal of satisfaction in seeing patients do well and in knowing that we play an important role in their recovery," say the physiotherapists. Another source of satisfaction is the supportive environment nurtured by the physicians and nurses on the Cardiac Surgery Service, who view physiotherapists as key members of the treatment team.

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Zukor DJ, Chang M, Huk OL, Antoniou J

NOMINATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Antoniou J

Black ML Chair, Operating Room Committee,

Chalifour L Member, Internal Scientific Review

Chalifour L Member, URSO Steering Committee

Chertkow H Scientific Officer, CIHR

Derossis AM Joint appointment as Assistant

Eisenberg MJ Chair, Axis I of the Canadian

Eisenberg MJ Member, Cardiovascular

Fichten CS Member, Advisory Board, Institute for

Fichten CS Member, Advisory Board, Learning

Trenkel S Chairman of the Anesthesiology, Mt.

Vandal M

Wolfson C Chairholder, Lady Davis Institute,

Hier MP Vice-President, Canadian

Kirmayer L Nominated to a James McGill

Lasry JC Member, Ideas Committee, Prix

LeBlanc V Member, National Institutes of Health

LeBlanc V Nominated to a William Dawson

Minuk J Professor and Chairman of Medicine,

Perry R Visiting professor, Department of

Rappaport, EM Associate Chief, Department of

Rosberger Z Director, McGill Psychosocial

Silva H President, Canadian Society of

Wolfson C Chairholder, Lady Davis Institute,

PRIX / HONOURS, AWARDS

Chalifour L and Nacera Saadane, Ping Yue, Lesley Alpert, Gordon M. Kirby) Most Outstanding Pharmacology Research Paper of 2002, Pharmacological Society of Canada

Kirmayer LJ James McGill Professor, McGill University

LeBlanc, A William Dawson Scholar Award, McGill University

Tellier P Canadian Association for Medical Education's AMEE certificate of merit to mid-career educator, Canada

NOUVELLES HGJ

HÔPITAL GÉNÉRAL JUIF • SIR MORTIMER B. DAVIS
VOLUME 39, Nº 2 WWW.JGH.CA ÉTÉ 2003

Les soins multidisciplinaires — *la clé de la guérison*

Également à l'intérieur : **Lancement de la campagne de financement : *Vous avez le don de guérir***

Hommage aux médecins : le 21 septembre 2003

La Mini-école de médecine de l'HGJ – Renseignements pour s'inscrire : www.jgh.ca

Message de Jonathan Wener

En tant que président sortant, j'ai le devoir et l'honneur de faire le bilan des réalisations de l'HGJ durant les trois dernières années. Avant de commencer, je dois souligner l'immense privilège qui m'a été accordé de travailler avec un groupe de personnes d'un professionnalisme et d'un dévouement étonnants, des personnes qui se sont consacrées avec passion aux soins et au bien-être de la population. Chacun de nos succès, nous le devons à notre personnel déterminé, talentueux et très dynamique qui, sans relâche, a travaillé en équipe pour surmonter les obstacles et résoudre les problèmes, sans jamais perdre de vue nos objectifs.

Réalisations :

- J'ai assumé la responsabilité de présider le nouveau plan stratégique quinquennal de l'Hôpital, définissant nos objectifs et nos aspirations. Ce processus important, global et d'une grande minutie visait à rassembler les points de vue de tous les groupes d'intérêts de l'Hôpital afin de créer un plan global, approuvé par tous. Cette démarche a suscité un enthousiasme sans précédent et une grande collaboration de la part des médecins, du personnel infirmier, de la direction et des professionnels de la santé. Tous ont contribué à définir les priorités, nous aidant à rencontrer les nombreux objectifs du plan. Jusqu'à présent, l'approbation du programme du Centre intégré du cancer par toutes les disciplines constitue l'une de nos réalisations les plus importantes, dont je tire une très grande satisfaction. Notre institution regroupe un nombre impressionnant de scientifiques en oncologie clinique, et nous visons la désignation de Centre intégré du cancer par le Québec.

- En raison de la conjoncture économique actuelle concernant la gestion de cette importante institution publique qu'est notre hôpital, l'un de nos premiers objectifs a été d'accroître notre apport en capital. Nous avons vite mis l'accent sur des secteurs susceptibles de provoquer assez rapidement une augmentation des revenus pour financer les nombreux programmes en vigueur. Nos revenus ont connu une augmentation qui est passée de 935 911 $ en 1999 à 1 752 000 $ vers la fin de 2002. Nous avons obtenu de tels résultats sous l'habile direction de Paul Lowenstein, assisté d'un comité très actif. Nous félicitons Paul et son équipe de leur dévouement et de leur empressement à étudier chaque secteur dans le but de maximiser les revenus et

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Élection d'un nouveau président

L'Hôpital a le plaisir d'annoncer que M. Stanley K. Plotnick a été élu président du conseil d'administration pour un mandat de deux ans. Il occupera son poste à compter du mois de juin 2003.

Avant exercé les fonctions de vice-président de l'Hôpital et de membre du conseil d'administration de la Fondation, M. Plotnick est habitué aux défis, aux forces et aux réalisations de l'Hôpital général juif. Il se montre également très enthousiaste à l'idée d'avoir l'occasion de diriger notre institution durant une période qui laisse présager un développement et une croissance sans précédent.

« L'Hôpital général juif est un établissement de soins de santé remarquable – l'un des meilleurs au Canada », déclare M. Plotnick. Son objectif consiste à maintenir la digne tradition d'excellence de l'Hôpital en matière de soins, d'enseignement et de recherche. Plus précisément, dans les années à venir, l'HGJ mettra l'accent sur la création du programme du Centre intégré du cancer – le premier du genre dans la province – et sur le développement d'un centre cardiovasculaire ultra moderne. « Nous demeurons déterminés à dispenser des soins attentifs de premier ordre à nos patients et à améliorer le milieu de travail de nos excellents médecins, infirmières et infirmiers, professionnels et personnel de soutien », ajoute le nouveau président.

Stanley Plotnick a un passé remarquable à titre de bénévole, tant au sein de la communauté juive de Montréal qu'à l'extérieur. Il a occupé de nombreux postes de direction : président à la Fédération CJA, au Conseil de l'éducation juive Bronfman et à l'Académie Solomon Schecter, fondateur et coprésident de Pro-Montreal, rédacteur en chef du magazine *InMontreal*, président du 10e anniversaire du Gala des étoiles et président de *La Marche des vivants*.

Son engagement à l'égard du bien-être d'autrui a été souligné par l'attribution de nombreux prix, incluant le *Distinguished Leadership Award* de la Fédération CJA et le *Outstanding Montrealers Award* du State of Israel Bonds. En mai 2002, M. Plotnick était l'invité d'honneur du Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner.

M. Plotnick est président de AVS Technologies, une société vouée à la conception, au développement, à l'importation et à la distribution de produits électroniques à l'intention des consommateurs. M. Plotnick est diplômé de l'Université McGill et de la *Sloan School of Management, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*.

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- *Bienvenue au Dr Walter Gotlieb du Service de gynéco-obstétrique.*
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Le 21 septembre 2003. Renseignements : www.jgh.ca

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Hôpital d'enseignement de l'Université McGill

Les personnes qui font l'événement

Toutes nos félicitations au **Dr Saul Frenkiel**, nommé président du département d'oto-rhino-laryngologie de l'Université McGill. Cette nomination qui fait suite à une recherche et à un processus de sélection à l'échelle nationale comprend le poste de chef du service d'oto-rhino-laryngologie du Centre universitaire de santé McGill.

Chef du Service d'oto-rhino-laryngologie de l'HGJ depuis 1992, le Dr Frenkiel est spécialisé en rhinologie et en chirurgie endoscopique des sinus. Sous sa direction, le Service a élargi son champ d'expertise à tous les aspects liés à l'oto-rhino-laryngologie, incluant la chirurgie cervico-faciale. Le Dr Frenkiel est également professeur à la faculté de médecine de l'Université McGill. Il se consacre à la pratique et à la promotion de la médecine universitaire et il a été élu *Meilleur professeur* par ses étudiants du département d'oto-rhino-laryngologie de McGill.

Le Dr Frenkiel est l'auteur de plus de 150 publications, dont des articles de journaux et des chapitres de livres revus par des pairs ainsi que des travaux multimédias. Conférencier et présentateur dans de nombreuses conférences nationales et internationales, il y a présenté les résultats de ses travaux dans des sous-spécialités comme la chirurgie des sinus, l'étude de l'écoulement de l'air dans les fosses nasales et la biologie moléculaire de la sinusite chronique.

Nous sommes heureux d'accueillir le **Dr Walter Gotlieb** qui travaille depuis peu au Service de gynéco-obstétrique. Professeur agrégé à l'Université McGill, le Dr Gotlieb a cette particularité : il est le premier gynéco-oncologue au service de l'Hôpital général juif. Il n'existe que 1 000 spécialistes en gynéco-oncologie dans le monde. Les cancers gynécologiques comprennent le cancer de la vulve, du vagin, de l'utérus, du col et des ovaires.

Diplômé en médecine dans sa Belgique natale, le Dr Gotlieb s'est spécialisé durant six ans aux États-Unis (National Institutes of Health et University of California, à Los Angeles). Il a été par la suite recruté par l'hôpital Tel Hashomer en Israël, où il a mis sur pied le service de gynéco-oncologie.

Organiser ce service à l'HGJ a représenté un véritable défi. Pour ce faire, il a fallu utiliser nos ressources en recherche appliquée qui avaient attiré le Dr Gotlieb dans notre institution. Le développement de nouveaux traitements fondés sur le génie génétique pour soigner notamment le cancer des ovaires demeure le principal intérêt du Dr Gotlieb en matière de recherche.

Il explique : « Mon objectif consiste à fournir des services spécialisés aux patientes atteintes de cancers gynécologiques et à leur donner accès à de nouvelles options thérapeutiques améliorées. »

Nous souhaitons également la bienvenue au **Dr Martin Gyger** à la Division d'hématologie. Professeur agrégé de médecine à l'Université McGill, le Dr Gyger est directeur de notre programme de transplantation de cellules souches et directeur de l'Unité d'aphérèse. Il se spécialise dans la transplantation de cellules souches hématopoïétiques, une intervention relativement simple et indolore qui ne nécessite ni chirurgie ni hospitalisation. Cette technique s'avère efficace chez 30 à 50 % des patients atteints de lymphome hodgkinien ou de lymphome non hodgkinien. La recherche du Dr Gyger est principalement axée sur la greffe de cellules souches non myéoablatives allogéniques. Cette intervention plus complexe et comportant un risque de rejet implique la transplantation de moelle osseuse prélevée chez un parent (généralement le frère ou la sœur). On réserve cette procédure aux patients dont les cellules souches sont trop contaminées.

Félicitations à **Kotiel Berdugo** qui vient d'être nommé directeur de la Division des services techniques. « Mes objectifs consistent à augmenter les normes de qualité des services de la Division, à améliorer les lieux consacrés aux unités de soins et à gérer efficacement les nombreux projets d'expansion de l'Hôpital », explique M. Berdugo.

La Division des services techniques de l'HGJ comprends les biens, meubles et immeubles, la sécurité, l'entretien ménager, la buanderie, le courrier, les achats, les télécommunications, la stérilisation et le centre thermique. D'autres responsabilités incombent à la Division : superviser les projets de rénovation de l'Hôpital, consulter les employés pour connaître leurs besoins, superviser les architectes, les contracteurs et divers spécialistes, et s'assurer que les projets soient terminés à temps tout en respectant le budget.

En 1994, M. Berdugo entrait au service de l'HGJ en tant que chef du centre thermique, un poste qu'il a occupé

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VOUS AVEZ LE DON DE GUÉRIR

Le lancement de la campagne de financement pour que nos rêves deviennent réalité

Le 12 mai 2003, l'Hôpital général juif lançait sa plus ambitieuse campagne de financement en 70 ans d'existence.

L'ÉQUIPE DE LA CAMPAGNE DE FINANCEMENT

Nous sommes fiers de vous présenter l'équipe de leaders et de visionnaires remarquables, engagés à assurer le succès de cette ambitieuse campagne de financement.

PRÉSIDENTS HONORAIRES
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Hugh Hallward
Honorable Pierre-Marc Johnson
Dr Bernard J. Shapiro, O.C.

PRÉSIDENTS
Morton Brownstein
Edward Wiltzer

CONSEILLERS
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Gary Ulrich
Stephen Vineberg
John Waxlax
Jonathan Wener

De gauche à droite : Mark Krakower, Larry Fisher, Stephen Bronfman.

De gauche à droite : Steven Cummings, Marvin Corber, Sue Carol Isaacson, Alvin Segal.

Ouvrant ses portes à la communauté du grand Montréal, l'Hôpital a offert l'unique occasion aux invités de s'entretenir, avec les meilleurs médecins, chirurgiens, chercheurs, chefs de service et autres professionnels médicaux de l'HGJ, de l'état actuel de la médecine et de leurs projets d'avenir.

La campagne de financement illustre nos efforts conjugués et notre détermination à guider les nouveaux pas de l'Hôpital général juif en matière de services médicaux, de soins et de recherche. L'accent a été mis sur nos quatre « piliers » : le programme du Centre intégré du cancer, le Centre cardiovasculaire, l'expansion de l'Institut Lady Davis de recherches médicales et l'amélioration et le soutien des services.

Cet événement multimédia comprenait des présentations, soulignant les besoins urgents de l'Hôpital, des brochures d'information sur nos services et la première de la vidéo de la campagne, intitulée *Vous avez le don de guérir.*

Dirigée par Morton Brownstein et Edward Wiltzer, l'équipe de la campagne a clairement démontré la nécessité d'amasser des fonds substantiels pour assurer le développement de l'Hôpital, aujourd'hui et demain. Il nous faudra, entre autres, voir au recrutement et au maintien en place d'excellents professionnels, ajouter des locaux, rénover les anciens, acquérir de nouveaux équipements et accroître l'espace de nos installations de recherche devenues trop exiguës. Bien que les objectifs de la campagne soient ambitieux, ils reflètent avec justesse les besoins réels d'un établissement médical de premier plan, à l'ère du 21e siècle.

Le message est clair : la priorité de l'Hôpital général juif consiste à fournir aux patients d'excellents soins qui répondent aux normes les plus élevées. La générosité de nos donateurs nous permettra de réaliser cette mission.

Les soins multidisciplinaires

— la clé de la guérison

Durant une hospitalisation, on constate que le rétablissement à la suite d'une maladie grave ou d'une blessure requiert souvent la participation d'une équipe de professionnels de la santé regroupant divers spécialistes. Dans cette édition des *Nouvelles HGJ*, nous jetons un éclairage sur le travail d'une poignée de professionnels paramédicaux. Ces personnes hautement qualifiées travaillent au sein d'une équipe multidisciplinaire et se consacrent à aider les patients à reprendre des forces et ainsi qu'à recouvrer la santé et leur autonomie.

L'orthophonie

Le Service d'audiologie et d'orthophonie se compose d'une équipe formée de quatre orthophonistes et de quatre audiologistes.
Ils travaillent presque partout dans l'hôpital et assurent une présence marquée en médecine, neurologie, oncologie et dans le Service d'oto-rhino-laryngologie ainsi que dans le programme de chirurgie cervico-faciale.

Imaginez la frustration d'avoir en tête tous les mots, mais d'être incapable de les verbaliser pour exprimer ses besoins, ses pensées et ses idées. Ce problème est fréquent chez les personnes victimes d'accident vasculaire cérébral (AVC) et, par le fait même, il affecte leur famille.

« L'objectif de notre travail consiste donc à entraîner le cerveau pour qu'il compense les déficits tout en se développant à partir des compétences que le patient a conservées », explique l'orthophoniste Lisa Hargraves, membre de l'équipe d'AVC de l'HGJ. Coordonnée par l'infirmière Marie-Ann Yang, l'équipe a adopté une approche holistique pour soigner les patients – une approche qui, selon les recherches, s'avère extrêmement bénéfique.

L'orthophoniste Lisa Hargraves évalue la faculté de déglutition de sa patiente Rose Tannebaum.

Dès sa première rencontre avec les patients, Mme Hargraves effectue une évaluation minutieuse de la déglutition, du langage et de la parole du patient. Les troubles de la déglutition, qu'on appelle aussi dysphagie, sont des effets secondaires courants liés aux AVC. Il importe de les évaluer immédiatement, car ce problème peut mettre en danger la vie des patients. En effet, les malades qui ne peuvent adéquatement protéger leurs voies aériennes courent le risque de s'étouffer ou d'aspirer des aliments ou des liquides qui se logent dans les poumons. Mme Hargraves examine donc les fonctions pharyngiennes orales des patients en leur donnant des aliments et des liquides de consistance différente pour voir ce qu'ils peuvent tolérer. Durant leur hospitalisation, elle continue de surveiller leur progrès, augmentant la consistance des aliments lorsque leur faculté d'avaler s'améliore.

« Les troubles de la déglutition sont méconnus du grand public, constate Mme Hargraves. Voilà pourquoi il est important de fournir aux patients et à leur famille de nombreux renseignements sur les façons sécuritaires de s'alimenter et des techniques compensatoires. »

L'évaluation du langage et de la parole est également importante. « Habituellement, il y a chevauchement entre les troubles du langage et de la parole, explique Mme Hargraves. Mais un trouble peut exister sans l'autre. Tout dépend de l'étendue des dommages et de la région du cerveau affectée par l'AVC. » L'évaluation du langage consiste à examiner la faculté du patient à comprendre et à s'exprimer, ce qui inclut souvent une évaluation de sa capacité à lire et à écrire. L'évaluation de la parole est axée sur les difficultés d'articulation et de production vocale. Là encore, l'éducation du patient et de sa famille est très importante.

Une fois les évaluations terminées, Mme Hargraves travaille étroitement avec le patient et sa famille, leur enseignant des techniques visant à améliorer la communication. Les sessions se déroulent dans un environnement calme et sans bruit, libre de toute distraction. L'orthophoniste donnera des renseignements par bribes au patient pour qu'il puisse traiter l'information et l'absorber plus facilement. Le patient apprendra également à incorporer des méthodes non verbales de communication en utilisant des gestes, des aides visuelles et d'autres moyens tactiles.

L'ergothérapie

« En tant qu'ergothérapeute, mon objectif consiste à aider les patients à regagner la dextérité dont ils ont besoin pour être autonomes et mener une vie productive », explique Gabi Rosberger, spécialisée en ergothérapie pour la population gériatrique. Cette dextérité que nous prenons pour acquise comprend, par exemple, la marche, la capacité de se vêtir, de se baigner et de faire la cuisine.

L'ergothérapeute Gabi Rosberger fabrique une attelle pour un patient.

Des études ont démontré qu'il fallait souvent plus de temps à un patient pour retrouver son autonomie fonctionnelle que pour se rétablir d'une maladie ayant nécessité une hospitalisation.

Le rapport entre l'autonomie et la santé n'est pas toujours évident pour les patients et leur famille, constate Mme Rosberger, et l'incapacité n'est pas inévitable en vieillissant. « Par conséquent, l'éducation des familles et du personnel est un élément essentiel du travail de l'ergothérapeute.

La consultation avec l'ergothérapeute commence par un examen de l'histoire du patient, de son dossier médical et par des entretiens avec le patient, sa famille et ses soignants. Les évaluations cognitives et fonctionnelles sont conçues pour identifier ce que le patient peut faire et connaître son niveau maximum d'autonomie fonctionnelle avant sa maladie. Les visites à domicile, faites si possible en présence des soignants ou des membres de la famille, donnent l'occasion à l'ergothérapeute d'évaluer les fonctions du patient et de repérer les obstacles nuisant à ses activités quotidiennes. « Parfois, il suffit de faire de petites modifications dans la maison pour aider les soignants à assurer la sécurité du patient », explique Mme Rosberger.

Les ergothérapeutes peuvent suggérer des aides fonctionnelles et les fabriquer pour rendre leurs patients plus autonomes. Certaines aides facilitent la position assise ou la posture des personnes âgées. C'est ainsi qu'on previent les escarres de décubitus et les problèmes de peau. Ces spécialistes recommandent également l'usage d'orthétiques, comme les gouttières, les écharpes ou d'autres aides, pour maximiser l'autonomie du patient concernant ses soins personnels.

La collaboration interdisciplinaire fait partie intégrale de la philosophie de la Division de gériatrie. « Nous sommes tous partenaires et nous dépendons de l'expertise des uns et des autres, poursuit Mme Rosberger. Nos plus grands alliés sont les membres de la famille. Nous devons les aider à créer un environnement confortable et sécuritaire, où le patient pourra fonctionner en étant le plus autonome possible. »

Six ergothérapeutes travaillent dans l'hôpital, le plus souvent dans la Division de gériatrie et le Service de psychiatrie. En plus d'offrir des services aux patients, le Service d'ergothérapie fournit des consultations ergonomiques aux employés pour les aider à minimiser le risque de blessures, sur présentation d'une demande de consultation.

Le travail social

En Amérique du Nord, on considère généralement la venue d'un enfant comme l'un des plus beaux moments de la vie, sans toutefois accepter que cette naissance peut être une importante cause de stress. Lorsque les problèmes surgissent, qu'un homme et une femme éprouvent des difficultés à s'ajuster à leur nouveau rôle de parents, que des situations psychosociales à risque élevé menacent la sécurité du bébé, la travailleuse sociale Deborah Cobrin intervient pour évaluer la situation, faciliter cette période de transition, faire des recommandations, développer des plans d'action et, si nécessaire, contacter le CLSC et/ou la Protection de la jeunesse.

« Ma priorité est le bien-être du nouveau-né, et j'essaie de me rendre disponible pour aider les parents à régler leurs problèmes, explique Mme Cobrin. Heureusement pour moi, l'équipe des soins infirmiers de l'Unité de santé maternelle et infantile et celle de l'Unité des soins intensifs en néonatologie

La travailleuse sociale Deborah Cobrin dans l'Unité des soins intensifs de la néonatologie, où elle aide les parents qui ont un bébé prématuré.

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Le Dr Stéphane Richard, lauréat du *2002 Young Investigator Award*

Le Dr Stéphane Richard, lauréat du *2002 Young Investigator Award* attribué par l'Institut national du cancer du Canada, représente un bon exemple des nombreux jeunes chercheurs prometteurs qui travaillent actuellement à l'HGJ.

Recruté en 1995 par l'Institut Lady Davis de recherches médicales, le Dr Richard est directeur de projet du groupe d'oncologie moléculaire Terry Fox et du Centre Bloomfield de recherche sur le vieillissement. Il est, en outre, professeur agrégé à l'Université McGill. Sa recherche, avec sur deux domaines, le cancer et la sclérose en plaques, lui a permis de découvrir des protéines impliquées dans chacune de ces maladies.

Jeune scientifique exceptionnel et réputé, le Dr Richard est responsable de l'identification d'une nouvelle structure nucléaire dans les cellules cancéreuses dites « Sam68 », qui serait en corrélation avec le degré de malignité d'une tumeur. Au cours d'une expérience utilisant 200 cellules du cancer du sein teintées avec l'anticorps Sam68, le chercheur a constaté qu'environ 30 % de ces cellules avaient cette structure nucléaire. « Cela pourrait aider à évaluer les tumeurs, explique le Dr Richard. C'est important, car un diagnostic précis donne souvent lieu à un traitement plus efficace. » Les scientifiques ont accueilli la publication de son article dans *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (1999) avec grand enthousiasme, et le *Young Investigator Award* a souligné l'importance de sa recherche.

Dans le domaine de la sclérose en plaques, le Dr Richard étudie un gène apparenté à la protéine Sam68 qui existe chez les souris *quaking*, ainsi appelées car elles ne possèdent pas assez de myéline. La myéline est la membrane protectrice du système nerveux central (cerveau et moelle épinière). La sclérose en plaques est une maladie auto-immune, se traduisant par un mauvais fonctionnement du système de défense de l'organisme qui attaque la myéline et, souvent, la détruit en plaques. Cette maladie est particulièrement fréquente sous les latitudes Nord, dans des pays situés loin de l'équateur, comme le Canada.

Dans sa recherche publiée dans le journal *Neuron* (2002), le Dr Richard a démontré que les protéines *quaking* sont directement impliquées dans le processus de myélinisation. Dans la prochaine étape actuellement à l'étude, il utilise la protéine *quaking* pour stimuler la myélinisation (un processus appelé remyélinisation). « Ces travaux pourraient permettre de développer une stratégie efficace pour traiter la sclérose en plaques et neutraliser ses effets débilitants », poursuit le Dr Richard.

Originaire de Montréal, le Dr Richard a obtenu son B.Sc. en biochimie et un Ph.D. de la division de médecine expérimentale de l'Université McGill. Il a terminé sa formation post-doctorale dans un programme unique, combinant des activités universitaires et industrielles chez Pfizer, dans le Connecticut, et à la Washington University de St. Louis, considérée comme la Harvard du Midwest. Durant ses recherches sur l'immunologie et le processus de signalisation, il a découvert la protéine Sam68. « Mon travail en milieu universitaire et dans l'industrie sont des expériences uniques qui m'ont clairement fait comprendre les besoins et les défis propres à ces deux milieux », souligne le Dr Richard.

Quand l'HLD lui a offert un poste et que l'Université McGill lui a donné l'occasion d'enseigner, le Dr Richard a été ravi de revenir à Montréal. En plus du prix remis par l'Institut national du cancer du Canada, le Dr Richard a été récemment nommé *William Dawson Scholar* par l'Université McGill. Ce prix souligne les réalisations exceptionnelles de jeunes professeurs en matière de recherche et d'enseignement.

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Une série de six conférences publiques en présence de médecins et de chercheurs de l'HGJ

Tous les mardis, du 23 septembre au 28 octobre 2003

Notez que les places sont limitées.

Détails au www.jgh.ca ou téléphonez au 340-8222, poste 3337

Ce programme a été rendu possible grâce à une subvention sans restriction de Pfizer Canada Inc.

Un neurochirurgien établit des liens avec des collègues chinois

L'automne dernier, le Dr Gerard Mohr, chef de la Division de neurochirurgie, a passé deux semaines en Chine, où il avait été invité en tant que conférencier au Beijing Neurosurgical Institute et en tant que professeur invité et conférencier à la *First Guangzhou International Neuro-oncology Meeting*.

À noter que l'invitation à cette rencontre était singulièrement liée à l'Hôpital général juif. En effet, l'événement avait été organisé par le professeur Chen Zhong Ping, qui avait été chercheur, de 1993 à 1999, à l'Institut Lady Davis de recherches médicales. Aujourd'hui, le professeur est directeur de neurochirurgie au Sun Yat-Sen Cancer Hospital, à Guangzhou.

Dans l'ensemble, le Dr Mohr a été fort impressionné par sa visite des installations thérapeutiques modernes et spacieuses, toutes équipées des technologies les plus récentes et pourvues d'un personnel de soutien et de neurochirurgiens extrêmement compétents et très bien informés. Citons le Beijing Neurosurgical Institute, un hôpital de 330 lits avec 18 salles d'opération, où 95 neurochirurgiens dispensent des soins dans 10 domaines neurochirurgicaux distincts, notamment la base du crâne, les accidents vasculaires cérébraux, la pédiatrie et la chirurgie spinale. Durant son voyage, le Dr Mohr a découvert que le système de santé chinois semblait subir des changements majeurs avec l'introduction d'un système de santé privé, venant s'ajouter au système public.

J'ai pu établir de précieux contacts, a déclaré le Dr Mohr. Nous pourrons ainsi échanger des *fellows* et possiblement des *scholars* ainsi que collaborer à divers projets de recherche, comme l'épidemiologie des tumeurs cérébrales et les chirurgies peu effractives par voie endoscopique de la base du crâne. D'ailleurs, en juillet prochain, le Dr Gong quittera la Chine pour recevoir une formation d'un an à l'HGJ en microchirurgie hypophysaire endoscopique assistée par imagerie, sous la supervision du Dr Mohr.

Salle de ressources éducatives en chirurgie

Depuis son ouverture en décembre 2002, la nouvelle salle de ressources éducatives en chirurgie, dédiée au Dr Harvey Sigman, a obtenu un très gros succès auprès des résidents en chirurgie, des étudiants en médecine et des chirurgiens.

Dotée des plus récents équipements multimédia et de présentation ainsi que de ressources éducatives, comme des vidéos décrivant les techniques chirurgicales actuelles, des ordinateurs consacrés aux recherches en ligne (branchés à la bibliothèque des sciences de la santé), cette salle de ressources favorise l'autodidaxie et la préparation de présentation de cas. On y donne également des conférences médicales.

Célébrant la création de la salle de ressources éducatives en chirurgie dédiée au Dr Harvey Sigman, de gauche à droite : Dr Martin Black, Dre Anna Derossis, Dr Harvey Sigman, Dr Bernard Shapiro, M. Henri Elbaz.

« Nous désirons stimuler le goût de l'apprentissage chez nos étudiants en médecine et nos résidents ainsi que nous stimuler nous-même, explique la Dre Anna Derossis, directrice de l'éducation chirurgicale. À une époque où les soins ambulatoires ont modifié la pratique chirurgicale, où les techniques évoluent rapidement et où la pratique fondée sur la recherche est la norme, nous devons fournir aux étudiants un milieu propice à l'apprentissage, qui soit équipé des ressources nécessaires. »

À l'occasion de l'inauguration de la salle, le Dr Harvey Sigman, chef de la Division de chirurgie générale, a été honoré pour son engagement de longue date envers l'éducation médicale et chirurgicale. Parlant du Dr Sigman, le Dr Bernard Shapiro, ex-recteur et vice-chancelier de l'Université McGill soulignait : « Il nous montre à tous ce que signifie être intelligent, bien informé, modeste et compréhensif... Nous, ses collègues, avons de la chance de l'avoir comme un modèle d'intégrité discret et suprêmement compétent. »

Le Dr Martin Black, chef du Service de chirurgie, était également présent à l'inauguration. Il a annoncé la nomination de la Dre Anna Derossis au poste de directrice de l'Éducation chirurgicale ainsi que la formation d'un comité chargé d'examiner les questions relatives à l'éducation en chirurgie. Depuis son arrivée à l'HGJ en octobre 2001, la Dre Derossis a eu comme priorité la création de cette salle de ressources éducatives. Professeure adjointe de chirurgie et d'oncologie à l'Université McGill, la Dre Derossis a obtenu sa maîtrise en éducation médicale avant de terminer une formation spécialisée en chirurgie du sein.

Aider les enfants à composer avec la mort

« Il faut donner libre cours au chagrin, comme à la rivière dont les rives pourraient s'éroder. »

Dans le but de protéger les enfants contre la douleur, on met souvent ces derniers à l'écart des discussions sur la mort, soulignent la psychologue Dr Judy Gradinger et l'infirmière chef en pedopsychiatrie Rosemary Short, lors d'une conférence des soins infirmiers, intitulée *Discussing Death with Children*. Les deux spécialistes ont insisté sur le fait que les enfants ont besoin qu'on leur parle de la mort dans des termes clairs, honnêtes, directs et appropriés pour leur âge.

Les enfants de tout âge ont tendance à se montrer égocentriques, préoccupés par leurs propres besoins émotifs et en proie à l'insécurité. Il ont besoin d'obtenir l'assurance que l'on s'occupera d'eux; ils ont besoin d'être encouragés à exprimer leurs émotions et à pleurer la perte d'un être cher.

Toutefois, les parents aux prises avec leur propre douleur ou d'autres problèmes importants négligent trop souvent de faire participer les enfants à ce type de discussions. Après l'âge de cinq ans, un enfant devrait assister aux funérailles d'un proche en compagnie d'une personne moins touchée par le décès, capable d'en prendre soin. « Un enfant à qui l'on n'a pas donné l'occasion de faire ses adieux lors des funérailles ou au cimetière se sentira encore plus abandonné », explique la Dre Gradinger.

Les très jeunes enfants (de trois à six ans) prennent tout au pied de la lettre. Ils n'ont aucune notion du temps et croient la mort réversible. Donc, les euphémismes comme « Il est parti » ou « Il est allé au paradis » ne devraient pas être utilisés. L'enfant aura tendance à croire que la personne décédée est partie en voyage et qu'elle reviendra. Par ailleurs, on peut dire aux enfants qu'une personne qui est décédée ne peut plus penser, sentir, marcher ni parler.

Même si les enfants plus âgés (de six à neuf ans) commencent à comprendre que la mort est irrévocable, ils peuvent également craindre qu'elle soit contagieuse ou qu'un parent en bonne santé puisse mourir prochainement. Le chagrin et la colère provoquent par le sentiment d'avoir été abandonné, la culpabilité due à un moment de colère ou l'enfant souhaitait la mort du parent sont des émotions fréquentes chez des enfants de neuf à douze ans. Ces émotions peuvent affecter leur travail scolaire. « Il est très important pour les enfants de comprendre qu'ils ne sont pas responsables de la mort du parent », souligne la Dre Gradinger.

Les adolescents éprouvent également des sentiments de colère et de culpabilité, mais ils peuvent tenter de cacher leurs émotions. « Le fait qu'ils voient des amis et paraissent en forme ne signifie pas qu'ils ne souffrent pas, note la Dre Gradinger. Laissés à eux-mêmes avec leurs sentiments, les adolescents peuvent avoir des comportements à risque. »

Bien que les manifestations de colère et de tristesse soient normales, certains enfants peuvent nécessiter de l'aide professionnelle si, quelques mois après la mort d'un être cher, ils affichent encore certains comportements, comme de la difficulté à parler de la personne décédée, des comportements agressifs, de l'anxiété se traduisant par un besoin excessif du parent survivant, la phobie d'aller à l'école, des troubles du sommeil, des cauchemars persistants, des troubles de comportement alimentaire, un fort repli sur soi, des difficultés scolaires ou d'importants revirements scolaires, de la culpabilité persistante, des comportements auto-destructeurs ou le désir de mourir.

Pour joindre le Service de pedopsychiatrie, téléphonez au 340-8222, poste 5994.

L'ESPOIR, C'EST LA VIE

Denim et diamants

Commanditée par Parasuco Jeans et organisée par la division des jeunes adultes, la fête Denim et diamants a permis de recueillir 75 000 $ au profit de l'HGJ.

Le dynamique comité organisateur (de gauche à droite) : Rita Fargnoli, Judi Milstein, Elayne Baron Starr, Pamela Ungar Berbrier, Ingrid Zimmer Rosenbloom, Lisa Singer Miller, Pam Salzman, Sheryl Miller Adessky, Debra Schwartz, Mona Iny Shiri, Randi Milstein Cohen, Debbie Bridgeman.

Un tournoi de golf

Chaque année, une partie des profits générés par le tournoi de golf Linda Suab est généreusement versée à L'espoir, c'est la vie, un programme d'aide aux personnes atteintes de cancer, qui opère à partir de l'HGJ. On aperçoit sur la photo les organisateurs du tournoi Charlie Belozian (à gauche) et Mel Peress (à droite)qui remettent un chèque à la directrice de L'espoir, c'est la vie Susan Polisuk et à la présidente-fondatrice de l'organisme Sheila Kussner.

Ouverture du Centre de prévention du cancer

En octobre 2002 avait lieu l'inauguration du Centre de prévention du cancer (CPC) de l'HGJ.

Dirigé par le **Dr Michael Pollak**, oncologiste et chercheur en cancer, le CPC offre au public des renseignements récents et des ressources spécialisées, tout en se consacrant à l'avancement de la recherche dans le domaine de la prévention du cancer. Avec des experts affiliés dans les plus importantes disciplines médicales et chirurgicales, incluant le Dr Michael Dworkind, directeur adjoint, le CPC offre des conseils médicaux pratiques, des suggestions relatives au mode de vie, à l'alimentation et au dépistage en vue d'éduquer la population sur les moyens de réduire les dangers de développer certaines formes de cancer.

Le personnel du Centre de prévention du cancer. De gauche à droite : Sonya Zaor, Kimberley Kotar, Rupa Narasimhadevara, Dr Michael Pollak, Dr William Foulkes et Nora Wong.

À l'aide des services médicaux et des services de counselling, le personnel du CPC informe les patients des risques génétiques de développer le cancer et les oriente vers des tests de dépistage appropriés. Le Centre offre également des programmes de nutrition et de désaccoutumance du tabac ainsi que des recommandations sur le mode de vie visant à réduire le risque de cancer.

Le Centre de prévention du cancer est situé au bureau C-107. Pour le joindre, composez le 340-8222, poste 4947.

Un programme d'allaitement unique au Centre de médecine familiale Herzl

Des recherches démontrent que dans les premières six semaines de post-partum, 40 % des mères qui allaitent éprouvent des problèmes d'allaitement. Le nouveau Programme d'allaitement Goldfarb du Centre de médecine familiale Herzl est une clinique novatrice qui offre aux futures mamans de l'information, des conseils et du soutien en matière d'allaitement.

Généreusement soutenu par un don de Robert et Lenore Goldfarb, le Programme est l'initiative personnelle de la **Dre Perle Feldman**. « Les médecins savent que l'allaitement est une bonne chose, rapporte la Dre Feldman, mais beaucoup n'ont pas appris comment gérer les problèmes d'allaitement ou comment les traiter. » Bien que d'autres programmes d'allaitement existent à Montréal, celui-ci est le seul à impliquer les médecins. L'un de ses principaux objectifs consiste à accroître le savoir et les compétences des résidents en médecine familiale, en pédiatrie et en obstétrique. En plus de la Dre Feldman, le programme réunit des consultantes en lactation, **Carole Dobrich** et **Lenore Goldfarb**, ainsi que trois boursiers de recherche en obstétrique.

La consultante en lactation Carole Dobrich (à gauche) vient en aide à une nouvelle maman.

Au cours du lancement du Programme, Lenore Goldfarb a parlé de sa propre expérience et de sa motivation à l'égard de ce programme. Bien que son enfant ait été mis au monde par une mère porteuse, Mme Goldfarb était bien déterminée à allaiter. Après avoir communiqué avec le Dr Jack Newman, pédiatre à Toronto et spécialiste en allaitement de renommée mondiale, elle a accepté de faire partie d'un protocole pour déclencher la lactation. Elle a allaité son fils avec succès durant huit mois, puis elle a collaboré à la création d'un guide intitulé *The Protocols for Induced Lactation : A Guide for Maximising Breastmilk Production*. Mme Goldfarb a également suivi des cours au Lactation Institute en Californie. Grâce à l'aide de la Dre Feldman et de Carole Dobrich, elle a terminé sa formation pratique et a reçu son diplôme de consultante en lactation.

Le Programme d'allaitement Goldfarb est ouvert sur rendez-vous les lundis, mercredis et jeudis, de 9 h à 12 h. Un groupe de soutien sur l'allaitement organise des rencontres informelles les mardis, de 13 h 30 à 15 h 30. Pour obtenir un rendez-vous, composez le 340-8253.

L'Hôpital général juif reçoit la Chambre de commerce juive pour un déjeuner d'affaires

Le 30 avril, environ 60 jeunes gens d'affaires de la Chambre de commerce juive se sont réunis à l'Hôpital général juif – Sir Mortimer B. Davis pour un déjeuner d'affaires.

Selon Justin Vineberg, coprésident de la Chambre de commerce juive, cet organisme a pour objectif de fournir à ses membres des occasions de réseautage et d'établir des contacts à l'extérieur.

Le président de l'Hôpital, Jonathan Wener, a comparé le budget de l'HGJ – 200 millions de dollars (incluant les bourses de recherche) – à celui d'une petite ville. Il a mentionné les commerces de l'HGJ, les nouvelles entreprises qui ont généré des revenus avec succès et de futurs projets d'affaires. « Le plus grand cadeau de la communauté juive au Québec est la valeur nette de l'Hôpital, a conclu M. Wener. Il existe un lien direct entre la participation et le rendement, et si vous donnez de votre temps et de votre expertise, vous trouverez l'expérience très satisfaisante.

Visite guidée du Service de l'urgence.

Le directeur général, Henri Elbaz, a parlé de la philosophie et des pratiques de gestion de l'Hôpital, axées sur les résultats. Il a expliqué que l'objectif de l'HGJ consistait à établir et à maintenir des normes élevées de qualité dans trois secteurs hospitaliers – les soins de santé, l'enseignement et la recherche – puis, à s'acquitter de la gestion de l'institution de façon responsable sur le plan fiscal. M. Elbaz poursuit : « Nous sommes l'un des hôpitaux les plus importants et les plus performants au Québec. Nous évaluons constamment les besoins des patients et nous examinons les questions relatives à la qualité lors de chaque réunion et durant tous les processus. »

Le Dr Marc Afilalo, chef du Service de l'urgence, a décrit comment l'Hôpital avait résolu la crise de l'encombrement, une crise qui persiste encore dans de nombreuses salles d'urgence, non seulement au Québec, mais partout dans le monde. Traitant une moyenne de 170 patients par jour, dont un grand nombre souffrent de problèmes médicaux complexes, le Service de l'urgence de l'HGJ est l'un des plus achalandés à Montréal.

« Notre objectif est de traiter les patients dans la dignité et avec humanité, dit le Dr Afilalo. La clé de notre succès réside dans le travail de l'équipe du Service de l'urgence en collaboration avec les autres services médicaux, le Service des soins infirmiers ainsi que le conseil d'administration et la direction. Tous ont accordé la priorité absolue à la résolution de la crise de l'encombrement. »

Après le déjeuner, les Drs Stephen Rosenthal, Richard Cohen et Willis Grad, médecins à l'urgence, ont offert une visite guidée de leur service.

Kotiel Berdugo...

... suite de la page 1.

durant cinq ans. De 1999 à 2002, il a été responsable des installations matérielles. Ses responsabilités comprenaient la supervision et la gestion de toutes les phases des projets de construction et de rénovation, de la conceptualisation initiale jusqu'à la fin des travaux (exemples : l'installation d'un accélérateur linéaire et l'expansion de la Division de neurologie). Il est particulièrement fier d'avoir initié trois projets de conservation de l'énergie, tous auto-financés. Ces projets, grâce auxquels l'Hôpital a économisé 7,5 millions de dollars, ont récemment remporté le Prix d'excellence en gestion de l'efficacité énergétique de l'Association des hôpitaux du Québec.

Après avoir terminé sa maîtrise en sciences appliquées (mathématiques) à l'Université Paul Sabatier de Toulouse, en France, M. Berdugo obtient son baccalauréat en génie mécanique de l'École polytechnique (Université de Montréal). Plus tard, il poursuit ses études pour décrocher un diplôme universitaire en gestion de l'École des Hautes Études commerciales de Montréal. Avant de travailler à l'HGJ, M. Berdugo était ingénieur chez Peerless Electric et ingénieur de projets chez Racan-Carrier Co.

Formation de scientifiques dans nos laboratoires

Les Drs George Chong et Elizabeth MacNamara contribuent chacun à la formation de la prochaine génération de scientifiques qui travaillent en laboratoire. Dans le cadre d'un programme financé par les IRSC, l'Institut de génétique/ Réseau canadien de maladies génétiques (RCMG), ces médecins ont accueilli Mme Audrey Dussereault, une étudiante du cégep à Lennoxville (Québec). Audrey est l'une des 16 étudiantes et étudiants à avoir été choisis parmi 330 candidats désireux de participer à ce programme national. Le Dr Will Foulkes, directeur du programme en génétique du cancer à l'HGJ et principal investigateur du RCMG, a noté que :

« ce sera une excellente occasion pour Audrey de se familiariser au processus de diagnostic par génétique moléculaire dans un hôpital, avec de véritables échantillons d'ADN testés pour des mutations dans des gènes importants associés au cancer. »

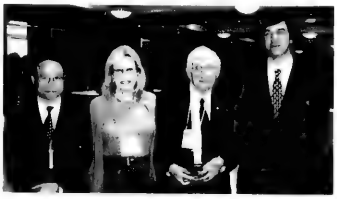
Le Dr Foulkes a également fait le nécessaire pour que Audrey puisse passer un certain temps dans le laboratoire de diagnostic moléculaire.

Comment gérer la ménopause?

Cet article porte sur la tenue de deux conférences qui ont eu lieu en mars 2003. Le Dr Wulf Utian, directeur général de la North American Menopause Society et la Dre Lauri Betito, psychologue, sexothérapeute et animatrice d'un talk-show radiophonique à CJAD, donnaient la première conférence publique intitulée *Sex After Menopause and Hormone Replacement Therapy*. Celle-ci avait été organisée conjointement par le Service de gynéco-obstétrique de l'HGJ et par la section québécoise du American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. La seconde conférence, commanditée par la *Roslyn Liebling Memorial Body & Soul Health Series* des Auxiliaires, avait pour conférencière invitée la Dre Louise Miner, gynécologiste-obstétricienne et directrice de l'échographie obstétricale à l'HGJ.

La moyenne d'âge de la ménopause, définie par la cessation de la menstruation, est 51 ans. La périménopause couvre la période commençant de deux à huit ans avant la ménopause et la première année après la fin de la menstruation.

La périménopause se caractérise par une fluctuation du taux hormonal, l'irrégularité des cycles et la survenue de symptômes qui peuvent s'intensifier avec l'approche de la ménopause. Ces symptômes comprennent les *bouffées de chaleur* et des sueurs nocturnes, l'insomnie, une fragilité émotive, le vieillissement et la sécheresse de la peau, des problèmes de mémoire à court terme et une diminution du désir sexuel. Les femmes ne sont pas toutes affectées au même degré. En effet, bien que 85 % des femmes se plaignent de bouffées de chaleur, seulement 15 % d'entre elles en sont affectées au point d'avoir de grandes difficultés à dormir ou à effectuer leurs tâches quotidiennes.



Durant le symposium sur la ménopause, le 21 mars dernier, une plaque a été remise au Dr Morrie Gelfand, directeur de la Clinique de la ménopause de McGill et ex-chef du Service de gynéco-obstétrique, en reconnaissance de ses remarquables contributions au Service pendant 48 ans. Sur la photo avec le Dr Gelfand (3e à partir de la gauche) : Dr Togas Tulandi, chef du Service de gynéco-obstétrique, Norma Gelfand et le directeur général Henri Elbaz.

Les experts sont unanimes : le mode de vie joue un rôle important dans la diminution des symptômes et dans le délai ou la prévention de l'apparition de problèmes de santé. Selon la Dre Louise Miner, la période périménopausale est le moment idéal pour les femmes d'adopter un style de vie sain. La pratique régulière d'exercices, le maintien d'un poids normal, l'arrêt de fumer, la diminution de consommation d'alcool et de caféine, le contrôle du taux de cholestérol, de l'hypertension et du diabète constituent des mesures essentielles. Faits alarmants, mais encore peu connus : la consommation de deux verres ou plus d'alcool par jour augmenterait le risque de cancer du sein de 60 %, et moins de quatre heures d'exercices par semaine pourrait également augmenter les risques de cancer du sein de façon substantielle.

Comme l'explique la Dre Miner, « mise à part l'hormonothérapie, il existe d'autres mesures avérées très utiles pour combattre les symptômes de la ménopause chez un grand nombre de femmes. » Aux modifications du style de vie (mentionnées plus haut) s'ajoutent la consommation d'eau fraîche durant les bouffées de chaleur, le port de plusieurs couches de vêtements, l'usage de crèmes hydratantes et lubrifiantes, l'adoption d'un horaire de sommeil régulier et la pratique d'activités relaxantes comme le yoga et la méditation. L'usage à court terme du St. John's Wort pour traiter une dépression légère ou modérée ainsi que des antidépresseurs traditionnels peuvent également se révéler utiles.

« La controverse et la confusion entourant l'hormothérapie de remplacement a engendré la peur et même la panique chez les femmes », reconnaît le Dr Wulf Utian, directeur général de la North American Menopause Society. La décision de prescrire ou non des hormones repose sur plusieurs facteurs incluant une évaluation individuelle des risques (fondée sur les antécédents familiaux et le style de vie de la femme), les recommandations actuelles dans la littérature médicale, la gravité des symptômes et la volonté des patientes. « Des médicaments sélectionnés peuvent être prescrits à certaines femmes après avoir évalué les risques et les bienfaits de l'hormonothérapie », explique le Dr Utian.

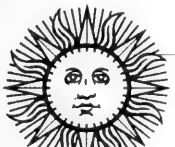
On estime qu'on peut sans risque utiliser l'hormonothérapie de remplacement à court terme (quatre années ou moins) pour soulager certains symptômes de la ménopause, mais non la prescrire à titre préventif. L'hormonothérapie offre de nombreux avantages : protection contre l'ostéoporose, diminution des bouffées de chaleur, réduction des risques de cancer colorectal et de la maladie d'Alzheimer (bien que ce traitement ne ralentira pas la progression de la maladie d'Alzheimer si elle est déjà présente). La Dre Miner a spécifié que l'hormonothérapie était à déconseiller aux femmes présentant de forts antécédents familiaux de cancer du sein (mère, sœur, tante), des maladies graves du cœur, du foie ou des reins et de forts antécédents familiaux de caillots sanguins ou de thrombophilie. « En consultant leur gynécologue, suggère la Dre Miner, les femmes devraient réévaluer tous les ans leurs besoins en matière d'hormonothérapie ou chaque fois que de nouvelles données médicales deviennent disponibles. »

NOUVELLES DE LA FONDATION

Le lancement de la campagne de financement – le 12 mai 2003

Présidents, Morton Brownstein et Edward Wiltzer.

President honoraires, Dr Bernard J. Shapiro, O.C.



N'oubliez pas cette date... pour la fête la plus chaude de l'été!

Le jeudi 24 juillet 2003

La 6e Classique de tennis Leadership HGJ

Fiesta Sun Sets

au

Centre de tennis du parc Jarry

Les profits seront consacrés à l'acquisition d'appareils pour la Division de médecine pulmonaire.

Pour plus de renseignements ou pour vous inscrire, veuillez communiquer avec Elana Sckolnick, directeur des événements spéciaux, au (514) 340-8222, poste 5836.

Deux gagnants : Domenic Diaco et le programme du Centre intégré du caner

Premier directeur de la gestion privée globale chez *RBC Investments*, Domenico Diaco visait deux objectifs : réussir dans la catégorie Or *(coureur des bois)* du Marathon canadien de ski et recueillir des fonds pour le programme du Centre intégré du cancer.

Inébranlable malgré deux journées froides et exténuantes, Domenic a réussi dans la catégorie Or et recueilli près de 6 000 $ en commandites.

Toutes nos félicitations pour un tel succès!

La campagne de financement en ligne

Durant toute la campagne de financement, les donateurs potentiels et nos représentants pourront se brancher au site Web, *Vous avez le don de guérir*, pour obtenir des renseignements détaillés sur la campagne et les besoins de l'Hôpital général juif. Fidèle au thème *Vous avez le don de guérir* (gagnant d'un prix), le site offre des renseignements pertinents sur la campagne, raconte l'histoire de l'Hôpital et de ses centres d'excellence et répond aux questions les plus fréquemment posées. Vous pouvez également faire des dons en ligne dans le site. Pour le visiter, faites le **www.powertoheal.ca** dans votre fureteur.

Pour obtenir plus de renseignements concernant la campagne de financement, veuillez communiquer avec :

Nick Lakoumentas
Coordonnateur informatique de la Fondation
(514) 340-8222, poste 2792
nlakoume@fon.jgh.mcgill.ca

www.powertoheal.ca

La Fondation de l'HGJ conclut un partenariat avec Charitel Inc.

Charitel est une société spécialisée dans les services téléphoniques interurbains. Affiliée à une entreprise téléphonique interurbaine Sprint, elle offre des tarifs très compétitifs (4,9 cents par minute, en tout temps et n'importe où au Canada et aux États-Unis). De plus, Charitel donne 5 % de tous ses revenus à des organismes de bienfaisance.

Le partenariat entre l'Hôpital général juif et Charitel permet à tous les abonnés de la société de donner 5 % de leur facture mensuelle (avant taxes) à la Fondation.

Le transfert de votre service téléphonique interurbain s'effectue virtuellement et n'a aucun impact sur votre ligne téléphonique ou sur votre système téléphonique et ses fonctions. Vous n'avez aucun numéro à signaler avant de faire votre appel.

Char tel

En choisissant l'entreprise de téléphonie interurbaine Charitel, vous paierez un taux inférieur à celui du marché et, en bout de ligne, vous aiderez la Fondation de l'Hôpital général juif.

Pour vous inscrire ou obtenir plus de renseignements, composez le 1 866 940-6070 et mentionnez votre désir d'appuyer la Fondation de l'HGJ.

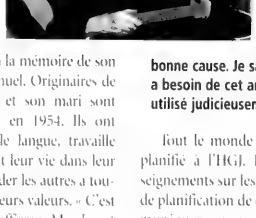
La série de conférences de la Société des gouverneurs – secteur de la recherche 2003

La Société des gouverneurs – secteur de la recherche lançait, le 21 mai, sa série de conférences 2003 à l'intention de ses membres. Les Drs J. Enrique Silva, Andrew C. Karaplis et Alicia Schiffrin ont donné une conférence intitulée *Endocrinology: Directions for a Better Life & Disease Prevention*. Une visite guidée optionnelle des laboratoires des Drs Mark Trifiro et Andrew C. Karaplis précédait cette conférence. Vous pouvez devenir membre de la Société des gouverneurs – secteur de la recherche (don annuel de 250 $ et plus) en communiquant avec Cindy Hershon au 340-8222, poste 2235.

Le don planifié de Magda Freundlich à l'HGJ

Mme Magda Freundlich a récemment avisé la Fondation qu'elle avait fait un legs dans son testament au profit de l'Hôpital. Pour que l'Hôpital puisse profiter de sa générosité dès aujourd'hui, elle a offert une plaque, qui sera installée dans la chapelle de l'HGJ, à la mémoire de son regretté mari, Emanuel. Originaires de Roumanie, Magda et son mari sont arrivés au Canada en 1954. Ils ont appris une nouvelle langue, travaillé très fort et construit leur vie dans leur pays d'adoption. Aider les autres a toujours fait partie de leurs valeurs. « C'est la chose à faire, affirme Magda, et d'ailleurs, ça fait plaisir. »

Mme Freundlich a voulu exprimer sa gratitude pour les excellents soins, la gentillesse et la compassion dont son mari a bénéficié à l'HGJ.



« Même si je ne suis pas riche, souligne Magda, je voulais m'assurer qu'une partie de nos économies, durement gagnées, iraient à une bonne cause. Je sais que l'Hôpital a besoin de cet argent et qu'il sera utilisé judicieusement. »

Tout le monde peut faire un don planifié à l'HGJ. Pour plus de renseignements sur les options en matière de planification de dons, veuillez communiquer avec Beverley Kravitz, directeur des dons planifiés, au bureau de la Fondation : (514) 340-8222, poste 4123.

Une soirée à Athènes

Dirigé par Mme Sophia Demetelin, le Comité hellénique de l'HGJ s'engage à recueillir des fonds au profit de l'HGJ et de sa Division de médecine nucléaire. Le Comité a déjà entamé la planification d'un gala ou dîner-dansant qui se tiendra en soirée, le 19 octobre 2003. Bien connue de la communauté hellénique, Mme Demetelin a indiqué : « L'HGJ a fourni un soutien et des soins remarquables à la communauté hellénique. Il est donc tout naturel que cette même communauté lui manifeste son appui. »

Pour obtenir plus de renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec Mme Sophia Demetelin au (514) 739-5263 ou Larry Sidel au (514) 340-8251.

N'oubliez pas cette date – le dimanche 26 octobre 2003.

Nous tenons à rendre hommage à plusieurs de nos plus récents donateurs et à leur exprimer notre profonde gratitude pour leur générosité et leur soutien :

On aperçoit sur la photo Zofia Biniek en compagnie de sa famille, honorant le Dr Wahbi Hammouda avec la remise d'un généreux don au profit de la Division d'hématologie.

Claire Lightstone et sa famille rendent hommage à la mémoire de Jack Lightstone, QC, en apposant une plaque en cuivre sur le mur des donateurs de l'Hôpital.

Esther Zipper et sa famille ont fait un généreux don au Service d'oncologie à la mémoire d'Alex Zipper, mari d'Esther, père et grand-père.

Norman Zavalkoff et sa famille honorent la mémoire de Mona Zavalkoff par la création d'une subvention annuelle pour la Division d'oncologie pulmonaire.

Sammy Rapps et sa famille rendent hommage à la mémoire de Phyllis Rapps, femme de Sammy, mère et grand-mère, en versant un généreux don à la Division de chirurgie colorectale.

Rose Sonabend a fait don à l'Hôpital de cinq appareils mobiles de tension artérielle à la mémoire de son bien-aimé mari, Simon Sonabend.

NOUVELLES DES AUXILIAIRES

L'adhesion des membres est une source importante de financement qui permet aux Auxiliaires de fournir des services de qualite et d'aider l'Hôpital a acheter de l'equipement dont il a grand besoin. Nous invitons les hommes et les femmes a se joindre a nous. Pour plus de renseignements, téléphonez au (514) 340-8216 ou envoyez un courriel au &co-pres@aux.jgh.mcgill.ca

Nouvelles présidentes

Les Auxiliaires sont fières d'annoncer les nominations de Hela Boro (à droite) et de Eileen Fleischer (à gauche) aux postes de coprésidentes pour la période 2003-2005. Le 8 mai dernier, les coprésidentes ont accueilli les nouveaux directeurs et membres du conseil d'administration au 67e lunch des Auxiliaires, qui était offert dans l'auditorium du pavillon A de l'Hôpital.

Lunch de bridge

S'amusant durant un autre Lunch de bridge couronné de succès, de gauche à droite : Bonnie Rothstein, codirectrice de la vente des billets; Phyllis Karper et Dorothy Rotholz, coprésidentes; Peggy Fixman, codirectrice de la vente des billets.

Offert le 30 avril à la synagogue Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem, le 23e Lunch de bridge a été fort apprécié des 300 fervents de bridge venus y participer. Les profits de l'événement, présidé par Phyllis Karper et Dorothy Rotholz, ont été consacrés à l'acquisition d'équipement d'une absolu nécessité pour le Centre de santé maternelle et infantile.

Casino Royale

Affichant de grands sourires au Casino Royale, de gauche à droite : Harriet Krakower, Dre Marie-Laure Brisson et Eileen Fleischer.

Il y avait un air de fête et une atmosphère électrisante le 10 avril dernier, durant la collecte du *Casino Royale*, à la synagogue Shaare Zion. Le maître de cérémonie Andy Nulman a accueilli 400 invités, qui ont beaucoup apprécié les mets somptueux et le dynamisme de la soirée. Eddie Roggo, de Empire Auctions, a vendu aux enchères un excellent choix de cadeaux : excursion en hélicoptère, vol à destination de New York à bord d'un jet privé, sacs de golf et plusieurs souvenirs liés au domaine du sport.

Plus de 125 000 $ ont été recueillis au profit du Service de pathologie, un service qui fournit des diagnostics d'une importance vitale dans presque tous les secteurs de la médecine et de la chirurgie. La Dre Marie-Laure Brisson, chef du Service, était présente pour s'adresser aux membres de l'assistance et les remercier de leur soutien.

Félicitations aux coprésidents Eileen Fleischer, Harriet Krakower et Paul Azeff pour leur travail assidu et leur compétence organisationnelle. Nos vifs remerciements à CIBC Wood Gundy, commanditaire d'une importance majeure.

La boutique de fleurs

Située dans l'entrée principale, entrée du chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine.
Nous fournissons des fleurs, des plantes et des paniers-cadeaux pour toutes les occasions.
Nous faisons également la livraison à l'extérieur.
Téléphonez au (514) 340-8222, poste 5512.

Message de Jonathan Wener

...suite de la page 2.

d'améliorer les services. L'intérêt indéfectible de ce comité pour nos activités entrepreneuriales sera un élément clé pour assurer la pérennité de l'HGJ.

- Nous nous étions également engagés à apporter une solide gestion et un leadership fort à la Fondation. Son président, Myer Bick, en poste depuis deux ans, est un chef habile à ouvrir des portes et à inspirer le respect aux donateurs, à l'ensemble de la communauté et au personnel de l'Hôpital. Sa vision, son engagement, son souci des convenances (*menschechkeit*) et sa gestion d'une équipe talentueuse nous permettront de multiplier nos activités et d'assurer, pour l'HGJ, un avenir dont les possibilités seront illimitées.
- Le lancement de la campagne de financement, la plus ambitieuse de l'histoire de l'HGJ, ayant pour but le financement de ses priorités, s'est avéré d'une importance capitale. Son objectif n'était pas arbitraire. Bien au contraire, il est tout à fait réaliste, fondé sur les besoins énoncés dans le plan stratégique. Au départ, nous avons rencontré certaines résistances concernant la viabilité du projet. Toutefois, nos leaders, représentants, partisans et nos donateurs y ont finalement adhéré avec une énergie et un enthousiasme sans précédent.

Sous la compétente direction de nos coprésidents chevronnés, Morty Brownstein et Eddie Wiltzer, assistés de notre président Myer Bick et du président de la Fondation Jimmy Alexander, il ne fait aucun doute que nous atteindrons nos objectifs. Ces derniers ont élargi le nombre de représentants et attiré de nouvelles personnes enthousiastes et talentueuses. En outre, ils disposent des ressources et du plein appui de tous les membres de l'Hôpital. Tous ces ingrédients se révèlent indispensables pour organiser avec succès une campagne de financement et assurer la protection et la réussite de l'un des remarquables joyaux de notre communauté.

- Durant huit ans, nous avons activement travaillé à l'acquisition du domaine des Sœurs Sainte-Croix, du chemin de la Côte-Sainte-Catherine jusqu'à Légaré, domaine situé au nord de l'Hôpital. De façon générale, cette démarche est perçue comme une démarche tout aussi stratégique et importante pour l'avenir de l'HGJ que ne l'avait été l'acquisition initiale de notre propriété sur Côte-Sainte-Catherine pour nos fondateurs. Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer que la documentation est virtuellement terminée, et que nous serons détenteurs des titres de propriété, dont nous prendrons possession en janvier 2005.
- Le recrutement de jeunes dirigeants responsables de l'avenir de l'Hôpital constituait l'un de nos principaux objectifs. Or, nous sommes extrêmement heureux du nombre important de jeunes gens venus grossir nos rangs, à tous les niveaux. Grâce aux efforts considérables de Jimmy Alexander et d'autres membres du conseil d'administration et du comité consultatif du président, nous avons jeté les bases d'une future succession vigoureuse, formée de leaders dans la communauté.
- Un autre de nos objectifs consistait à rendre plus équitable la gestion de certaines questions relatives à l'HGJ et à l'Université McGill. Nous avons fait une percée importante avec la nomination du Dr Gerald Batist comme président du département d'oncologie de McGill. Nous avons également persuadé les dirigeants de cette université de revoir leur allocation à l'HGJ de sorte qu'elle reflète plus adéquatement notre mission en matière d'enseignement. Nous avons consolidé les voies de communication entre nos deux établissements et nous entrevoyons avec confiance de nombreuses années de collaboration.
- Notre direction a également voulu favoriser les processus d'amélioration continue de la qualité et de l'humanisation des soins. Les membres de ces comités méritent des éloges pour leur extraordinaire travail, qui a permis à l'Hôpital de sans cesse se perfectionner et de se maintenir à l'avant-garde de la prestation des soins attentifs. J'ai récemment eu l'occasion de constater l'excellence des soins en tant que patient. L'incroyable qualité dispensée à tous les patients, de l'urgence à la salle de récupération, est manifeste dans tout l'établissement. La passion et l'engagement de nos soignants sont réconfortantes.
- Nos recherches pour remplir certains postes ont donné d'excellents résultats : le Dr Togas Tulandi a été nommé chef du Service de gynéco-obstétrique, et le Dr Martin Black, chef du Service de chirurgie. Nous souhaitons à nos deux dirigeants de continuer de renforcer leur spécialité et de favoriser le recrutement. Grâce à un important travail d'équipe à tous les niveaux, nous sommes parvenus également à conclure, non sans difficulté, l'embauche de spécialistes médicaux d'une importance cruciale.
- Réduire le nombre de postes vacants en soins infirmiers a constitué un autre objectif majeur de la direction. Avec la mise en œuvre de plusieurs stratégies élaborées par Mona Kravitz, directrice générale adjointe (Soins infirmiers), et son équipe ainsi que par un groupe d'infirmières très dévouées, le pourcentage moyen des postes vacants, l'année dernière, s'élevait à 7,4 % et, cette année, à 5,2 %. Nous sommes passés de 150 postes vacants en juin 2000 à 25,8 cette année. Un résultat extraordinaire compte tenu de la pénurie mondiale d'infirmières et d'infirmiers. Félicitations et nos vifs remerciements aux membres de la direction qui ont instauré une politique où les infirmières sont traitées comme des partenaires estimées.
- Chaque jour, nos médecins pratiquent des actes prodigieux dans des conditions difficiles. Bien que nous ne prenons pas toujours le temps de les remercier, nous leurs sommes sincèrement reconnaissants. Durant mon mandat, nous avions la ferme intention de créer un événement qui témoignerait officiellement de notre gratitude à l'égard de nos médecins pour leur travail exemplaire à l'HGJ. Nous sommes ravis d'annoncer que ce premier événement aura lieu le 21 septembre prochain.

En conclusion, pour permettre l'expansion de nos locaux, une condition essentielle pour que nos professionnels de la santé disposent d'un espace de travail suffisant et pour l'atteinte de nos objectifs stratégiques, nous avons dû terminer

un plan directeur commandé et revu par la direction avec tous les divers groupes d'intérêts de l'Hôpital. Il a aussi fallu obtenir l'autorisation de la Régie régionale et du gouvernement. Le plan directeur évolue rapidement, mais nous devons retourner à la case départ pour inclure l'acquisition de la propriété adjacente à la nôtre. J'ai le plaisir d'annoncer qu'à la fin de mon mandat, juste avant les élections, le gouvernement a autorisé un versement de 20 millions de dollars. En y ajoutant 7,6 millions de dollars de subventions de la FCI et 22 millions environ de la Fondation, nous serons en mesure de procéder immédiatement à l'expansion de l'aile E (le pavillon Cummings). Dans un prochain avenir, des négociations avec le gouvernement seront nécessaires pour obtenir les fonds additionnels nécessaires pour remplir notre mission de recherche et construire l'indispensable aile H.

À la fin du mois de mai, je quitterai mon poste de président, sachant que j'emboîterai le pas à un grand nombre de nos ex-présidents dévoués qui demeurent impliqués avec tant de passion dans la mission et dans l'avenir de l'Hôpital. Je me retire le sourire aux lèvres, sachant que tant de choses ont été accomplies et qu'une solide équipe est prête à surmonter tout obstacle éventuel pour atteindre nos objectifs stratégiques et réaliser nos projets à long terme. Je quitte en sachant également que la direction de l'Hôpital sera entre bonnes mains avec Stanley Plotnick qui prendra la barre de l'HGJ en tant que président. Je lui offre mes meilleurs vœux. Ce leader de premier plan dans la communauté a connu de magnifiques réussites et il a la ferme intention de maintenir l'intégrité de l'HGJ.

Je suis également convaincu qu'avec Henri Elbaz comme directeur général, il ne peut pas se tromper. La vision d'Henri, son expérience, son ferme leadership, ses bons conseils, son amitié et sa diligence acharnée – toujours bénéfique pour l'Hôpital – font de lui le partenaire idéal à la barre de cette merveilleuse et complexe institution.

En mon nom personnel et au nom de notre communauté, je vous remercie tous de votre collaboration, de votre amitié et de votre soutien.

Travail social

...suite de la page 7.

sont habituées aux questions d'ordre social et respectent mon expertise dans ce domaine.

La violence conjugale qui s'exprime souvent physiquement durant la grossesse s'avère une question particulièrement difficile. L'une des tâches de Mme Cobrin consiste à enseigner aux infirmières comment repérer les signes de violence conjugale, quelles questions poser, quel langage utiliser et comment réagir adéquatement et avec sensibilité en présence d'une telle situation. Mme Cobrin est particulièrement heureuse de faire partie d'un nouveau groupe traitant de la violence conjugale, dont l'objectif à long terme est la création d'un outil de dépistage et d'évaluation de la violence à l'intention des infirmières.

D'autres problèmes majeurs peuvent avoir un énorme impact sur la façon dont les nouveaux parents s'ajustent à leur rôle, comme l'usage de drogues, la dépression ou d'autres maladies psychiatriques ainsi que la grossesse à l'adolescence. En plus des stress habituels liés au rôle des parents, les nouveaux immigrants et les réfugiés doivent également tenter de s'adapter à une nouvelle culture et à une nouvelle langue.

Être parent peut aussi être traumatisant quand un problème surgit. La mort imprévue d'un nourrisson, la naissance d'un enfant avec des anomalies ou des problèmes potentiellement chroniques, la venue d'un enfant très malade, d'un bébé prématuré dont le pronostic est incertain, toutes ces situations peuvent se révéler très difficiles à gérer pour les nouveaux parents. « Ceux, dont l'enfant est à l'USIN sont souvent anxieux et désarmés, indique Sherrie Poplack, superviseure du travail social. Avoir un enfant malade est une grande source de stress. »

Les travailleurs sociaux sont affectés à presque tous les services de l'hôpital. Pour répondre aux demandes occasionnelles de quelques secteurs (comme la chirurgie d'un jour) qui sont sans travailleurs sociaux, le Département des services sociaux dirige un système d'admission sur présentation d'une demande de consultation. Le Département comprend 27 travailleurs sociaux et conseillers à plein temps et à temps partiel.

La nutrition clinique

De façon générale, les patients qui subissent une chimiothérapie viennent à l'hôpital tous les jours, cinq jours par semaine, pour une période variant de une à sept semaines. Le travail des nutritionnistes cliniques consiste à rencontrer les patients une fois par semaine pour s'assurer qu'ils s'alimentent adéquatement et qu'ils ne perdent pas de poids. Selon la nutritionniste clinique, Heather Nathens, les besoins en calories et en protéines de ces patients sont plus élevés que la moyenne à cause du stress infligé à l'organisme par la radiothérapie. Paradoxalement, la fatigue – l'un des effets secondaires du traitement – peut nuire à la capacité des patients de se préparer des repas.

Dix-neuf diététistes travaillent dans le Service de diététique. Des nutritionnistes cliniques sont affectés dans toutes les unités de patients hospitalisés et toutes les cliniques externes.

Généralement, Mlle Nathans travaille avec des patients qui subissent des traitements pour les cancers de la prostate, du colon, du poumon et de l'endomètre. Elle rencontre les nouveaux patients au début de leurs traitements, leur recommande des régimes spécifiques et offre des suggestions de menus et, si nécessaire, des suppléments diététiques. Par exemple, comme les patients atteints d'un cancer de la prostate ou du colon peuvent avoir des diarrhées, on leur montre comment suivre un régime faible en fibres et en résidus. Les patients atteints du cancer du poumon, qui ont de la difficulté à avaler, apprennent à modifier la

Voir en page 20

texture des aliments et, si nécessaire, prennent des suppléments à teneur calorique et protéinique élevées.

Comme la déshydratation est un risque grave, on encourage les patients à boire beaucoup de liquide. Lorsqu'un patient perd beaucoup de poids, la nutritionniste clinique en parle immédiatement à l'infirmière pour qu'elle vérifie les signes de déshydratation.

La Division de radio-oncologie est formée d'un groupe harmonieux de professionnels – radio-oncologues, infirmières, technologistes, diététistes, personnel de bureau, préposés aux malades, bénévoles et employés de l'Espoir, c'est la vie. Tous travaillent en étroite collaboration et respectent l'expertise de chacun. « C'est extrêmement satisfaisant de travailler ici, souligne Mme Nathens. Le personnel est très attentionné, déterminé et disponible, et les patients apprécient tout ce que l'on fait pour eux.

La nutritionniste Heather Nathens pèse le patient Leo Laberge.

La physiothérapie

Formé d'environ 20 physiothérapeutes, le Service de physiothérapie assure une présence active dans la plupart des unités de l'hôpital, incluant l'orthopédie, la médecine, la gériatrie et tous les services de chirurgie. Les physiothérapeutes sont également disponibles sur appel au Service de l'urgence, à l'Unité de santé maternelle et infantile, à l'Unité de soins intensifs de la néonatologie et au Service de psychiatrie. Les patients peuvent obtenir des services de physiothérapie en clinique externe sur présentation d'une demande de consultation.

« Nous voyons nos patients comme des partenaires dans la gestion de leurs soins, explique Lynn Gillespie, coordonnatrice de la physiothérapie pour les malades hospitalisés. Keira Cape et Audrey Abikhzer, physiothérapeutes actuellement au service de la chirurgie cardiaque, jouent un rôle important dans le rétablissement des patients ayant subi une chirurgie complexe, qui affecte non seulement le système cardiovasculaire, mais aussi le système musculosquelettique et le système respiratoire.

La physiothérapie a pour objectifs de prévenir les complications respiratoires, d'aider les patients à regagner leur mobilité, d'évaluer leur capacité à quitter l'hôpital et de renseigner les patients sur la chirurgie et ses suites ainsi que sur le type d'activités qui leur sera permis, une fois de retour à la maison.

La physiothérapeute Keira Cape aide le patient Dante Di Biase à retrouver sa mobilité.

Autant que possible, on maintient la continuité des soins, c'est-à-dire que la même physiothérapeute voit le patient avant et après l'opération, dans l'Unité des soins intensifs et dans l'Unité de chirurgie cardiaque. Cela permet à la thérapeute de développer une relation avec le patient, d'évaluer ses besoins, son niveau d'anxiété, sa capacité de traiter l'information et de suivre ses progrès après l'opération.

Durant la session d'information qui précède l'intervention chirurgicale, la thérapeute évalue l'état du système respiratoire du patient et son niveau fonctionnel, des facteurs liés à son mode de vie ainsi que les autres problèmes de santé qui pourraient affecter son rétablissement. « Nous montrons au patient ce qu'il doit faire après l'opération – comment tousser, bouger et comment faire les exercices prescrits, qui maintiennent la force dans les jambes, expliquent les thérapeutes. Cette rencontre sert à rassurer le patient qui se sent mieux, car il sait à quoi s'attendre. C'est aussi important pour prévenir les complications post-chirurgicales. »

Immédiatement après la chirurgie, les physiothérapeutes, en collaboration avec le reste de l'équipe, aident les patients à faire leurs exercices de respiration et dispensent des soins respiratoires. Malgré la complexité de la chirurgie, on encourage la plupart des patients à devenir mobiles dès le premier jour après la chirurgie. Dans la plupart des cas, les patients marchent le deuxième jour et retournent à la maison quatre ou cinq jours plus tard.

Avant le départ du patient de l'hôpital, les physiothérapeutes lui donnent des instructions détaillées. Ces instructions sont souvent transmises en présence d'un membre de sa famille. Le patient reçoit des informations écrites, incluant des diagrammes, et on l'encourage à communiquer avec la physiothérapeute s'il se pose des questions durant son rétablissement à la maison.

« Voir les patients se rétablir et savoir que nous jouons un rôle important dans ce processus apportent beaucoup de satisfaction », observent les physiothérapeutes. Le soutien fourni par les médecins et les infirmières du Service de chirurgie cardiaque, qui considèrent les physiothérapeutes comme des membres clés de l'équipe soignante, représente une autre source de satisfaction.

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This Week

National

Jewish interests harmed by anti-hate law, Alan Borovoy says. *Page 7*

Sarah Mossoff: a patient, pleasant voice at UJA Federation. *Page 19*

Bat mitzvah girl raises awareness of genetic disease. *Page 21*

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Israeli company developing SARS detection kit

By ODED HERMONI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A device that diagnoses SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) in its early stages is being developed by Medex Screen, an Israeli company headquartered in Dimona.

The first clinical testing was recently done on SARS patients in Singapore's central hospital, and a medical team there has been trained to use the device.

Tal Hirshman, Medex Screen's vice-president for business development, said the Israeli company will join with Singapore Technology, the country's largest industrial conglomerate, in a joint development of the diagnostic tool. The device allows for the immediate identification of SARS and other diseases without the need for medical professionals.

Clinically tested in Singapore

Depending on the results of the clinical testing, mass production of the device could begin within a month.

The company is holding talks with the health ministries in China and Taiwan, to arrange a similar series of tests in other areas afflicted by SARS, Hirshman said.

The diagnostic tool, which was developed to identify disorders in internal organs and the immune system, measures six different spots in the palms and feet of the patient and feeds the information into a computer.

"When the SARS virus broke out, we realized the Medex Test could probably be of use," said company spokesperson Zohar Faigenbaum. "So we tested the device on flu patients

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Clown's magic works 'miracles'

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

It might take a miracle to make Israeli children in hospital smile, given their poor health and the relentless cycle of violence that surrounds them.

"Miracle" is the term Jeffrey Strong, otherwise known as Bonkers the Clown, uses to describe his experiences entertaining Jewish, Arab and Druze children in Israeli hospitals and schools earlier this year.

"At a couple of places, they said these kids haven't smiled before," said Strong, who has been clowning since 1980.

But after he dazzled the children with some magic, balloon animals and the rest of his clown shtick, the kids went, well, bonkers.

"They were laughing and smiling... It was a miracle."

Strong, 58, has worked as a full-time clown in Toronto for the last five years. This was his third consecutive year volunteering as a clown in Israel.

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Bonkers the Clown entertains a young patient.
[Israeli photo]

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Greater Toronto Area

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Terror groups unite in effort to shred road map — please see page 34

The News in Brief

Canada

PM Pledges Troops

OTTAWA — Prime Minister Jean Chretién has pledged to station peacekeepers between Israel and the Palestinians if the U.S.-sponsored "road map" leads to peace. The plan calls for a crackdown on Palestinian militias, the dismantling of some settlements and a Palestinian state by 2005. Chretién made the pledge in Moscow last month.

Israel

Diabetes Breakthrough

TEL AVIV — Tel Aviv University scientists have found a new way to generate human insulin-producing cells. Using stem cells from human fetal liver modified to introduce a gene responsible for developing insulin-producing cells, they found the new cells produced about a third of the insulin made in the pancreas. The cells could be transplanted to juvenile diabetes patients within a few years, if their rejection by the body's immune system can be solved.

Security Firms Prosper

JERUSALEM — The income of Israeli security firms rose by an average of 15 per cent in 2002, with some increasing business by 20 to 30 per cent, Dun and Bradstreet reported last week. Israel's 16 largest security firms, which employ 49,000 people, earned $478 million (US) in 2002. The largest, Hashmira, earned $182 million and is Israel's largest employer with 15,000 workers, 1,000 more than in the previous year.

Barghouti Cites Sharon

JERUSALEM — Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti says Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent statement that Israel should not keep 3.5 million Palestinians under occupation backs his claim that, as a political leader, Israel has no right to try him. Barghouti, who is charged with involvement in terror attacks that killed 35 Israelis, argued in court last week that if Israel's leader says there is an occupation, it's logical to expect resistance to it. The court gave Barghouti until mid-July to decide if he will mount a defence.

World

Cartoon Criticized

CHICAGO — Readers of the *Chicago Tribune* are complaining about an editorial cartoon they consider anti-Semitic. The drawing by syndicated cartoonist Dick Locher, which appeared May 30, depicts U.S. President George W. Bush laying down dollar bills in front of a heavyset man with a large nose and Star of David on his jacket. The man, who is meant to be Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, says, "On second thought, the pathway to peace is looking a bit brighter." Locher, who is syndicated through Tribune Media Services, said he was simply commenting on how the United States spends millions on Mideast peace. But *Tribune* ombudsman Don Wycliff agreed with complaints the cartoon reinforces anti-Semitic stereotypes.

Cemetery Vandalized

MOSCOW — Several gravestones were smashed in a Jewish cemetery in Astrakhan in southern Russia in early May, the Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union said last week. According to members of the local Jewish community, attacks on the cemetery occur "no less than once a year," *Komsomolets Kaspiya*, a local newspaper reported. Nobody was arrested in connection with the incidents. Some members of the community believe the latest attack was motivated by anti-Semitism, but a local Jewish leader blamed either youth "with nothing better to do" or common criminals.

New Aid Group

KISHINEV, Moldova — A new group was formed last week to help elderly and needy Jews in Moldova, one of Europe's poorest nations. Jewish business leaders in Kishinev started the Jewish Congress of Moldova, the first indigenous charity for 30,000 Jews in the former Soviet republic, located between Romania and Ukraine.

Grocery Store Torched

PARIS — A Jewish grocery store near Paris was gutted in an arson attack May 28. Trash cans and mattresses were set alight and thrown into the Hyperzol market in Creteil, the largest Jewish community in the Paris area. Police said two youths have been arrested and are helping the investigation.

Man Charged

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A second man was charged last week in the torching of a shul here in October 2000, but he does not face arson charges, police said. Ahed Shehadeh, 29, of Syracuse, was charged with felony burglary in the $800,000 fire at Temple Beth El. In March, police charged Raussi "Ramsi" Uthman with arson, burglary and criminal mischief as hate crimes. Police could not say if Shehadeh will face additional charges or why he wasn't charged with arson. Shehadeh's charge is not considered a hate crime.

Help For Holocaust Survivors in Canada

NEW YORK — The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany is allocating $200,837 (US) in 2003 to benefit elderly, needy Jewish Holocaust survivors in Canada.

The money is from an International Commission on Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) fund formed through a 2002 agreement among German insurance companies, the German government and international Jewish groups.

In Canada, money will go to three agencies that provide social services to Jewish survivors: the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors in Montreal, Jewish Family & Child Service in Toronto and the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre.

A total of $15 million will be disbursed in 31 countries in 2003. Survivors in Israel will get some $6 million and those in the United States will get $2.4 million. Much of the money will be used to provide homecare.

The grants are part of $132 million in humanitarian funds to be distributed annually over 10 years by the ICHEIC, which has been criticized for the slow pace of its work and for high overhead costs. The ICHEIC has asked the Claims Conference to implement the initial distribution of the funds.

The funds "represent a long-delayed measure of justice… from the insurance companies [that] will help alleviate the needs among many elderly survivors," said Gideon Taylor, executive vice-president of the Claims Conference.

Individuals can file claims with the ICHEIC for compensation for unpaid insurance policies until Sept. 30. For more information, see www.icheic.org.

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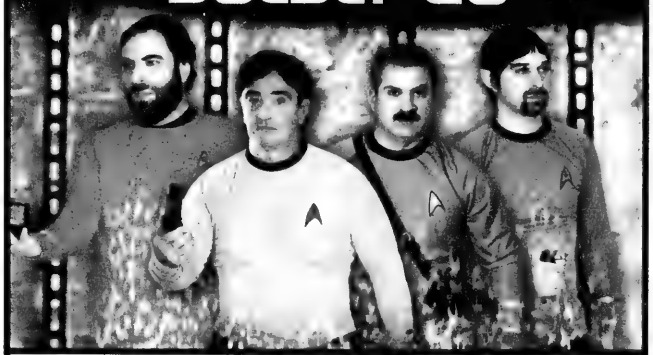

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SARS explored from a Jewish point of view

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

A group of doctors and rabbis pondered the ethical and religious implications of the SARS outbreak at a symposium last week at Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz Congregation.

'God doesn't give us anything we can't handle'

Dr. David Rose, the head of the infectious disease committee at Scarborough Grace Hospital, the epicentre of the first SARS outbreak, said that in the midst of a second outbreak of the illness, there has been little time for health-care workers to reflect on the meaning behind the crisis.

As well, SARS has changed the way physicians interact with patients, Dr. Michael Gordon, vice-president of medical services at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, told the gathering, which was hosted by Torah In Motion and the Toronto Area Study Institute of Jewish Medical Ethics.

When Baycrest received directives from the government on how to deal with the illness, Gordon said, the centre's response was "to virtually shut down. We became a fortress."

(Due to the latest outbreak, Baycrest has reinstated many of the restrictions it had relaxed after the first wave of SARS died down. However, instead of barring all visitors and privately paid caregivers from the hospital and home to keep the centre SARS-free, residents are now allowed one visitor at a time and visitors continue to be screened as they enter through one entrance on the west side of the main complex.)

Gordon said it was especially important for the centre to restrict access, as SARS has proven to be most fatal among the elderly.

But because many Baycrest residents rely on family members and privately paid companions for one-on-one care, restrictions on visitors put a strain on Baycrest staff, who had to work harder to care for and socialize with patients, he said.

Ultimately, the experience was "enriching," Gordon said, since he and fellow staff members had the chance to interact with patients in a way they wouldn't normally have.

After carefully evaluating the situation, Gordon said, he placed the interests of the Baycrest community above individual family members who were demanding the right to see loved ones.

From a religious perspective, "the sense of community responsibility is very high in Judaism," Gordon said. "The hardest part was to tell families they were not allowed in the hospital."

Dr. Aaron Glatt, chief of infectious diseases at St. Vincents Catholic Medical Centers and assistant rabbi at Congregation Anshei Chesed, both in New York City, gave a halachic interpretation of the SARS outbreak.

Looking at issues in light of Torah often poses more questions than it answers, Rabbi Glatt said.

There is, therefore, no clear-cut halachic answer as to whether health care workers are obligated to risk their lives to treat patients, he said.

When evaluating the risk in saving someone else's life, you must consider your own life to be just as valuable as another person's, he said.

Although the Gemarah states that people with the ability to save a life are bound to do so, in real-life scenarios, it's not always so straightforward, he said, adding health-care workers should only take "reasonable risks" when dealing with SARS patients.

As both a doctor and a rabbi, he said, he uses Torah for guidance while at the same time acknowledging scientific laws.

"Halachah doesn't change. The medical facts change," he said. "God did not create us to bypass natural laws."

Rose and fellow physician Hy Dwosh from York Central Hospital in Richmond Hill shared some of their experiences on the front lines of the SARS battle.

Rose said SARS heralds a "significant and dramatic paradigm shift" in the way hospitals deal with contagious diseases.

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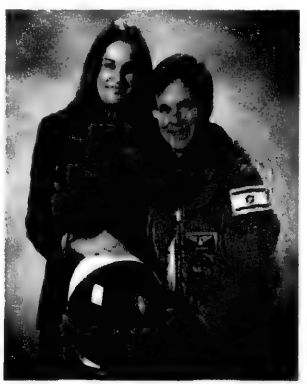

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Greater Toronto Area

The stirrings of a soul

From the editor's desk

One of the defining moments in the life and career of Itzhak Perlman was his appearance on the Ed Sullivan show in 1958. He was 13 years old. The photo inset in this column captures quite eloquently the essence of that poignant moment and the essence of the young musician.

Prodigiously talented, the curly headed youngster is so bashful he casts his eyes downward toward the stage to avoid looking directly at the tenderly affectionate superstar Sullivan. But even in his humility, the boy is smiling broadly.

Along with his incomparable musical artistry that was even then budding so beautifully in the shy adolescent, that sweet, captivating smile would become a lifelong Perlman trademark.

Forty-five years later, Perlman is as curly-headed as ever, though the curls are greyer than they are black. That was plainly apparent as he entered the stage at the Roy Thomson Hall last month to play with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and its music director designate Peter Oundjian.

So too was the broad, endearing smile.

Perlman's smile, of course, evoked reciprocal expressions in the audience, who, to a person, rose to their feet and loudly applauded the virtuoso even before he had bowed a single note or phrase on his instrument. It was a very emotional moment. The warm feelings for the violinist were palpable throughout the sold-out auditorium, including on the stage where Perlman's fellow musicians and Maestro Oundjian joined in the effusive applause and smiles.

After a few moments, with appropriate decorum restored, the orchestra first, then joined by their exceptional soloist, swept into the first bars of Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 in G Major, K.216, "Strassbourg."

The familiar melody of the first movement allegro is swiftly paced and playful. If one had tried, one could have heard many within the audience sigh in whispered delight as the precise, laser-sharp sounds leapt from the virtuoso's violin. He moved his head from side to side in time with the music and the eyes-closed expressions on his smiling face accentuated the rhythm and the beat like a silent chronometer. Watching Perlman perform is an integral part of the listening pleasure.

The second movement, the adagio, is romantic. The solo brought to my mind the image of a lilac, delicate and soft, almost fragrant with fine music.

The third movement, the rondo-allegro, returned to the faster pace of the first movement. It was now in dance-form, jaunty and bouncing in regular exchanges between the violin and the orchestra. And it ended with a quiet farewell from the winds and horns.

The applause for the musicians, but especially for Perlman, exceeded the boisterous reception he received upon entering the stage. The standing ovation lasted for nearly 10 minutes.

The audience clearly appreciated the virtuoso's work, but there was also an obvious sense of admiration for the man.

Perlman was born in Tel Aviv in 1945. He began playing the violin when he was three. When he was four, he was struck by polio. His legs were paralyzed by the disease.

Even writing those words somehow renders abstract and distant their true meaning. Imagine, if one can, the anguish, confusion, helplessness, anger and utter agony of a four-year-old suddenly losing the ability to stand or to walk or to run.

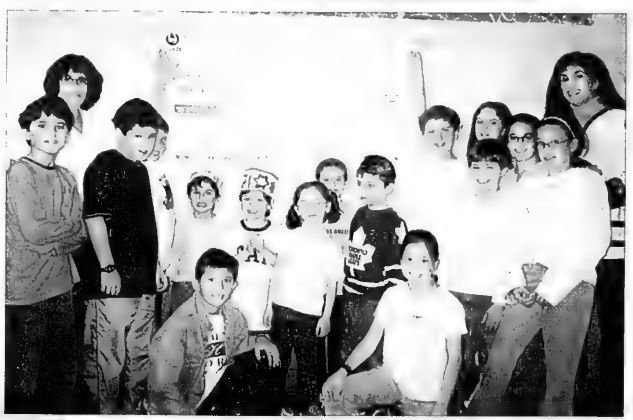
Without the use of his legs from age four, Perlman eventually found within himself the ability to see the world and his place in it in a completely different way. Perhaps as a result, this gave him the ability to reach deeper into the music and to pull from it more of the encrypted treasures that are hidden in its geometry and mathematics and beauty.

There is often a discernably in-sync resonance between Perlman – what we might otherwise mysteriously refer to as his soul – and the many hidden messages of the musical passageways. He seems able to elicit for us the gift of the music more than many other musicians can. The newly improved acoustics of the Roy Thomson Hall are a wonderful showcase for the magical streams of flowing sounds that Perlman draws from the composer's mind.

Watching and listening to Perlman perform is an inspiration. It is an activity that leads one to reflect not only on the possibilities and stirring sounds of the music but, equally, if not more importantly perhaps, on the possibilities of the human soul.

—*MBD*

SeeJN



STUDENT FUNRAISER:

USDS Bathurst campus students recently raised $2,000 for the Israel Cancer Reserch Fund.

Tuition hikes prompt calls to withhold payments

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Sharp and unforeseen tuition increases at several Toronto Jewish day schools have sparked a grassroots revolution by angry parents, who are advocating a form of civil disobedience when it comes to paying fees.

The newly-formed Jewish School Parents Association (JSPA) is advising parents not to comply with the usual methods of paying tuition for the 2003-2004 academic year.

Tools at the disposal of day school parents, some of whom face a 12 per cent hike in their children's tuition next year, include asking for their payments back, applying for a subsidy or withholding the increase, advises a Q&A released by the association.

The JSPA seeks to freeze tuition costs next year and reduce them in subsequent years.

It says the current round of increases will hit already beleaguered parents hard and will mean more children will simply drop out of the system, weakening it and, in the long run, the community itself.

"As parents, we pay the bills and like everyone else, those who pay the bills call the shots," says the group in an unusually sharp tone.

About 50 parents representing several day schools attended the association's May 27 founding meeting at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. One of their first acts was to set up a Web site: www.dayschoolparents.com.

"We are the parents. We pay the bills. We pay the overwhelming cost of tuition. And we have virtually no say in how schools are governed," said one of the founders, Wayne Levin, who will have three children at Associated Hebrew Day Schools this September.

Associated parents were shocked when they were told tuition will be rising next year from $7,950 per child to $8,950, a 12.5 per cent hike. The school initially provided no explanation for the increase.

At United Synagogue Day Schools (USDS), fees will jump 11 per cent, from $8,950 per child, to $9,950. That's on top of a five per cent increase a year ago. Tuition at Leo Baeck Day School will jump by nine percent, to $8,300 (not including a building surcharge of $633). And at Eitz Chaim Schools, fees will go up by six per cent, from $8,600 per student, to $9,100.

Levin, a longtime critic of funding and fees, says the mean tuition at day schools has increased above the rate of inflation in 10 of the last 12 years. He said schools have announced increases without warning and without input from parents.

He said schools have been "remarkably dismissive" of parents' concerns and that parents have also been frustrated over what he called the lack of transparency and accountability at the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and the federation itself.

"There are major systemic problems that are causing this [increase] and they need to be addressed," Levin said.

He said many parents are either "suffering in silence," are considering pulling their children out of schools or have already done so.

Levin said the JSPA may one day merge with the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools, a community-wide group representing all schools set up mainly to lobby for government funding. While withholding tuition doesn't solve anything, neither does paying the proposed increase, the group says in a mailing.

"By not complying with tuition demands, you will be expressing your dissatisfaction with the current situation."

For parents who have already mailed in tuition, "contact your school and ask for it back," the group advises. "Remind them that you can and will contact your bank to suspend all payment if necessary."

The group says it's "doubtful" schools would threaten a large number of families by not registering children "since there is strength in numbers."

Other tactics JSPA says are open to parents include:

- Apply for a subsidy.
- Pay last year's tuition, but provide the difference separately as a charitable contribution.
- Pay nothing, but enrol children anyway. "Let the school know that when they roll back the tuition to last year's level, you will provide your cheque."
- Pay $7,000 – the cut-off needed to qualify for Ontario's Equity in Education Tax Credit.

But, the group says, "the most common approach being taken, so far as we can tell, is to pay according to the 2002-2003 tuition schedule." Its Web site even has sample protest letters parents can download.

When parent Cari Cozierok Bahar opened her tuition notice from USDS, "I started crying. I said to my husband, 'That's it for us.'"

The couple has four children in the system. "You have to be wealthy to afford a Jewish education," Bahar said. "And it will continue to be unattainable unless something is done for working young Jews willing to make the sacrifice. Unfortunately, many young parents are not only in debt, they're losing sleep."

She and other parents decry that the decision to boost fees was made behind closed doors.

JSPA seeks to create parent committees at schools, each "distinct and with voting rights on tuition and costs," Bahar said.

She said the group will also engage in raising funds in the community to offset tuition.

"It's not just this particular increase. What about next year and the year after? If this trend continues, a lot of people will say, 'Let's just cut our losses and take our kids out.' We are decimating our community."

Withholding tuition fees "is not going to help anybody," said Seymour Epstein, executive director of the Board of Jewish Education, adding that it would be within the power of schools to refuse to register children.

While the board is "excited" over parents who are passionate about Jewish education, these parents face "a serious lack of information" that will be addressed shortly.

"These parents are consumers who have to pay for services," Epstein said. "There are all kinds of avenues they can take, like being on school boards and committees."

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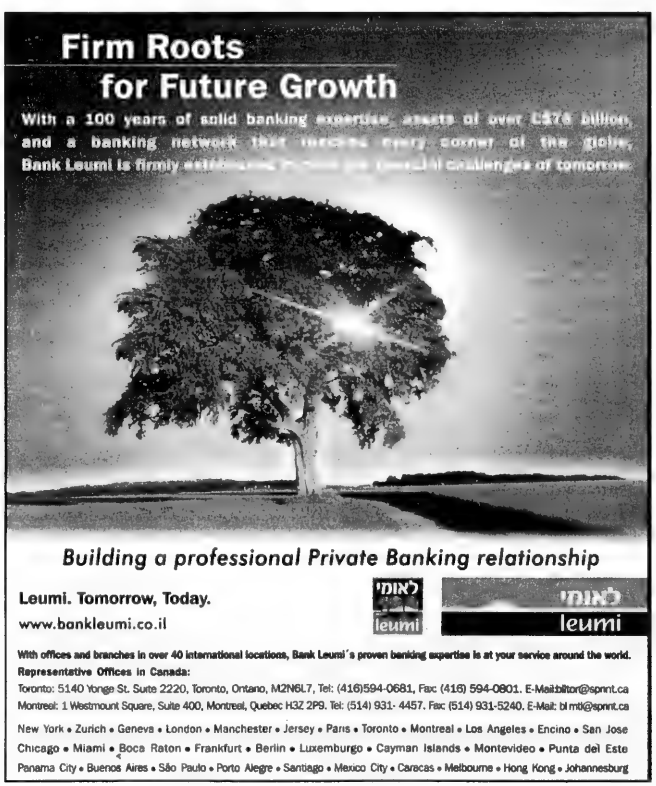
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Greater Toronto Area

Son's murder prompted rabbi to help relatives of terror victims

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

When Rabbi Seth Mandell learned that his 13-year-old son and first-born child, Yaakov (Koby), was brutally murdered by Palestinian assailants, his world collapsed.

"My first response was to get away as far from Tekoa and Israel as I could," he recalled, referring to that shattering day on May 8, 2001, when Koby and his 14-year-old friend, Yosef Ishrah, were bludgeoned to death in a cave several hundred metres from their home in the West Bank community of Tekoa.

But upon reflection, Rabbi Mandell concluded he would compound the tragedy by leaving Tekoa, south of Jerusalem.

"I stayed for two reasons," he explained in an interview. "The best way for a Jew to fulfil himself is living in Israel. Living outside Israel would have been a denial of who I was. And my children love Tekoa, the community, their friends, their school."

As devastated as Rabbi Mandell and his family were by Koby's wanton murder, just six weeks shy of his 14th birthday, they decided to transform their mourning into a positive force.

[Frances Kraft photo]
Rabbi Seth Mandell

With the financial assistance of private foundations, Jewish federations and agencies, synagogues, schools and corporations in the United States, Rabbi Mandell founded the Koby Mandell Foundation.

Established in November 2001, it provides professional grief counselling to Israelis who have lost family members and relatives in Arab terrorist attacks.

Since June 2002, when the first program was launched, the foundation has helped about 1,000 people.

By facing their pain with the assistance of an empathetic support system, families can strengthen themselves in their darkest hour, said Rabbi Mandell, the foundation's president.

Convinced it has been of inestimable value, Rabbi Mandel – an American who made aliyah from Silver Spring, Md., seven years ago – plans to start a new program to assist Israelis who have been injured by terrorists.

Rabbi Mandell's wife, Sherri, a journalist, is also involved in the foundation.

She is the founder of the Mothers' Healing Retreat, which is specifically geared to counselling widows and bereaved mothers.

And now she has written a book about Koby called *The Blessing of a Broken Heart*, which was published recently by Toby Press.

Rabbi Mandell, who was in Toronto recently to raise awareness and funds for the foundation, said he and his wife were deeply shaken by Koby's murder.

But his death has given their lives a burning purpose, and it has reinforced their own relationship and drawn them still closer to their other children – Daniel, 14, Eliana, 12, and Gavi, 8.

Koby's death, he observed, has matured the children and endowed them with a greater understanding of the fragility of the human condition.

To Rabbi Mandell, 52, the foundation is "a vehicle to keep Koby's memory and spirit alive."

Described as smart and normal, Koby had a hard time adjusting to Israel. He missed his friends back in the United States, and he did not speak in class for two years as he tried to master spoken Hebrew. Despite the difficulties, he never complained.

Enamored of baseball and basketball, Koby followed American sports on the Internet, fancied himself as a jokester, liked to read and enjoyed hiking.

Koby's love of the outdoors proved fatal. On a lovely spring day, he and Yosef Ishrah skipped school and wandered into Wadi Haritun, a dry riverbed in the Judean Desert, "a 10-minute walk from our house," said Rabbi Mandell.

Though remote, the scenic gorge was a popular destination for local hikers. Nevertheless, Rabbi Mandell had warned Koby not to venture into Wadi Haritun without adult supervision. "But like many 13-year-olds, he went there anyway."

Police surmise the boys were attacked by three to five people and had their heads crushed by rocks. The then-Israeli defence minister, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, promised to track down the perpetrators "one by one."

The killings, which occurred in the seventh month of the second Palestinian uprising, were condemned as "a crime" by senior Palestinian Authority official Saeb Erekat.

Rabbi Mandell, who holds dual American and Israeli citizenship and who was a technical writer after making aliyah, believes Koby and Yosef were killed between 10 a.m. and noon on that fateful day. Their battered bodies were not discovered until May 9.

The murderers have not been found, and there are no leads.

"Honestly, I don't think about it," said Rabbi Mandell, who is now Orthodox but was born and raised in a Conservative household in Connecticut.

"It's not where I focus my energies. My wife and I spend most of our time on the foundation."

Rabbi Mandell, the former director of the Hillel Foundation at the University of Maryland, has mixed feelings about the new international peace plan – the road map – that the Israeli government has accepted conditionally. If implemented, the road map would lead to a two-state solution and communities such as Tekoa might have to be abandoned.

On the one hand, he is skeptical of the Palestinians' ability to carry out their obligation to fight terrorism.

On the other hand, should the road map succeed where other plans have failed, he would be prepared to live in Tekoa under Palestinian rule, provided that the level of his personal security matches that of Jews in Toronto.

In general, Rabbi Mandell said he would be supportive of whatever political solution saves Jewish lives.

"I must say, though, I can't understand why, as a Jew, I can't live in any place I want to."

Peace or no peace, Rabbi Mandell's thoughts are always focused on Koby.

"I think of him as least every hour," he said. "It's impossible to accept that we'll never talk to him again. But we'll see him in the world to come."

Jewish interests harmed by anti-hate law: Borovoy

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Canada's anti-hate law has damaged Jewish interests, civil libertarian Alan Borovoy says.

Though useful in countering genuine hate-mongers on a couple of occasions, the law has otherwise rebounded against Jews, Borovoy, general counsel of the Toronto-based Canadian Civil Liberties Association, said in a talk last week at Holy Blossom Temple.

Supported by the Jewish community when it was enacted, the law was designed to protect Jews and other minorities from racists.

But Borovoy cast doubt on whether it was needed in the first place. "Hate mongers, then and now, are peripheral creeps whose influence on society hovers around zero."

Alan Borovoy

The last time a major Canadian political party ran an anti-Semitic candidate, it fared poorly and won only 0.6 per cent of the vote, he said.

The reference was to Social Credit, a Western populist party that once fielded Jim Keegstra, an Alberta high school teacher who claimed the Holocaust was a hoax, as a candidate.

Describing the anti-hate provisions in the Criminal Code as contentious, Borovoy said they have negatively affected French Canadian nationalists, anti-Americans, anti-apartheid activists – and Jews.

Referring to Jews, he cited several examples:

• The campus privileges of a Jewish student group at the University of Ottawa were revoked due to its support of "racist" Israel.

• Benjamin Netanyahu, the former Israeli prime minister, was prevented from speaking at Concordia University in Montreal last fall because after being labelled a war criminal.

• Daniel Pipes, a U.S. scholar who appeared at York University last January to lecture on the Arab-Israeli conflict, was warned by a Toronto police officer before his talk to be careful not to violate the anti-hate law.

In the name of opposing racism, Borovoy said, one Canadian university after another has restricted freedom of speech.

This is a troubling development, he said, because freedom of speech is the lifeblood of democracy, upon which other essential freedoms depend.

"If you can't speak your mind without being worried about the consequences, you don't really enjoy freedom of speech," he said.

Borovoy attacked the notion that domestic principles of liberalism can be transposed to world politics. He called attention to two examples, both dealing with Israel.

In the summer of 2001, the Israeli army attacked a building in the territories housing Hamas bombmakers. Amnesty International criticized the raid on the grounds of "procedural fairness," arguing that the suspects should not have been targeted because their guilt had yet to be established.

Borovoy said Amnesty's position was absurd, since it tried to use the principle of a fair trial in the jungle of international politics.

"What should Israel have done? Issued summons' for Hamas?"

He added that Israel's 1981 bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor raised an identical issue.

Borovoy said critics of the raid were, in effect, asking Israel to commit "national suicide."

The United States' pre-emption doctrine to combat terrorism is dangerous, but it may be just as dangerous not to deploy that doctrine, Borovoy said.

The battle against terrorism should be fought with painstaking and tough-minded analysis, good intelligence and courage, he said.

On the topic of Al-Jazeera, he said Jewish interests may be harmed if the Arab satellite television station is allowed to be carried by Canadian cable companies on their digital tiers. But, he added, the interests of Jews may be similarly compromised if they are denied access to information from the Arab world.

Borovoy criticized Kofi Annan, the United Nations secretary general, and Lloyd Axworthy, the former Canadian foreign minister, for having resorted to "rule of law" arguments against the United States' recent invasion of Iraq.

And he lamented the fact that dictatorships, from the Soviet Union to China, have had a "stranglehold" over decision-making processes at the UN.

OMISSIONS

The article "Birthright graduate helps fellow alumni" (*CJN*, May 29) failed to mention that Annie Raphael's position as post-program planner wth the Birthright Alumni Committee, a position created earlier this year, was funded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. *The CJN* regrets the oversight.

The article "Helping kids make healthy choices," (*CJN*, May 29) omitted the co-sponsor of a symposium, which was presented by the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University in co-operation with Jewish Family & Child Service. *The CJN* regrets the omission.

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Getting beyond good intentions

The summit meeting last week in Aqaba was an historic occasion. Of that there is no doubt. Hosted by King Abdullah of Jordan, it brought together the president of the United States and the prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority. But whether the significance of the moment goes beyond the good intentions of the participants or the positive symbolism of seeing the Middle East and American leaders sharing a common platform, is clearly in doubt.

Both prime ministers spoke about the need to find a mutual accommodation between the two peoples. Ariel Sharon stated that Israel has no desire to rule over Palestinians and that it is imperative to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian people. An end to Palestinian terrorism against Israelis, however, was the condition precedent for Palestinians to achieve independent rule.

Mahmoud Abbas addressed the issue of terrorism. "We oppose terror and violent actions as contrary to our religion and inconsistent with the state we aspire to. The armed intifadah must end and we must resort to peaceful means to achieve our goals." In addition, Abbas promised to end the officially directed and sanctioned incitement against Israel emanating from Palestinian media.

Abbas' words were indeed lofty and noble. But one could not avoid the feeling that the words and even the occasion carried with them a sense of déjà vu and déjà entendu. Israelis and supporters of the peace process have heard variations of those very same sentiments solemnly and formally expressed before by Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn in Washington and at the Wye Plantation. But the words in the mouth of that Palestinian leader, at least, were duplicitous and fraudulent.

Even accepting Abbas' sincerity in Aqaba, the words will ultimately prove meaningless unless he mobilizes Palestinian society to accept them too. Barely had the microphones at Aqaba been turned off, than Hamas pledged it would not stop its violence against Israel, even as a tactical ceasefire. Islamic Jihad of course, walks in lock step with Hamas. Fatah, Tanzim and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, all of which are controlled by Yasser Arafat, have also refused to set aside their campaign against Israelis. Indeed, they acted on their macabre promise and killed five Israelis over the weekend.

Despite President George W. Bush's efforts to bring peace between Israelis and Palestinians, he too will ultimately fail, as his predecessor did, unless the Palestinians themselves decide to reject the inciters and perpetrators of hatred and violence against the Israelis. This is the key task that Mahmoud Abbas must undertake; otherwise his lofty words will not advance past good intentions. A ceasefire with fellow Palestinians who religiously, ideologically and emotionally oppose the very notion of a Jewish state in the Middle East is wholly insufficient. He must root them out of Palestinian society. If he does not, the Palestinians will be doomed to their statelessness and constant misery.

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MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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..WE ENTER THAT DELICATE PART OF THE JEWISH CALENDAR..
WHEN IT IS, ONCE AGAIN, TOO LATE TO START A DIET IN TIME TO LOOK GOOD..
...IN A SWIM SUIT.
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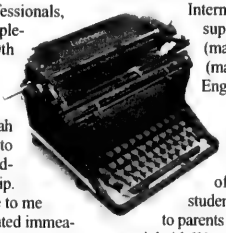
Adath Israel celebrates its centennial

The fine article on Adath Israel's centennial by staff reporter Frances Kraft, written with warmth and a keen eye for detail, calls for an addendum which I, as one of the three rabbis mentioned in the article, will gladly supply ("Adath Israel Synagogue celebrates its centennial," *CJN*, May 22).

Recognition of two other synagogue professionals, often generically called *klei kodesh*, will complement Kraft's review of the synagogue's 100th anniversary.



Alex Koenigsberg became the sexton or shamash of Adath Israel in 1953. A unique individual and a Holocaust survivor of great Torah learning, personal piety and loving dedication to the shul and its people, Mr. K. radiated Yiddishkeit, warmth and a special aura of friendship. His counsel and devotion were indispensable to me until his death in 1999. His influence contributed immeasurably to the shul's development.

Cantor Eliezer Kirshblum, now in his 36th year with Adath Israel, has stamped a distinctive artistic and devotional quality on the synagogue's religious services. He has also encouraged the pursuit of cantorial excellence in the wider community. His initiative and competence have enhanced the Adath Israel program, as exemplified by the glorious centennial concert that Kraft mentions in her article. The congregation has been enriched by his vision and leadership as educational director and involvement in many other aspects of synagogue life.

Rabbi Erwin Schild
Rabbi Emeritus, Adath Israel Congregation
Toronto

* * *

Opposes tax credit arguments

The arguments put forth in "Send Queen's Park a Message" by letter-writer Mark Greenberg in favour of the tax credit for private schools are specious and self-serving (Letters, *CJN*, May 29).

Greenberg cloaks his support for the tax credit by invoking the interests of "the Jewish people." He could at least be honest and say he supports the measure because it will put a few thousand dollars in his pocket. In addition, Greenberg ignores the oft-repeated truth that there is no such thing as a free lunch. The $300 million that this tax credit will cost the government will have to come from somewhere. Would Greenberg like it to come from fewer scientists to test for the next virus to hit Ontario? Or would he like it to come from reduced protection of our water quality? Or would he like to further starve our public education system? Any way he looks at it, he will have to pay for the extra money in his pocket.

Ilan Salamon
Toronto

* * *

Double cohort option

In view of the hundreds of students with solid grades who have not been accepted to Ontario universities this year because of the doubling of the graduating cohort, I would like to bring to the attention of your readers a very exciting option many already know about: the Rapahael Recanati International School at the Interdisciplinary Centre in Herzliyah, Israel.

IDC is Israel's first elite private college, and it enrols 3,000 of the country's most competitive students. The Raphael Recanati International School, IDC's bridge to the world, offers superb, three-year bachelor's programs in business (major in enterpreneurial marketing) and government (major in Middle East security studies), entirely in the English language.

As a graduate of the University of Toronto, I am particularly delighted at the prospect of welcoming more Canadian students to our programs. This is an intimate place (classes are typically made up of 30-40 students) where the dean knows every student and every professor is also a mentor. We speak to parents personally about everything from safety to financial aid. We are taking applications until Aug. 15. Our faculty and programs are described in depth on our Web site, www.rris.idc.ac.il.

Prof. Bernard Avishai
Dean, Rapahel Recanati International School
Herzliyah, Israel

* * *

Project Spectrum has USDS roots

It was with a great deal of interest that we read Anna Morgan's article about the Heschel school and its new Project Spectrum ("Heschel pioneers new approach to assessing kids," *CJN*, May 22).

Project Spectrum is based on a 10-year research project dedicated to developing an alternative approach to assessment and curriculum. It evolved from psychologist Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences, which suggests that children have distinctive profiles of different abilities. They learn and process information about their world in different ways. Gardner's theory is an innovative way of looking at how children best learn.

Gardner's approaches to learning were in fact pioneered in 2000 in the grades 4 and 5 classes of United Synagogue Day Schools (USDS) as part of their Alternative Learning Strategies program. The following year, USDS established its Early Years Centre of Excellence program, which is now established in all pre-school and Grade 1 classes across the system. Teachers in the school's integrated general and Jewish studies programs observe and document students' learning styles, and provide opportunities to allow different approaches to learning similar materials.

As education consultants who have been involved in the USDS initiatives, we have been excited and gratified by the innovative approaches in classrooms and by the interest of parents who want to understand how their children learn best.

We are pleased that Gardner's philosophy is being explored in another day school and look forward to the day when it is reflected in other schools as well.

Karen Oster and Lorraine Sandler
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Locating Mount Sinai

In last week's Perspectives essay, archeologist Emmanuel Anati began describing his theory, based on evidence his expedition team has found in the Negev Desert, that Har Karkom is the Mount Sinai of the Bible. The team's research is sponsored by the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici, Italy, in co-operation with the Antiquities Authority and the Archeological Survey of Israel, and supported by the cultural relations department of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This week, he concludes his argument.

By EMMANUEL ANATI

At the edge of a living site, at the foot of Har Karkom (Site HK/52), we found a group of 12 pillars or standing stones facing a platform. It reminded us of a passage in Exodus (24:4): "And Moses... built an altar under the hill (or mountain) and 12 pillars, according to the 12 tribes of Israel." Obviously, we are not in the position to prove that this monument was built by Moses, but the monument is there and was probably seen and interpreted as such by travellers.

By EMMANUEL ANATI

The cleft on one of the two tops at Har Karkom forms a small rock-shelter. A shelter right on the summit of a mountain is not a common feature in the Sinai Peninsula. Again, this is a topographic feature the Bible attributes to Mount Sinai: "And the Lord said, behold, there is a place by Me, and thou should stand upon a rock; and it shall come to pass, while My glory passeth by, that I will put thee in the cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with My hand while I pass by" (Exodus 33:21-22).

A Bronze Age shrine, with a stone platform or altar oriented to the east, is present on the Har Karkom plateau. Around it are footprints carved on stones in the direction of the mountaintop. In the book of Exodus, there are several references to a temple that is said to have been seen by Moses (Exodus 25:40; 26:7; 26:30; 27:8). Some biblical scholars believe that Moses may have had a vision of a "celestial" temple while on the mountain, but the Bible says there was a temple and this again is a topographic feature. Early travellers in biblical times may have recognized a sanctuary in this structure with an altar.

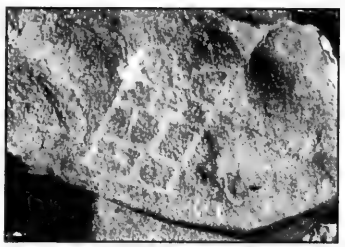
We found many other such parallels between biblical accounts and our archeological findings. At first, we saw them as intriguing coincidences, but as the survey went on, such coincidences became too many. The archeological finds reflect a story very similar to that described in the Bible and reveal a site that mirrors the biblical narrations on Mount Sinai. The compilers of the book of Exodus, when describing Mount Sinai, provide a wealth of topographic details that coincide with those of Har Karkom. When *The Mountain of God* came out in 1986, about 500 archeological sites were on record. Since then, the expeditions conducted there have more than doubled the number of sites. The mountain is likely to have served as a paramount site of worship and pilgrimage again and again in the course of millennia. If the Israelites indeed stopped at the foot of this holy mountain, they were not the only ones to do so. Also the Bible seems to give us an indication of this possibility (Exodus 3:1). Moses led the flock of Jethro to the "Mountain of God." The text seems to imply that the site was known already as the "Mountain of God" before Moses arrived there.

A rock engraving of a staff and a serpent found at Har Karkom

After the first shocked refusal to look at the evidence in 1984, several scholars now tend to agree that Har Karkom may well be identified with Mount Sinai. However, some questions remain open. The most puzzling one is that of chronology. Our discoveries indicate that Har Karkom was a paramount holy mountain in the fourth and the third millennia BCE. Recent archeological investigation established the same dates for Kadesh-Barnea, Arad, Jericho, Ai and other sites mentioned in the biblical accounts of Exodus and the book of Joshua. According to the findings, these localities flourished in the third millennium BCE and suffered devastation and destruction toward its end. Despite the numerous efforts made by scholars to make their findings fit the currently held dates for Exodus, if the identification of the excavated archeological sites is correct, none of those sites existed in the 13th century BCE. When archeologists found no trace of the Late Bronze Age at Jericho, some biblical scholars claimed that biblical Jericho was not there. When the archeological survey failed to find traces of the Late Bronze at Ai, Arad or at Kadesh-Barnea, the same was claimed. But could all the identifications be wrong?

In the last 100 years, many efforts have been made to find some hints of the Israelites and their exodus in ancient Egyptian literature. In the Egyptian texts that date to the New Kingdom, there is no mention whatsoever of the flight from Egypt or the crossing of the "Red Sea." Not even the general historical and social background correspond. The biblical episodes in Egypt refer to the presence of significant groups of Asians in the area of the Delta. Political changes upset the Asians' social standing. If all of this tradition has a minimal basis in historical fact, then it cannot have been totally ignored by the Egyptians. And in fact it was not ignored. The relevant texts do not date to the New Kingdom at all, but to the Old Kingdom. It is our opinion that the archeological evidence at the above-mentioned sites, the tribal social structures described in the Bible, the climatic changes described by the episodes of drought and the ancient Egyptian literature all seem to indicate that the events and situations that may have inspired the biblical narrations do not date to the 13th century BCE but rather to the late third millennium BCE.

As already stressed by several authors, the Egyptian literature of the late Old Kingdom and of the First Intermediate period, between 2300 and 2000 BCE, contains many points of contact with the biblical narrations. This aspect has been discussed in detail in *The Mountain of God*. Another Egyptian text related, in the versions known to us up to the 20th century BCE, the Sinuhe narrative, clearly has much in common with the biblical story of Moses, who escaped to Midian, where he "married" in the family of Jethro. It is difficult to believe these parallels can be a series of pure coincidences. It seems, in fact, that there was a common matrix to these two accounts, which cannot be later than the oldest known text of the story.



A rock engraving called "Tablets of the Law"

Above all, the archeological evidence in the Sinai Peninsula specifically excludes the possibility of the presence in the area of tribal ethnic groups such as the Midianites, Amalekites, Amorites, Horites and Israelites, from the 20th to the 12th centuries BCE. Palaeo-climatologists indicate a period of severe draught, and archeologists have shown that the desert areas of the Near East were practically abandoned by man between the 20th and the 12th centuries BCE.

This evidence is further supported by finds in Jordan, where the presence of large human communities and vast activity in the Early Bronze Age and the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age, in the third millennium BCE, bear patterns similar to those recorded at Har Karkom. Like in the Negev and Sinai deserts, also in Edom and Moab, this archeological episode is followed by a hiatus until the Iron Age in the 12th century BCE. The evidence shows that by then, the Israelites were already agriculturalists and villagers in the Holy Land. If there had been an exodus, it must have taken place well before the age of Judges. Inevitably, this means before the arid period when the Sinai Peninsula had no tribal life. The biblical account of the Exodus describes an area with an intense tribal life.

Considering these various factors together, it seems that the biblical narratives reflect what archeological research has discovered at Har Karkom, Beer Karkom and Kadesh-Barnea, as well as at Jericho, Ai, Arad, Edom, Moab and elsewhere. If the epic described in the books of Exodus and Numbers relies on even a minimal historical matrix, and if indeed there was an exodus with stops at the foot of Mount Sinai and at Kadesh-Barnea, then its chronological context can only refer to the Bronze Age Complex (BAC) period, during which Har Karkom was a holy mountain of exceptional importance. The documentation gathered through archeological research at Jericho and Ai, the comparisons with Egyptian literature, and the actual finds at Har Karkom all seem to imply that the biblical narratives have some historical background referring to the era of the Exodus. Thus the age of Joshua, beginning at Gilgal, marked the twilight of the Early Bronze Age. This is when the epoch of Moses ends, an epoch that both culturally and historically belongs to the Early Bronze Age: about one millennium before the dates assumed in what has so far been the conventional chronology.

Note: For further details see: Anati, E., 2001, *The Riddle of Mount Sinai* (Capo di Ponte, Edizioni del Centro), or visit the Web site at www.harkarkom.com.

Emmanuel Anati is the head of the Har Karkom Archaeological Survey and the director of the Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici.

A daughter's *kaddish*

When my father died two years ago, I recited the traditional mourner's prayer, the kaddish, faithfully, twice a day for 11 months. I did it for my father, in filial respect, to honour him. I expected it to be a great burden, but I realized a great benefit.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Given his cardiac history, we anticipated Dad's death. A few years ago, I wrote to my father asking him two questions: I asked him to forgive me and I asked if he wanted me to say *kaddish*. When he did finally die, I knew that he wanted me to say *kaddish*, even though I was a daughter and not a son. It was very important to me that I perform this ritual according to his wishes.

That knowledge sustained me when things got difficult. And they did get difficult, for I was a female reciting a prayer reserved for males, especially in Orthodox synagogues.

Since I travelled frequently that year, I prayed in different places and circumstances. Many were not pleasant. Some synagogues had no place for me: one congregation put my chair in front of the men's bathroom.

Even in synagogues that supposedly authorized women to say the kaddish, I was made to feel unwelcome. Often, my recitation annoyed male worshippers. At times, I could not hear and so could not join in with the mourner's *kaddish*. Every now and then, I would find men sitting in the women's section during daily prayers. They did not appreciate my presence, as it forced them out.

Thankfully, my experience in Montreal was the antithesis of my experiences elsewhere. In my shul, the Orthodox Spanish and Portuguese synagogue, I was fully accepted. I was never made to feel excluded or irrelevant. I was never ignored. On the contrary, my *kaddish* was heard and responded to. I may not have been counted in the minyan, but I counted. And my father's name was cherished and honoured.

My experiences were not unique. Many women have found similar hardship and receptivity.

But the unanticipated benefits were startling. I enjoyed being in synagogue. Yes, getting up early was hard and it complicated my work day. Yes, I had to rush home in the winter and I was always pressed for time. But after years of private personal prayer every morning, I relished prayer with a community – so much so that I continue to go every morning.

I found the *kaddish* helped me to mark time, both personal and communal. It helped me to mourn and deal with Dad's death. It assisted in the preservation of his memory. He was alive to me in that space and still is.

I did it for Dad – it was my obligation, yet I benefited. Isn't that wonderful.

Wars over the Wall

To learn that Israel's Supreme Court ignored the merits of the case of "Women of the Wall" and agreed they could pray at the Kotel as long as they avoided the familiar plaza facing its long expanse was disheartening, to say the least. The vulgar behaviour of opponents of women's prayer groups obviously had its affect, driving women away from an area belonging to all Jews.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

The vicious attacks of the thugs that cause the disturbance are well documented. I am shocked that the court abdicated its responsibility and caved in, rather than insisting that civility prevail.

I have had many wonderful experiences at the Wall, some on the disputed plaza, others on the site to which women's and mixed prayer groups have been relegated.

I first saw the Kotel in 1963, when I visited a Jerusalem then governed by Jordan. The Kotel at that time was hidden under centuries of refuse, with houses crowded up to it, leaving only a small passage through which one could approach. Garbage and dirt were its hallmarks. I returned next in 1971 with my family, rousing them at sunrise to rush pell-mell through the shuk to a liberated Wall, just waking up from its centuries of neglect and vandalism.

During a sabbatical in Israel in 1974-75, we often went to the Kotel for havdalah, and celebrated the powerful ceremony where thousands of cohanim gathered to bless the people. Yet, over the years, I saw that women were crowded into a small section, and the Kotel became a Wall dominated by haredim who, along with many others, I fear to say, turned this construction of the murderous Herod into a sacred spot only they could own.

For readers who are not familiar with the geography of the Kotel, I will paint a word picture. The Kotel is not a part of the temple, as some think. It is a retaining wall that Herod built to hold up a mass of dirt. He erected his legendary temple complex on top of this mountain of packed earth. This retaining wall runs on the west side of the mount from near the Dung Gate (south of the platform on which the Temple and other buildings stood) northward to where the Antonia fortress stood. The wall had no sacred function in antiquity, but because for many generations it was as close as Jews could come to the Temple site, it became a symbol of what we had lost. But it is not a holy place – we make it holy by our actions, which, I am afraid, have not been conducive to holiness.

> *'I remembered the feelings of awe I had so many years before'*

Most of the wall remains under buildings erected through the centuries. It can be reached by following a narrow underground passage. Only a small part of the wall is uncovered. It runs from the edge of the large plaza we see in pictures south to the southern edge of the wall.

An artificial ramp (going up to the Temple Mount) cuts the wall into two parts – the larger is the plaza, the smaller is now in the archaeological park, dominated by Robinson's Arch (which originally supported a stairway leading up to the top of the mount). Along that part of the exposed wall runs a street that in Temple times was a lively shopping area, and you can still see the shop doorways and walk on pavement from the Second Temple period.

It is on that pavement, near the arch, where I davened last year on Shavuot as the sun rose over the Temple Mount in the east. Standing on the Herodian street, where stones from the Temple still lie in a heap where they fell as the Temple burned 2,000 years ago, was a moment of illumination for me.

When I emerged from the site, I remembered the feelings of awe I had so many years before, when the Kotel belonged to every Jew. Not just to haredim, not just to men, but to every Jew.

For years we were prevented by our enemies from praying at this place. To allow a few to decide for the many what is and is not permitted returns us to those days when we crept up to the Kotel at our peril.

That the highest court in Israel has forgotten this is, well, criminal.

It's OK to watch the news, and other observations

I had a strange realization the other night while watching the national news on television. For the first time in many, many months, some of the world's more hopeful and interesting news was emanating from the Middle East.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

The news lately has generally been grim, even depressing. We've seen disturbing footage of cow carcasses being dumped into landfills following the mad cow scare, raising questions about the safety of our food. We read and hear daily about how the SARS puzzle is proving extremely difficult to solve. As spring turns into summer, we learn more about the threat of West Nile virus. The situation remains unsettled in Iraq and there has been terrorism in Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

Yet, within this troubled context, there is new hope for peace in the Middle East.

The international community has a renewed interest in the region and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas are talking to each other and are seemingly willing to take risks and make change.

While Israel and the Palestinians are still far from living in harmony, knowing that there are serious talks underway once again feels like an emotional relief – a chance for people around the world to take a break from feelings of despair and hopelessness that have come to characterize the Mideast.

I think many people would describe themselves as cautiously optimistic about this latest peace effort. The fact is, though, it could all change on a dime. And with major summits scheduled between the time I've written this and the time you are reading this, much may in fact have changed. Such is the nature of Middle Eastern discourse.

For now, though, reading and hearing about Israel in a hopeful and positive light is a good feeling that we haven't had the opportunity to experience in quite some time.

* * *

I had an interesting Sunday last week. I attended a large synagogue service in the morning (a bar mitzvah permitted that day because it was Rosh Chodesh Sivan) and a Christian wedding that afternoon in a church.

Even though the two religions seemed to have switched their regular time slots for the day, I was struck by the similarity in the tones of the events.

In paying tribute to the bar mitzvah boy in the morning, his father recalled a an incident in which his son acted admirably, like a mensch. After that, the father noted, he knew that his son would grow up all right.

Later that day, in toasting the bride, her proud father told a story of his daughter's youth that led him to the same observation—that she, too, would be all right.

After hearing a similar message twice in the same day from two proud dads, I learned to keep my eyes open for those telling moments with my own children. I was also reminded that while theologies and cultures may differ, values can be similar.

* * *

Last month, I attended the annual concert of Winnipeg's Sarah Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble (or "Chai," for short). The singing and dancing troupe has been around for 39 years and remains one of Winnipeg's most highly-regarded cultural performance groups.

Chai features an exceptional live orchestra, a small group of highly skilled singers and a couple dozen youthful dancers.

I hadn't been to a Chai show in a few years and I found that getting lost in Israeli and Jewish music (that is, music that wasn't from a children's CD) is extremely powerful.

Hebrew is rich and melodic, even when spoken. When accompanied by voice and instrument, it is powerful.

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

The unfinished business of restitution

Shortly after the Potsdam Conference in Germany in August 1945, the Allies began returning Jewish property looted by the Nazis. The chief beneficiaries of these early restitution programs were states rather than individuals and families.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The injustice was compounded when the Iron Curtain of communism fell over eastern Europe and all private property was nationalized.

The picture, however, was not completely black.

In 1952, West Germany, Israel and the Claims Conference signed the Luxembourg agreements under which the Germans would pay more than $60 billion (all figures US) in reparations to 500,000 Holocaust survivors around the world. And in the 1960s and 1970s, Swiss banks released $6 million in dormant accounts to their rightful owners.

But it was not until the mid- and late 1990s that the festering restitution issue was seriously addressed on a universal basis. Thanks to the fall of communism, the opening of archives, the transformation of communist dictatorships into democracies and the high-level engagement of the United States in post-Holocaust affairs, justice could finally be done.

Stuart Eizenstat, a senior official in the Clinton administration, was a pivotal player in this belated but important process.

As the State Department's special envoy for property restitution, Eizenstat negotiated historic agreements with eastern European governments that were part of a broader American policy of encouraging the rule of law, respect for private property and tolerance for minorities. By virtue of his position, Eizenstat was also drawn into talks with Switzerland, Germany, Austria and France over these very contentious issues.

Eizenstat, who recounts his experiences in an edifying book, *Imperfect Justice* (Public Affairs), took on these onerous tasks when he was based in Brussels as ambassador to the European Union.

The job was offered to him by Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for European affairs. Holbrooke had come under pressure from Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress and a friend of former U.S. president Bill Clinton, to settle these unresolved questions.

Eizenstat faced five interlocking problems in eastern Europe: competing wartime claims, government complicity in appropriating valuables, the nationalization of property, the refusal of governments to return secular property and the rivalries between local Jewish communities and the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

Despite these barriers, Eizenstat broke through with a series of successes, some in unlikely places. But, as he adds, the battle for confiscated property – from communal buildings in the Czech Republic to synagogues in Ukraine – has yet to be completely won.

Resolving the problem posed by dormant accounts in Swiss banks was no easy matter, either.

As Eizenstat puts it, "The Swiss government was not co-operative. Only through the diplomatic efforts of the U.S. government, threats of sanctions and boycotts by lawyers and Jewish organizations, class-action lawsuits and heated negotiations did my colleagues and I help produce results far beyond anyone's expectations."

The negotiations with Switzerland produced unintended consequences, damaging the United States' relationship with Switzerland, reviving open anti-Semitism and forcing the smug Swiss to re-examine their past.

Initial talks got off to a rocky start when the president of the Swiss Bankers Association offered Bronfman a settlement of $32 million, a paltry sum indeed.

Naturally, Bronfman was offended. "They thought we were a bunch of schnorrers," he fumed. "They just wanted to get rid of us."

This unpleasant encounter convinced Bronfman that the Swiss needed to be pressured. So the services of Gus D'Amato, a pugnacious New York Republican senator, were called upon.

Inevitably, a plethora of lawyers came on the scene. Eizenstat, who is less than complimentary about their motives and operating procedures, describes them as "a witches' brew of egos and mutual jealousies." As far as he is concerned, the majority "were in it for the money."

In his view, the acrimonious dispute might have been resolved expeditiously had the banks and the Swiss government agreed on an agenda.

While he is at it, Eizenstat does not resist the temptation to dwell on Switzerland's war time neutrality, such as it was.

The Swiss, he says, repeatedly violated their neutral status by allowing German troops and German trains to cross their borders, by selling Germany arms and munitions and by laundering Nazi-purloined gold.

Eizenstat acknowledges that Bronfman's demand for $3 billion to settle all claims was "utterly out of bounds." He similarly dismisses the banks' revised $300 million bid.

In the end, the mutually acceptable figure was $1.25 billion, but until a compromise was reached, the two sides fought like "scorpions in a bottle."

During the war, German industry forcibly employed about 10 million foreign workers, some of whom were Jews. Lawyers representing former forced and slave labourers demanded a settlement of nothing less than $30 billion, but German companies came back with a counter offer of less than $1 billion.

"The sides were so far apart that the talks were at risk of imploding," Eizenstat writes.

Stuart Eizenstat (centre left) joins German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder (centre) and other officials to mark the announcement of a financial settlement on forced labourers.

Eizenstat enlisted the aid of several U.S. government officials – including Secretary of State Madeleine Albright – to work on the Germans. He credits German Chancellor Gerhard Schroder for pressing German industry "to do the right thing" and for contributing taxpayers' funds to top off the payments.

Under Allied coaxing, Austria – which took comfort from the belief that it had been Adolf Hitler's "first victim" – passed seven laws to restore Jewish property. But these were full of loopholes and replete with short claims periods.

Stepping into the morass, Eizenstat negotiated directly with Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel, hammering out an acceptable accord.

France, whose wartime treatment of its Jewish citizens was shameful, established a Shoah foundation with an initial endowment of about $375 million. It was funded by the French government, the central bank, private banks and insurance companies.

But the settlement did not satisfy American lawyers, who had filed three class-action suits against France's three main banks. Eizenstat intervened, and the case was closed.

France also found itself mired in the muck of Nazi art thefts. When the war ended, France returned 45,000 objects – paintings, drawings, sculptures, rare books, furniture and the like – to their proprietors. But in the absence of certifiable heirs, a few thousand pieces were placed in French museums, while 13,000 were sold at auctions.

At Eizenstat's suggestion, museums, commercial galleries and auction houses agreed to join forces in tracing looted art and to establish a conflict resolution system to prevent claims from deteriorating into protracted legal battles.

By every yardstick, Eizenstat acquitted himself reasonably well in all these negotiations. All told, he and his team extracted $8 billion for Jews and non-Jews who had been victimized during the Holocaust.

But, he admits, his efforts were at best imperfect. "Our negotiations were not idealized exercises in moral expiation or giant civic lessons. They were difficult, emotional and confrontational clashes over billions of dollars [and] wounded national pride."

Looking back, he is sorry that he did not press the United States sufficiently hard that property restitution became a priority in Washington's dealings with the new democracies of eastern Europe.

Turning to Israel, Eizenstat criticizes the Israelis for not having used their political clout to advance the issue of property restitution in eastern Europe. In essence, Israel feared that moves to strengthen reawakened Jewish communities there might impede aliyah.

In summing up, Eizenstat says he believes he achieved practical, political and moral successes that far outweighed the costs and disappointments. "We galvanized the world's attention on the overlooked issue of looted Holocaust-era assets, and we provided a final, if incomplete, financial accounting of the crimes of World War II."

Beyond that, he notes, he and his colleagues developed novel concepts for redressing future mass violations of human rights.

Judging by his achievements, flawed though they were, Eizenstat can rest assured that he has attained more than just a footnote in history.

* * *

Stuart Eizenstat will speak at Holy Blossom Temple on Wednesday, June 18, at 8 p.m.

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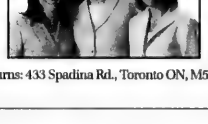

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Conservative movement honours Toronto couple

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

When Ron and Heather Hoffman first joined a synagogue as a married couple starting their own family, they opted for a Conservative congregation, although they knew little about the denomination itself.

What they did know, Ron recalled during a recent phone interview, is that they wanted to sit together.

"But once we became involved and began to learn about the principles [of Conservative Judaism] – intellectual freedom, the importance of tradition, of Zionism and of pluralism, the kinds of things that just spoke to me – I thought, 'This is good,'" said the father of two and grandfather of one.

Ron and Heather Hoffman.

Next Monday, June 16, the Hoffmans will be honoured with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's Ateret Kavod award for their leadership in the movement. The reception, featuring entertainer Theresa Tova, will take place at Adath Israel Congregation, where the Hoffmans are longtime members.

Heather, a human resource counsellor, is involved in the synagogue's sisterhood, having served as a vice-president and chaired a variety of projects. Last year, she chaired the Ashkenaz Festival and has also been involved with other community organizations.

Ron, a lawyer who now works in the business world, originally became involved with Adath Israel's brotherhood, working his way through the synagogue and Conservative movement ranks. He currently chairs the Canadian Foundation for Masorti Judaism and serves as vice-president of Mercaz-Canada.

He is a board member of both the Jewish National Fund and Kolel: A Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, to name two of the organizations he has been involved with. In 1995, he received UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Shem Tov award for community leadership.

The Ateret Kavod award was created in 2000 by the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism to honour individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership. Funds raised in conjunction with the award events are used for the movement's youth and young adult programs, Kadima, United Synagogue Youth (USY) and KOACH.

This year, at Hoffman's initiative, funds will be allocated both to those programs and to the construction of a community mikvah to be run under Conservative auspices.

The Hoffmans are "so committed in so many areas of the Jewish community," said Paul Kochberg, president of United Synagogue's Canadian region. "Ron is one of the strongest supporters of the Conservative movement that I know."

The couple supports youth programs because they feel "that our community has to do everything possible to ensure that our great-grandchildren will be Jewish," Ron said.

In addition, he noted, "in any new Jewish community, historically, the mikvah has been more important than the synagogue or the cemetery."

In the United States, there has been a move on the part of the Conservative movement to build its own mikvahs because many Orthodox mikvahs do not allow Conservative conversions, said Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum, president of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly, Ontario region.

Currently, Conservative rabbis in Toronto use the Reform movement's mikvah for up to half a dozen conversions a month. Although they are grateful to the Reform movement, "it's very important for our own integrity as a movement that we have a mikvah," Rabbi Tanenbaum said.

A committee has narrowed down a list of potential sites.

Solel honours Mayor McCallion

Solel Congregation of Mississauga is holding a tribute dinner on June 16 to honour Mayor Hazel McCallion on her 25th anniversary in office.

The event will raise money for five charities selected by McCallion, including Foodpath, Mississauga's largest food bank; Pathway Community programs, a non-profit group assisting families and children of Mississauga through breakfast programs and parent-child centres; The Dam Youth Drop-in for youth at risk; the Hazel McCallion scholarship for Grade 12 students to pursue higher education; and Solel Congregations Hebrew School in order to build a permanent facility.

Temple member Gavin Herman, who is co-chairing the event with his wife Shirley, said they conceived the idea for the dinner in order to find a way to move forward on the development of a permanent school facility for Temple Solel, the only synagogue in Mississauga.

With about 250 students, it is time that the school – which now rents space from the Dufferin-Peel Roman Catholic School Board – had its own facility, said Herman.

They decided to honour McCallion, 82, "because she is very involved in the community, and because she has lent her name to various causes such as Mississauga's art gala and its charity golf tournament.

"We don't know of any other time that she has been honoured, so we felt this could be a good vehicle.

"She has had a solid, close relationship with Solel's Rabbi Lawrence Englander for years, and that added to our desire to honour her."

They are expecting about 1,100 people at the dinner, which is to be held at the Mississauga Convention Centre, said Herman. Evening dinner sponsor is Biovail Corporation.

Entertainment includes singer Michael Burgess, a longtime Mississauga resident; Tina Maddigan, an alumnus of Sheridan College who is now starring in *Mamma Mia* on Broadway; the Mississauga Children's Choir; and The Shamrock Academy of Irish Dancers.

The Mississauga police and fire departments will be represented with the Peel Region Police Pipe Band and the Mississauga fire department honour guard.

For more information and to make reservations call Karen Miller, fundraising chair and dinner co-ordinator, 416-224-9990.

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Toronto teenager receives Chief Scout Award

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

Few people enjoy the winter as much as Kyle Giddens. During January's deep freeze, while many of us were swaddled miserably in coats, scarves, and hats, 15-year-old Giddens was happily camping in the bush outside St. Catharines. With his scout troop, Giddens built a lean-to between two trees and prepared a cozy floor – straw sandwiched in plastic wrap – to sleep on for two nights.

Outdoor camping is just one of the achievements that earned him the Chief Scout's Award, the highest award in the Scout Canada program for his age group. On May 22, he was presented with an award signed by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson recognizing him for his leadership skills, volunteer work and love of the outdoors.

Kyle Giddens

While many of us were lighting Chanukah candles at home in December, Giddens was in the basement of a church in the city's west end, teaching a group of elementary-school children and their parents about the story of Chanukah. He also showed them how to play dreidel and gamble for pennies with the colourful four-sided tops.

In his spare time, the Grade 9 CHAT student and Bialik graduate also volunteers every year at the Baycrest Run handing out drinks to runners at water stations, supervises arts and crafts contests at the annual Winterfest at Mel Lastman Square, and distributes gifts to needy families every December for the Toronto Star Christmas Fund.

Despite his commitments and responsibilities, Giddens enjoys being a Scout. "I'm helping others, doing stuff for the community, doing stuff I wouldn't usually do. If I wasn't part of Scouts then I wouldn't take part in that," he said.

One of his tasks as a chief scout is to watch over two younger scouts, which he admits is the most challenging part of his role. "You're responsible for your actions and have to present a leadership role for them," said Giddens.

Giddens joined the Scouts three years ago when his parents wanted him to learn new skills and get involved in the community. Since then, he's learned first aid and how to pitch a tent and has become more self-sufficient.

However, he never imagined himself getting the top award. "I didn't even think of the chief scout award," he said.

His parents are delighted with their son's achievements and impressed with his stamina for cold-weather camping. Owen Giddens accompanied his son on the first winter camping trip. "It's pretty brutal," he said. "I lasted one night."

"We're really proud of him," said his father. "It helped him mature through leadership and taking responsibility."

Sandra Giddens said that her son has become more well-rounded because of his leadership and volunteer experience. "It's more than he could have gotten from just school or camp," she said.

Rabbis, doctors discuss SARS

Continued from page 3

"If there is to be any silver lining," Rose said, "[It's that] we [now] know how to control outbreaks at hospitals in the future."

Using examples at York Central, Dwosh said SARS has exposed many underlying problems in the health-care system.

He described York Central as an "overcrowded and very busy place" with an open-concept design that made it difficult to isolate suspect and probable SARS cases from other patients.

Another problem, he said, is that "not every hospital can do everything for everyone." As a result, one of the first SARS patients in Toronto suffered kidney failure and had to be transferred from Scarborough Grace to York Central for dialysis.

Transferring patients from one hospital to another increases the possibility of spreading disease, Dwosh said. But he added that "when things are handled in the right manner, there is little chance of the genie coming out of the bottle."

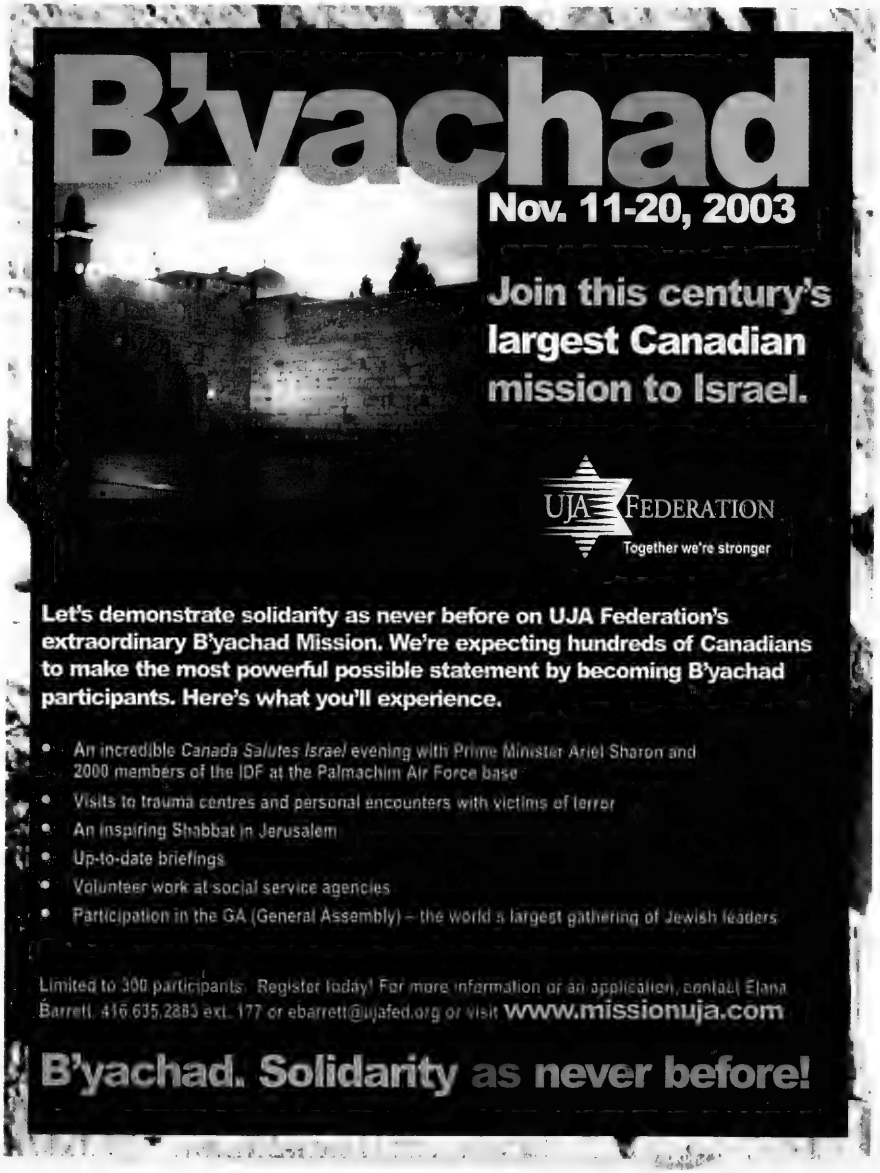
Dealing with SARS has been emotionally trying on everyone involved, Dwosh said. One nurse at his hospital took early retirement after contracting the illness and another is dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder. As well, he said, many nurses are quitting and health-care workers must now deal with a general backlog in the health-care system created by restricted access to hospitals due to SARS.

Dwosh also told a poignant story about family members of an elderly SARS patient who had to make a tough choice after being told that if they said goodbye to their dying relative, they would have to go into quarantine and miss his funeral and shivah.

Rabbi Glatt cited several biblical and historical precedents to reassure the audience that humanity has overcome plagues throughout the ages.

He said it's impossible to explain why God allows epidemics like SARS to exist, but that He always has His reasons.

"If we didn't have the ability to solve this on a scientific, personal and religious basis, we wouldn't have it," Rabbi Glatt said. "God doesn't give us anything we can't handle."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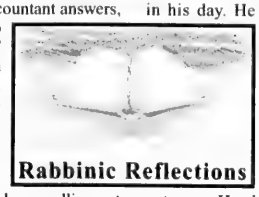
The numbers game

By RABBI YECHIEL GOLDREICH



There is an old Jewish joke about a man asks an accountant, "How much is two plus two?" The accountant answers, "How much do you want it to be?"

Jews have a long history with numbers. The beginning of the fourth book of the Torah, named *Numbers*, reads like a synagogue ledger, spelling out exactly who donated exactly how much, and how many were in which tribe and how were they subdivided. Painstakingly, the Torah focuses on the most minute of details.

Commentators labour to find the divine inspirational aspects of this seemingly dry patch of writing. Many early commentaries use the passages as expressions of national pride, of wistful yearning for a bygone era of Jewish greatness.

Rashi, living in Troyes, France, precariously close to the horrors of the Crusades, wrote about the armies of ancient Israel. "God counts us over again as an expression of love." The numbers are not merely facts, but rather a divine expression of affection. We are not forgotten. We count.

Nachmanidies fled Spain and arrived in a deserted, desolate Jerusalem in the 13th century. He mournfully commented on the contrast between the sanctuary in the book of *Numbers* and the way it was in his day. He called the lack of numbers "a palace lacking its honour guards."

In the 19th century, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch read the book of *Numbers* in a slightly different way. He defended the Torah from the slanders of German Bible critics. He explained the nuanced meanings and symbolism of the numbers and tribal configurations. Like the financial pages, numbers and details contain a wealth of information if you know what you are looking at.

Picking up on this theme, present day Bible scholars (see www.tanach.org) pay close attention to structural, linguistic and literary detail and continue to develop new insights into *Numbers* that serve to inspire and enlighten. *Numbers* is, and are, important.

It seems odd then that elsewhere in the Torah, in *Exodus*, the direct counting of the Jewish people is prohibited. The book of *Samuel 2* even records a plague attributed to the sin of counting individuals. The Talmud states that blessing is only found among the uncounted.

The sages reconcile this by explaining that it's not the counting per se that is the problem. Rather, it is the dehumanization that comes from being merely a number, that we must recognize that numbers do not tell the complete story.

The results of Canada's 2001 census portray Canadian Jewry as "shrinking." Is this due to happy causes or, God forbid, sad ones? Does the number gain for Jews in Nova Scotia mean the same as it does for Jews in Ontario? Like the other book of *Numbers*, a lot depends on the commentary. The figures themselves tell only part of the story.

In his book *Hard Times*, Charles Dickens puts forth the following question: if two boats sink leaving no survivors, and one had 100 passengers while the other had 200 passengers, which is the greater tragedy? The greater tragedy, Dickens maintained, is the boat that contained your loved one.

May the Almighty remove all sickness from us and increase our numbers, and may those numbers reflect the true sum of our happiness.

Rabbi Yechiel Goldreich is assistant rabbi of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation in Toronto.

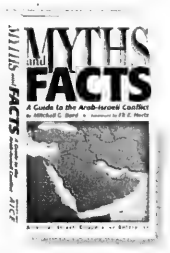
New evidence on Al-Dura killing controversy

MYTH:

The shooting of a child being protected by his father shown on TV proves Israel does not hesitate to kill innocent Palestinian children.

FACT:

Perhaps the most vivid image of the so-called "al-Aksa intifadah" was the film of a Palestinian father trying unsuccessfully to shield his son from gunfire. Israel was universally blamed for the death of 12-year-old Mohammed Al-Dura, but subsequent investigations found that the boy was most likely killed by Palestinian bullets.



An Israel Defence Forces (IDF) aerial photo of the Netzarim junction in the Gaza Strip where the boy was killed shows that he and his father took cover adjacent to a Palestinian shooting position at the junction. After Palestinian policemen fired from around the position toward an IDF position opposite, Israeli soldiers returned fire toward the sources of the shooting. During the exchanges of fire, the Palestinian child was hit and killed.

Contrary to the conventional belief that the footage of the incident was live, it was actually edited before it was broadcast around the world. Though a number of cameramen were in the area, only one, a Palestinian working for France 2, recorded the shooting. Raw footage shows a far more complex picture and raises many questions.

An IDF investigation of the incident released Nov. 27, 2000, found that Al-Dura was most likely killed by a Palestinian policeman and not by Israeli fire. This report was confirmed by an independent investigation by German ARD Television, which said the footage of Al-Dura's death was changed by the Palestinians to look as if he had been killed by the Israelis when, in fact, his death was caused by Palestinian gunfire (CNN, IDF, *Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 28, 2000; Jewish Telegraphic Agency, March 21, 2002).

In an article in *The Atlantic Monthly* this month, James Fallows revisited the story and wrote that "the physical evidence of the shooting was in all ways inconsistent with shots coming from the IDF outpost."

Fallows cited a number of unanswered questions, which have led some to conclude the whole incident was staged: "Why is there no footage of the boy after he was shot? Why does he appear to move in his father's lap, and to clasp a hand over his eyes after he is supposedly dead? Why is one Palestinian policeman wearing a Secret Service-style earpiece in one ear? Why is another Palestinian man shown waving his arms and yelling at others, as if 'directing' a dramatic scene? Why does the funeral appear – based on the length of shadows – to have occurred before the apparent time of the shooting? Why is there no blood on the father's shirt just after they are shot? Why did a voice that seems to be that of the France 2 cameraman yell, in Arabic, 'The boy is dead' before he had been hit? Why do ambulances appear instantly for seemingly everyone else and not for al-Dura?" (*The Atlantic Monthly*, James Fallows, "Who Shot Mohammed al-Dura?" June 2003).

Source: Myths & Facts Online: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.*

Jewish Life

Journalist takes peek into world of Chabad

***The Rebbe's Army: Inside the world of Chabad-Lubavitch*, by Sue Fishkoff, Random House, $40.00.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

The Chabad-Lubavitch branch of Chassidism, brought to its present prominence and popularity by the late charismatic Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who died in 1994 at the age of 94, is perhaps the fastest growing tendency in American Judaism. There may be 30,000 Chabad Chassidim in North America and three times that number around the world. The movement can boast of 3,800 husband and wife teams of shlichim in 45 American states and 61 countries – all of them committed to bringing Jews back or closer to their roots.

In remote Katmandu, Nepal, Chabadniks host 1,500 guests every year at their seder. Annual operating costs of the Chabad empire approach one billion – and this doesn't include construction costs for new buildings that have been going up at an astonishing rate around the world.

Yet as the author of this engaging and fair-minded account points out, so much about Lubavitchers appears to be contradictory.

"They scorn popular media, but they maintain the world's first and largest Jewish Web site, which gets millions of hits a year," Fishkoff writes. "They won't shake hands with member of the opposite sex, but they move in the highest government circles. They avoid college, because Schneerson – who himself studied at the Sorbonne and the University of Berlin – decided that America's college campuses would have a detrimental effect on his followers. Yet they jet all over the world on a moment's notice and live in the most exotic, un-Jewish locales. They are zealous about their own kashrut, but they open their arms to Jews who eat pork and drive on Shabbat."

There are, of course, opponents to the zealous Chabad outreach program. Many dislike the movement's insistence on lighting giant menorahs in public places, an action they consider contrary to the American division between church and state. Their refusal to recognize some Jewish denominations puts the group at odds with the majority of North American rabbis and most national Jewish organizations.

Perhaps most serious of all these matters is the lingering, divisive issue of Rabbi Schneerson as the long awaited Messiah. Rabbi Norman Lamm, who recently retired as president of Yeshiva University, was aghast: "Belief in a saviour who dies and is reborn to lead the way to salvation is a major theological distinction between Judaism and Christianity… The whole polemic we've had with Christianity for 2,000 years is that we say a Mashiach who did not accomplish world peace, who did not accomplish the redemption of Israel and the world, is not Mashiach. And here we're told that [the Rebbe] can be. If that's the case, why were we so reluctant to accept Jesus?"

Actually, the number of his followers who cling to the notion of the Rebbe as Messiah, including an overwhelming number of shlichim, are largely in a decline.

Fishkoff, an award-winning journalist, spent a year interviewing the dedicated emissaries. She travelled from Anchorage to Miami and explored their inner lives, sense of mission, relationship to marginal Jews and their inevitable blind spots.

Predicting the future of Chabad is a perilous undertaking. But it seems safe to predict that Chabad-Lubavitch will continue to flourish, both as a worldwide Chassidic movement with a specific philosophy and practice, as well as a successful Jewish outreach program. The teaching will continue, the Internet and print publication efforts will grow, Jews on the fringe will continue to offer money and support, and Chabad shlichim will continue to make their presence felt in the communities where they live and work.

Yiddishe Pappas (Father's Day)

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

A few weeks ago, there was a run on flower stores across the continent as mothers (including Yiddishe Mammas) got their day in the sun. Next Sunday, fathers everywhere will unwrap boxes containing ties and bottles of cologne. It's time to give Yiddishe Pappas their due.

Father's Day was first observed in the United States almost a century ago **[http://www.holidayorigins.com/html/father_s_day.html]**, but long before, Judaism commanded Jewish children to honour and fear their parents. In an essay "Must I Obey My Parents," Rabbi Michael Gold explains the importance of the well-known mitzvah of honouring your father and the lesser-known commandment prohibiting a child from sitting in his father's chair. (As to whether Judaism requires children to obey their parents, you'll have to read the essay: **http://www.rabbigold.com/faq3.html**).

So what, do the rabbis say, does the Jewish father owe his children?

• A father should be careful to keep his son from lies, and he should always keep his word to his children (Talmud Sukkah 46b).

• A father must provide his daughter with appropriate clothing and a dowry (Code of Jewish Law, Even Ha'ezer 71).

• In a chassidic tale, a father comes to the Ba'al Shem Tov with a complaint that his son is forsaking Judaism and morality. He asks the rabbi what he can do. The Baal Shem Tov answers, "Love him more" **[http://www.uscj. org/item96_99_462.html]**.

Rabbi Bruce Dollin of Denver's Hebrew Educational Alliance quotes the statement that tells the Jewish father he is "bound regarding his son to circumcise him, redeem him, teach him Torah, take a wife for him and teach him a craft. Some say, to teach him to swim as well."

Rabbi Dollin points out that nowadays, the Jewish father delegates most of these responsibilities to others (the mohel, the teacher, the swimming instructor, etc.) The statement actually points to deeper truths, he says. "Maybe teaching our children to swim is really a metaphor. Fathers are obligated to show their children how to swim, perhaps, in the sea of life. Fathers serve as a model how to enjoy life's blessings when the seas are calm, and how to work through the hard times when life's inevitable storms arrive" **[http://www.headenver.org/ Sermons/Nasso_5760.htm]**.

I have come across several moving essays in which Jewish children remember their fathers. I recommend "A Story of Jewish Fathers, Angels and Poinsettias" by Sara Levinsky Rigler **[http://www.spiritualsisters.com/messages/518.html]**, "Father's Day and Raw Eggs" by Jenna Tasky and "A Face in the Window," in which Rabbi Yaakov Salomon remembers his teary father peering through the window of his camp bus just so that he can savour one more glimpse of his son **[http://www.aish.com/family/heart/]**.

For a look at fictional Jewish fathers, the Jewish Heritage Video Collection recommends Phillip Roth's *Goodbye Columbus* (1969) and Chaim Potok's *The Chosen* (1982) **[http:// makeashorterlink.com/?N1F4516C4]**. Not surprisingly, it also mentions *Fiddler on the Roof* (1971), with Chaim Topol's famous Jewish father of five daughters, Tevye **[http://us.imdb.com/Title?0067093]**. For a different taste of Tevye, listen to Walter Matthau read Sholem Aleichem's *Chava,* in which the father tries "to make sense of his beloved daughter Chava's break with the only way of life he understands" **[http://www.kcrw.com/jewish /frames/jss1.html]**.

In "Honoring Our Fathers," Rabbi Daniel Brenner of CLAL: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership has these thoughts.

• Honour your father's history. What events shaped his life?

• Honour your father's outlook. What have you learned from him?

• Honour your father's dreams. What are his hopes for you, whether realized yet or not? **[http://www.beliefnet. com/story/81/story_8168.html]**.

Rabbi Brenner says, "On Father's Day, we honour our fathers not by comparing them to some ideal, but by acknowledging them for who they really are. We pause to reflect on their history, remember the challenges they faced and meditate on what they taught us along the way. In that, we truly live by the words 'honour thy father'… This Father's Day, reflect on the contribution fathers have made in sharing their love and guidance from one generation to the next. And if you have the opportunity, get him a bow tie – I hear they're coming back."

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Jewish Toronto

A sterling history of voluntarism recognized

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

It has been said that volunteers are the lifeblood of any successful organization, and few people personify that axiom better than Toronto's Carole Sterling.

Sterling, who has been a tireless and dedicated UJA Federation volunteer for the past decade, was recently designated as the 2003 recipient of the Phil Granovsky Award for Campaign Excellence, named after the late community leader, to honour individuals who exemplify the best in UJA Federation campaigning.

"I think that this honour is amazing," says Sterling. "What makes this award so special and appreciated is because of the man it was named after. Unfortunately I never knew Phil, but everyone I talk to raves about what an incredible man he was, and what an amazing legacy he has left behind. In that same vein I can only hope that the example I set for my children will inspire them."

The Phil Granovksy Award will be presented to Sterling at the upcoming UJA Federation Annual Meeting taking place on June 17.

Sterling, a UJA Federation Board Member, has much to be proud of including her stints as a Chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy; Chair of the Walk with Israel; participation in the 1998 March of the Living; and her two year role, along with Harvey Naglie, as Vice Chair of UJA's annual campaign. She is also a member of the Vaughan Steering Committee of UJA Federation's ambitious Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative, a member of the Executive and Board of Temple Sinai, second Vice President of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, and the Regional Representative of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Carole Sterling

Having been so heavily involved in Toronto's Jewish community over the past ten years, Sterling is optimistic about the future.

"Even after all these years, I am still in awe when it comes to Toronto's incredible Jewish community," she says. "How this community has rallied together and around Israel – especially over the past few years – speaks volumes about our passion, love and commitment to the State. No matter where I go in Toronto, people come up to me and ask how they can get more involved in helping with the Jewish community here, and especially in Israel. At the end of the day, Toronto's Jews realize what they need to do. That spirit certainly bodes well for the future of Jewish Toronto."

Some honest answers about SARS

As a recipient of the CHICA-Canada (Community and Hospital Infection Control Association) Award of Merit for service in the advancement of infection prevention and control, Dr. Andrew Simor has played an integral role in dealing with the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, in Ontario and around the world. Widely respected for his research, he has received a variety of research grants in Canada and the U.S.

Dr. Andrew Simor

Dr. Simor is head of Microbiology and a consultant on infectious diseases at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. He is also a professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto.

Prior to his address to members of the UJA Federation Maimonides Society - co-chaired by Dr. Howard Price and Dr. Irv Gottesman at Adath Israel Congregation - Dr. Simor answered a few questions about SARS, Toronto's response to the disease, and the future.

Q. Is SARS a sign of things to come in the new millennium? Should we be looking out for more of these new and mysterious viruses in the future?

A. Unfortunately I would have to say yes. SARS is just one example – West Nile Virus is another – of new and emerging infectious diseases. I have little doubt that we are going to see more and more of these viruses in the future.

Q. So, people are washing their hands more than ever due to the SARS outbreak. But surely there must be more that we can do to help put an end to this disease?

A. There is one way people can help prevent the spread of SARS, and that is by being responsible. People have always had a tendency to try and work through illness. The best thing that people can do today is, if they're sick, stay home and get better, get treatment if needed, but do not continue going to work where they face the risk of infecting their co-workers.

Q. With a second outbreak of SARS hitting Toronto recently, what went wrong? Were we too cocky or complacent once it seemed the initial outbreak had been brought under control?

A. The entire SARS problem has been very disturbing for everyone involved. After the first outbreak had occurred and things were seemingly returning to normal, many of Toronto's hospitals loosened their precautions. Still, I don't believe the re-emergence of SARS could necessarily have been prevented no matter what. I know that none of us in either public health or infectious diseases dismissed the threat too soon. We were obviously pleased at the beginning of May when the number of new SARS cases had declined, but none of us really thought it was over, not while there were still cases in various hospitals.

Q. What kind of effect has SARS had on the health care community?

A. This has been such a stressful time for all health care workers – and I stress all health care workers. From doctors and nurses to admitting staff and those in housekeeping. And the stress is not only due to the immense workload placed on everyone, but also because of the ongoing anxiety felt by those at risk in terms of their personal health and safety, as well as the safety of their families. SARS has certainly taken a heavy toll on the entire health care system.

Q. What do we, as a community, need to learn about SARS that we don't already know, and how close are we to gaining this new information?

A. There is still such a long way to go before we really gain all we need to know about this disease. First of all, from this experience it's quite clear that we need better diagnostic tools for individual patient management. Those tools are currently undergoing development, but they are not there yet. Secondly, we clearly need to better understand the virus itself to design the appropriate treatment and – ultimately – a vaccine.

Q. On the whole, how do you think Toronto has handled the SARS outbreak?

A. Overall I believe Toronto handled the SARS outbreak extremely well. On the bright side, we've learned much from this experience, most notably the importance of an adequate public health infrastructure as well as the needed resources. With health budgets falling oyer the past few years, and with health care living on the edge, this has certainly demonstrated the importance of the proper funding. Also, this outbreak showed the importance of having the collaborative efforts of a huge number of individuals in health care and in infectious diseases to properly manage this type of outbreak.

Discussing the "road map"

Over 300 people gathered recently at the Sheraton Centre Hotel to hear Richard Perle of the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research present his views on post-war Iraq and the "road map" for peace in the Middle East. Perle was formerly with the U.S. Defence Department.

Pictured, (L-R) Barry Zagdanski and Fred Waks, Co-Chairs of the Real Estate Cabinet join Perle and Allan Silber, Chair - along with Richard Venn - of UJA Federation Campaign 2004. (photo by Eve Marks)

Casablanca bombings bring community closer together

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

Despite last month's terror attacks that rocked the Jewish community of Casablanca, there is no widespread feeling of panic, according to one member of Casablanca's Jewish community, but rather, a feeling of renewed unity.

Five groups of attackers - 14 in all - carried out the bombings on May 16 on several Jewish and Spanish sites, including a Jewish social club, a Jewish cemetery, a Jewish-owned restaurant, and a hotel particularly popular with Israeli tourists. In fact, the Safir Hotel had nine Israeli guests at the time of the bombing and was expecting another 200. The Israelis were in Morocco for a Lag B'Omer holiday pilgrimage.

Over 40 people were killed in the attacks, none of them Jewish, and 100 were injured. Since the bombings, there is a noticeable increase in security, military and police in the streets, particularly at "sensitive" sites such as Jewish schools and a nearby fast food restaurant.

Moroccan officers inspect the damaged Jewish Community Center where three suicide bombers blew themselves up killing two guards last month in Casablanca, Morocco. Terrorists set off a string of deadly blasts in the heart of the Moroccan capital killing at least 40 people. *AP/Wide World Photos*

"It may sound strange unless you live here, but in my opinion, the bombings have had a positive effect on the people of Morocco - Jews and non-Jews alike," said Casablanca resident Dorit Ben Moha during a recent interview. "For one, it made the government aware of the very high level of Islamic fundamentalist activity going on here. The bombing did not scare anybody away, maybe that is because no Jews were killed."

"There was recently a huge march of solidarity in Casablanca which started at the site of the first bombing, the hotel, and continued through the streets of Casablanca," said Ben Moha. It was such a special feeling and really showed the true spirit of Moroccans. The slogan was 'Jews and Muslims unified - it's the only solution.' All of Morocco's citizens, Jews, Christians and Muslims have come together like never before."

Still, The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) - UJA Federation's overseas partner - is focusing on raising enough money to subsidize Jews who do decide to leave Morocco for Israel.

Morocco's Jewish community, which boasted 250,000 members in 1948, consists of less than 5,000 today - most of them over the age of 50.

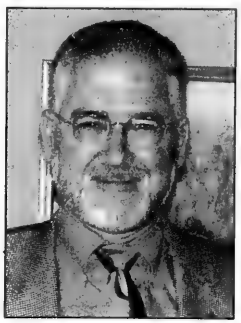
Surveying the damage in the recently bombed Casablanca Jewish Community Centre.

AP/Wide World Photos

Reform movement expands

According to Uri Regev, Executive Director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, in Jerusalem, Liberal Judaism can play a critical role in bringing secular Jews back to Judaism, particularly in Continental Europe, the Former Soviet Union (FSU), and Israel. Regev's comments were made during a special briefing held last week at the Lipa Green Building, for UJA Federation leaders.

"Liberal Judaism has a critical role to play in reconnecting these communities to Jewish life," said Regev. "We face a tremendous critical challenge, as many in these communities have been detached from Judaism for decades."



Uri Regev

"We have traveled a great distance in very few years in making progressive Judaism a viable path for Israelis. Still, there is tremendous work to be done," he said. "It is clear to us that this is not only a job for the Reform movement alone. Therefore, we are seeking partners in this effort."

Toronto philanthropists named to Order of Canada

Jewish community leaders honoured

The last year has been a particularly memorable one for two prominent members of Toronto's Jewish community known for their generous philanthropic philosophies.

Dr. Gerald Halbert receives the Order of Canada from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson.

In August 2002, Dr. Gerald Halbert was named to the Order of Canada, followed by Abraham (Al) Green who was in Ottawa just a few weeks ago to pick up his award.

The Order of Canada - this country's highest honour for lifetime achievement - recognizes people who have made a difference to Canada, from local citizens, to international celebrities,

Dr. Halbert, a strong supporter of the Canadian Jewish community, is a Past Campaign Chair of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, and Past President of UIA Federations Canada, and has been active in the development of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto - a Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative. He has also helped to raise funds for and establish several research chairs at the University of Toronto and University Health Network, and is a member of the Mount Sinai Hospital Board of Governors.

Halbert received the Order in Vancouver, rather than the customary setting of Ottawa, as part of a special traveling ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of Canadian-born Governors General.

"When I got involved in UJA Federation back in 1960, I soon went on my first mission to Israel. That first trip really turned me on to what UJA was doing for the Jewish community, and it turned me on to Israel and its importance, too. I've been involved with UJA ever since."

Al Green, a gifted sculptor, is known by the moniker, the "Dream Maker" in recognition of his philanthropic generosity. The community-minded businessman and life-long patron of the arts has donated countless dollars to a plethora of worthwhile charities, most notably the new 350-seat, multipurpose Al Green Theatre in the new Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, due to open later this month.

"I was completely shocked when I received the letter informing me that I was going to receive the Order of Canada," says Green, a Past UJA Federation Campaign Chair, who was informed of the honour in November 2001. "You do what you can to help the community, to give back as much as possible, but you don't look for, or expect such an honour. At least I didn't."

Al Green with wife Malka.

"It was such an exciting and surprising honour to receive this prestigious award," says Green. "The number of phone calls and letters I've received from people I hadn't spoken to in 25 years has been staggering. I am thrilled to receive this tremendous honour, but the real honour is being in a position where I can help others."

Green has donated funds and materials used to build schools, theatres, and community centres throughout the GTA. He is also behind JACS, a treatment centre for Jewish alcoholics and drug addicts.

"I love to undertake projects that nobody else has tried before," says Green.

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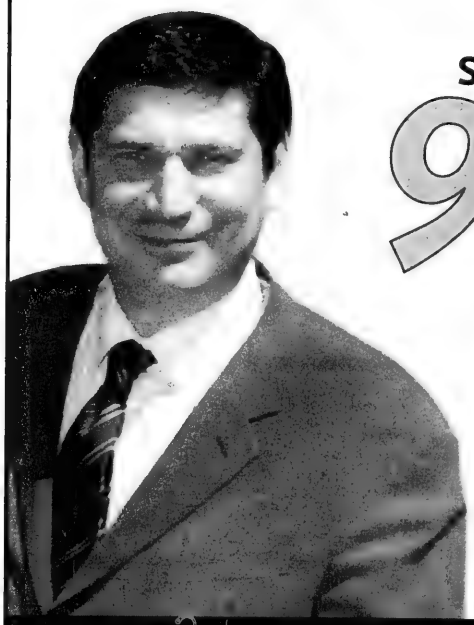

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Greater Toronto Area

Educator urges families to share their happiness

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Fulfillment comes from recognizing what is permanent in life, in contrast to what is ephemeral and ultimately unimportant, says writer and educator Faige Twerski.

Twerski was giving the David Rosenzweig Memorial Lecture in memory of Rosenzweig, who was murdered last year. The event was held recently at Baycrest Terrace.

From left: Chavi Rosenzweig, David Rosenzweig Memorial Lecture organizer Elana Ginz and guest speaker Faige Twerski. [Mani Melnick photo]

The attacks of 9/11 acted as a "wake-up call," especially in America, she said. "Before that, we thought that we could count on living in a sane, predictable world. Now we realize that we can't."

What we do control, Twerski said, is how we respond to events. Tragedy can bring out the worst in us, or the best, she said, citing Chavi Rosenzweig, David Rosenzweig's widow, who has dealt with her situation with "dignity and courage."

But, Twerski asked, while everyone knows that Jews look after each other in times of trouble, "why don't we do it in good times too?"

She urged people to share friends or family's happiness, "even if it is hard for you. Congratulate someone on getting engaged, even if you wish it was you."

It's very hard to do, she acknowledged, but she said if you do it consistently, eventually you will be able to genuinely and unselfishly wish people well.

"Let's form a *no fardin* [don't begrudge] club," Twerski said. "Then maybe God won't have to give us wake-up calls."

She encouraged Jews to follow laws of *tzniut*, modesty. "When we observe these rules, we are saying that we understand that there is an essence to me – that my totality isn't what you can see," she said.

That's not to say women shouldn't try to look attractive, Twerski said. It means to not be provocative and that "it takes longer to know me than what you can see outside."

What is important is kept private, she said. "If someone asks how much money we have in the bank, we are insulted. Our person should be just as important."

In Psalms, it says that all the glory of the daughter of the king is inward, Twerski noted. This inwardness enables women to understand the essence of people and situations. "We can go beyond the illusions of the world and see the hand of God."

The people involved in the events of 9/11 recognized what was truly important in life, she said.

"When the people in the towers realized that they were going to die, their last calls weren't to their investment brokers – the calls were to their wives and children."

Chavi Rosenzweig remembered her late husband as "a gentle man and a gentleman; a mensch and a proud Jew." The audience, many of whom were family and friends, gave her a standing ovation.

The evening marked the establishment of the Toronto chapter of Em Habanim Smecha, a Jerusalem-based organization that helps single-parent families. It offers tutoring, trips, camps and companionship, as well as Rosh Chodesh and holiday gatherings.

The organization takes children to shul, arranges bar mitzvahs and finds shidduchim for single parents and their children.

For more information on Em Habanim Smecha, call Elana Ginz, 416-631-9966.

Mossoff stays on the phone at UJA Federation

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

It all started 25 years ago with a simple phone call about a receipt to Toronto's UJA office in the Lipa Green Building. Sarah Mossoff has been hooked on the organization ever since.

"You know the story of the man who came to dinner and never went home?" says the jovial 81-year-old. "People have suggested I take an insanity test."

Mossoff says she has worked in virtually every department of the UJA "except for maintenance." She currently works the phones in donor services four days a week.

Sarah Mosoff

Part of what makes Mossoff so good at her job addressing people's questions and concerns is her patience and level-headedness when dealing with people, says friend and co-worker Susan Jackson.

"Listening is key," Jackson says.

For Mossoff, the goal is simple.

"When we get off the phone with someone, we make sure they're satisfied," she says. "We try to make everybody as comfortable as possible."

Jackson says there is a running joke within the UJA office that whenever unusual or crazy calls come through on the switchboard, they are directed to Mossoff first.

Mossoff remembers one time an older gentleman left an amusing message on the organization's voice mail.

"Hello? I want to speak to the UJA," says Mossoff in a mock-Yiddish accent, imitating the caller. "I want you should call me back."

She says the man then exclaimed, "Oy! I forget my phone number," apologized and hung up.

Mossoff traced the call, contacted the man and helped him out.

Mossof says she has stayed with the organization for so long because of her "two loves."

Her first love, she says, is Israel. She grew up in a Zionist household and followed her strong family tradition of supporting the Jewish homeland.

The mother of two and grandmother of four speaks with pride about her family, which she says is her most important achievement.

She says even her 21-year-old granddaughter, Elenna, has gone to Israel on the Birthright program.

"Like a ball of fire, she took to the whole thing," she says.

Mossoff says her work at the UJA has given her a great opportunity to learn about the Jewish state.

"I say that the thing I like best is that I'm right at the source for my information about Israel. Each person who comes along has a new thought."

Mossoff says her second love is the group of people she works with day-to-day in the office.

"There's something about the place… like a warmth," she says. "It's like a world unto itself. It's absolutely amazing."

But not all days are perfect, she says. Like any place of work, it has its frustrations and difficulties.

"You got me on a good day," says Mossoff. "It's not la la land. It's hard working."

Had she chosen to work anywhere else, Mossoff says she would have retired a long time ago. It's the nature of the organization that keeps her going.

"I get a thrill if someone phones in with an increase in pledges," she says.

Sometimes notes arrive in the mail from non-Jews who say they understand the struggle Jews are facing. Occasionally cheques are sitting at the bottom of these envelopes.

"It's things like this that make you feel things are right with the world," Mossoff says.

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Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP

The Boards of Directors of Reena and Reena Foundation will welcome **Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP** as special Guest Speaker at their Annual General Meeting on **Thursday, June 26th, 2003**.

Dr. Bennett is the Federal Member of Parliament for the riding of St. Paul's, and serves as chair of the sub-Committee on the Status of Persons with Disabilities.

Members of the community are invited to hear Dr. Bennett who will speak on issues relating to support for persons with developmental disabilities.

The meeting will take place at Reena's **Toby and Henry Battle Developmental Centre, 927 Clark Avenue West, Thornhill, at 7 p.m.**

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Greater Toronto Area

Why I don't officiate at same-sex marriages

By RABBI DOW MARMUR

Guest Voice

A rabbinic colleague informed her friends recently that she is getting married to another woman. A Conservative rabbi serving a Conservative congregation in the United States will officiate. Performing same-sex ceremonies is, therefore, not an issue for Reform rabbis alone. Some time ago, the *Jerusalem Report* carried a discussion between a Conservative rabbi and myself in which I represented the conservative (small "c") position.

It's therefore reasonable to assume that liberal rabbis in Canada who favour officiating at same-sex marriages come from all the non-Orthodox groups in the community. Though I regard myself as no less liberal than the next Conservative, Reconstructionist or Reform rabbi, I don't perform same-sex ceremonies. The following are some of my reasons.

Firstly, not every problem in life has a solution. Though we must respect the predicament of gay and lesbian couples, we are also obligated to heed traditional norms. For better or worse, Jewish tradition strongly affirms and celebrates heterosexual marriage and stresses the importance of procreation. There seems to be no room for alternatives. Same-sex couples who take Judaism seriously are, therefore, bound to live with unresolved tensions. But then, most people, including heterosexual religious Jews, live with tensions and inconsistencies. It's yet another indication of human frailty.

This is in no way to be understood as an endorsement of the harsh biblical laws against homosexuality. We know enough to recognize homosexuality as a legitimate human propensity to which no social stigma should be attached. We also know that marital stability eludes all kinds of unions, including heterosexual Jewish marriages, and can be found in alternative lifestyles as much as elsewhere. But tradition doesn't provide for the celebration of same-sex unions and it's questionable whether rabbis, however well-intentioned, can claim that right.

Secondly, as a Reform Jew I recognize the need to reform, even set aside, Halachah, Jewish law. Yet I believe that Jewish tradition must be affirmed unless there are overwhelming reasons not to do so. In many cases, tension between personal needs and traditional demands is preferable to an inauthentic solution that confuses the affirmation of certainty with the quest for truth, which by its very nature is often beyond human grasp.

I know there are rabbis who believe that the imperative to affirm same-sex unions warrants setting aside tradition for the sake of bringing Jews closer to Judaism, but I don't share their conclusion. If I did, I would officiate at marriages between Jews and non-Jews on similar grounds, and I don't.

Thirdly, rabbis, irrespective of denominational affiliation, are teachers and, in that capacity, exponents and custodians of Jewish tradition. That a rabbi should also be a mensch, a caring and compassionate human being, is a given. But performing the role of pastor (not a Jewish term), seeking to meet the needs of as many members as possible of the "flock," is secondary. When the pastoral takes precedence over the educational, our Jewish value system may be at risk. Rabbis need not aspire to be "gurus" or "wunder rebbes" who dispense blessings on demand. In the Jewish scheme of things, charisma is a poor substitute for authenticity.

Fourthly, authenticity takes precedence, because in Judaism the collective shapes the individual, not the other way around. Rabbinic actions must be seen in the context of their impact on *k'lal Yisrael*, the Jewish polity, not only on the select few. That's one reason, incidentally, why I remain opposed to patrilineal descent as a criterion of Jewish status.

Fifthly, I find it helpful to distinguish between tzedek, justice, and kedushah, holiness. Civil society, in its shaping of laws and statutes, is the custodian of the former. Holiness, on the other hand, is unique to our religious tradition. Jews are commanded in the Torah to be kedoshim, holy (in the plural), because God is holy. The challenge of religious life is to imitate God while living among people. Such imitation defines kiddushin as a heterosexual marriage. The attempt to sidestep the issue by using a different terminology, such as "same-sex unions," is inadequate.

As liberal rabbis, whether or not we perform such unions, we have every reason to ally ourselves with those in Canada who seek equal rights for all citizens, irrespective of sexual orientation. Those who wish to describe themselves as couples, homosexual or not, should be allowed by the state to be so registered, whether or not they are married.

There's also a case for Jewish congregations to accept gay and lesbian couples, especially if the congregations don't ask for proof of marriage from heterosexual couples who join them. There is no reason for the Jewish community to discriminate against any Jew who seeks affiliation and participation.

The only issue is Jewish marriage, and, unlike social justice, kiddushin is a religious category that goes beyond individual rabbinic discretion.

Rabbi Dow Marmur is Rabbi Emeritus at Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto.

Greater Toronto Area

Bat mitzvah girl helps raise genetic disease awareness

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Caroline Just decided at age 11 that instead of having a one-weekend event for her bat mitzvah, she wanted to do something "that would have a lasting effect."

The Grade 7 student at Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto is raising awareness about genetic testing for familial dysautonomia (FD), a malfunction of the autonomic nervous system, which controls involuntary bodily functions. It is usually fatal before age 25.

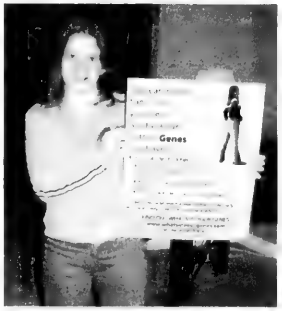
She spoke to her own Grade 6 class, then a second one, and to two chapters of Jewish Women International, as well as at a synagogue luncheon with her mother, Shirley Katz, a family doctor.

Last year, Caroline presented a scholarship at Montreal's Carlyle School in memory of her sister Stephanie, who attended Carlyle and died of FD just shy of her eighth birthday, before Caroline, now 13, was born.

On June 17, Caroline will make a brief presentation at National Council of Jewish Women's fundraiser at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, when Dr. Marla Shapiro gives a lecture titled "Living Well: Achieving Balance in Your Life." Proceeds will support NCJW's national Jewish Genetic Awareness Project, which promotes testing for Tay-Sachs disease, Canavan disease and FD, all genetic diseases that have a higher incidence among Ashkenazi Jews than most other ethnic groups.

One in 29 Ashkenazi Jews is a carrier for FD, about the same frequency as Tay-Sachs, said Katz. FD, also known as Riley-Day Syndrome, is found virtually exclusively in the Jewish community. There have been over 550 cases since it was first described in 1949, she added.

In honour of her bat mitzvah, Caroline's family has funded an information Web site, www.whatsinyourgenes.com, and established a fund at NCJW.



Caroline Just poses with the poster her parents funded in honour of her bat mitzvah. [Frances Kraft photo]

Caroline had mentioned to her mother how nice the NCJW volunteers were when her Grade 6 class helped pack baskets for the organization's annual Passover food drive. Once Katz told her that NCJW had organized testing clinics for Tay-Sachs and Canavan in Oct. 2001, and that genetic testing was now available for FD, Caroline knew what she wanted to do for her bat mitzvah year.

Typically, she discusses her parents' story – how they met in medical school at McGill University, and their experience with Stephanie, who would now be 23. Then she talks science, tossing out phrases like "autosomal recessive inheritance" with the confidence of a medical professional.

She is often asked whether prospective parents should bother with testing if they already have healthy children. For Caroline, the answer – affirmative – is obvious.

If both parents are carriers, they have a 25 per cent chance of having a baby with two defective genes, both of which must be present for the baby to have the illness, she says. In the other 75 per cent, the dominant healthy gene prevails, although the presence of a recessive gene means the disease may be passed on to the next generation.

A simple blood test for the FD gene is now available in doctors' offices in Ontario. There is no charge to the patient, and testing is usually performed for Tay-Sachs and Canavan at the same time.

The FD test is expected to be available at the Montreal Children's Hospital in the next month or two, Katz said in a joint interview with her husband and daughter at their home. The couple also has a son Robbie, 17, who like Caroline, was born healthy. The family moved here from Montreal in 1997.

Katz and her husband, Norman Just, came up with Stephanie's diagnosis on their own after spending a full day in the medical library when Stephanie was 11 months old.

Some FD patients can function "close to normally," said Just, but Stephanie's case progressed from an initial "failure to thrive" to such an onslaught of severe symptoms that her parents found it hard to imagine anything worse.

In her final year of life, Stephanie was in and out of hospital almost weekly. At home, the medical set-up was like a "virtual intensive care unit," recalled Katz.

By age 6, Stephanie had become blind due to lack of tears, requiring two corneal transplants. An inability to feel pain meant that she didn't know when she broke her leg.

Common FD symptoms also include frequent lung infections and an inability to control temperature and blood pressure.

"I think the key now is to prevent the disease," Katz said. "We're the perfect example of the need to test Ashkenazi Jews, even if there's no family history."

"We're very proud of Caroline," said Just. "In some ways I was disappointed when she didn't want the bat mitzvah, because I like the idea of bringing family together for a simchah, but when she came up with something so meaningful, it was really very, very positive."

Is Caroline finished with her project now that her bat mitzvah year is over? "I know it has to continue," she said. "I'm just really getting started."

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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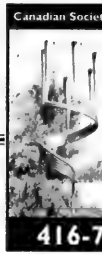
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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 16, is deadline for June 29 issue and Monday, June 23, is deadline for July 3. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 12

ORT LUNCHEON

ORT Toronto's 28th Golden Circle Luncheon will take place at noon at the Sandra Ainsley Gallery in the Gooderham & Worts historic buildings, 55 Mill St. The organization's Israel director and two ORT Israel students will speak about their education and volunteer work and how life has changed for them as a result of the intifadah. For tickets, call 416-787-0339.

STEINBERG ON ROAD MAP

Gerald Steinberg, director of the program on conflict mangement and negotiation at Bar Ilan University and a regular contributor to newspapers and television discusses Between Oslo and the Road Map: Is Peace Any Closer to Reality? Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave. at 8 p.m.

Friday, June 13

SERVICE & SHABBAT DINNER

Congregation Darchei Noam is having a Kabbalat Shabbat service and pot luck dairy or vegetarian dinner with **Rabbi Tina Grimberg** at 6:30 p.m. at 15 Hove St. Children are especially welcome. Call **Gwen** at 416-638-4783 for more information.

Sunday, June 15

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Beth David Brotherhood breakfast will hear from **Michael J. Boyd,** deputy chief of police services, on Building Bridges to the Jewish Community, followed by brotherhood elections. Free. Call 416-633-5500.

MEET THE AUTHORS

The Association of Jewish Libraries' annual convention is holding a Meet the Authors session that is open to the public. 1 to 5 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel, 21 Avenue Rd. Book publishers, artisans and software experts will be displaying their products at the event. Free. For information, call **Rosemary** at 416-633-9092.

Monday, June 16

CELEBRATE JEWISH MUSIC

The Cranbrooke Friendship Club hosts singer **Lilian Keltz** and accompanist **Alan Gaensbauer** for a performance of their program Celebrating Jewish Music. 12:30 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $7 for lunch and program. 416-789-5502.

ADATH SHALOM SISTERHOOD

Adath Shalom Sisterhood will hold their closing meeting at 7:30 p.m. with **Wendy Preskow**, creative memories consultant. $3. 416-635-0131.

Tuesday, June 17

NCJW EVENT

National Council of Jewish Women presents Elegant Desserts, an evening of delicious food and a presentation by **Dr. Marla Shapiro**, CTV talk show host and *Canada AM* medical advisor, on Jewish genetic diseases. Tickets $25, proceeds go to the Jewish Genetic Awareness Project. 4700 Bathurst St. at 7:30 p.m. RSVP 416-633-5100.

HELP! I HAVE CHILDREN!

Na'amat Canada-Club Rabin presents **Sarah Chana Radcliffe**, author of *Help! I Have Children!* at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. at 8 p.m. $10. For information and tickets, call 416-633-4128.

ADATH ISRAEL SISTERHOOD

Adath Israel Sisterhood general meeting presents Memories Are Made Of This with creative memories consultant **Wendy Preskow** and soloist **Rene Winnick** at 8 p.m. Refreshments will be served. $5.

Continued on page 23

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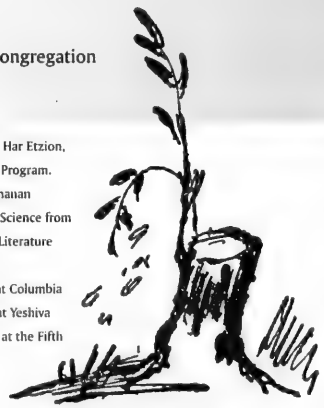
Torah in Motion invites
the entire community to the 4th annual
Ruth Kelman Memorial Lecture

Discerning Kiddush Hashem in an Age of Terror

with Rabbi Moshe Taragin

Thursday June 19, 2003
8:30 pm (Mincha at 8:15 pm)
Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz Congregation
147 Overbrook Place

Rav Moshe Taragin is a Rebbe at Yeshivat Har Etzion, and directs the Saks Leadership Training Program. He has Semicha from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary, a BA in Computer Science from Yeshiva University, and an MA in English Literature from City University.
Rabbi Taragin previously taught Talmud at Columbia University, lectured in Talmud and Bible at Yeshiva University, and served as Assistant Rabbi at the Fifth Avenue Synagogue.



For info: 416-633-5770 www.torahinmotion.org

Continued from page 22

Wednesday, June 18

LUCKY DRAW

Beth David Synagogue at 55 Yeomans Rd. is holding a gala dinner and draw. Cocktails at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Grand prize $10,000. For information, call **Brandy** at 416-633-5500.

WINCHEVSKY OPEN HOUSE

The Morris Winchevsky School is having an open house for parents interested in Sunday morning classes, which are held for students from JK to Grade 7 from September to June, coinciding with the cycle of Jewish holidays. 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave., just east of Bathurst, north of Lawrence. For more information, visit www.winchevskycentre.org, or call **Lisa Rothman** at 416-789-5502.

MUSICAL ODYSSEY

Beth Shalom Synagogue presents A Freilich Musical Odyssey with cellist Daniel Domb and guitarist Carey Domb at 8 p.m. Dessert reception following. Tickets $15. Call 416-783-6103.

More news

JVS FUNDRAISER

Join Jewish Vocational Services for Strictly Dazzling, a fundraising event featuring an array of glass, jewellery, perfume bottles and other items priced as low as $50. Enjoy champagne and strawberries and support ATLAZ Centre, a new JVS program that brings people with developmental disabilities into the workforce. Thursday, June 19, 6 to 8 p.m. at The Sandra Ainsley Gallery in the Gooderham & Worts buildings, 55 Mill St. $36. To purchase tickets, call **Jo Michaels** 416-787-1511 ext. 300.

RUTH KELMAN LECTURE

Rabbi Moshe Taragin of Har Etzion Yeshiva and director of the Saks Leadership Training Program will give the fourth annual Ruth Kelman Memorial Lecture at Beth Jacob V'Anshe Dridz Congregation, 147 Overbrook Pl. Thursday, June 19 at 8:30 p.m. Minchah at 8:15 p.m. Taragin's topic will be Discerning Kiddush Hashem in An Age of Terror. For information, visit www.torahinmotion.org or call 416-633-5770.

HAVURAH SHABBATON

The 12th Annual Havurah Weekend Shabbaton will take place at Canterbury Hills Resort on the Bruce Trail from June 20 to 22. This event is chaired by **Rabbi David Weiss** and includes Jewish study, worship, singing and dancing for families and the unattached. Workshop leaders include teachers and rabbis. For information, visit www.havurah.org/Can_Am_2003.hm.

CANOE TRIP

Check out the fourth annual Aish20's Georgian Bay canoeing day trip. Sunday, June 22. $35 includes lunch and canoe rental. Meet at Aish HaTorah on Clark at 8 a.m. Carpools will be arranged. To register, call Michal at 905-764-1818 ext. 225 or visit www.aish20s.com.

COOKING DEMONSTRATION

The Pride of Israel Sisterhood presents a cooking demonstration with Norene Gilletz, Tuesday, June 24 at 7 p.m. 59 Lissom Cres. Tickets $25 at office 416-226-0111. Wheelchair accessible. Limited tickets.

SOLIDARITY MISSION

JRCC is sponsering a Solidarity Mission to Israel between July 13 and 21. This is an opportunity to support Israelis in this difficult time while also taking in breathtaking vistas and ancient sites. For more information, call 416-222-7105 ext. 240.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service information/registration. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Birthdays, Hockey Games and Holidays: Making It Work After Divorce: Monday, June 16 from 7 to 9 p.m. at The Promenade, suite #313.

Single Fathers Group: A six-session group for single fathers looking to strengthen their relationships with their children. Begins Tuesday, June 17 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club is holding Saturday dances June 28, July 5, 12; Casino Rama, June 25, July 9; Mary Kay make-up demonstration, June 12; Stouffville Flea Market, July 13. Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 12, sing-a-long with Mickey Levine; June 19, picnic; June 26, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Restore Order and Balance in Your Life with Shirley Sobel, Thursday, June 12, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Sleep/Wake Disorder Group, Tuesday, June 17 with Dr. Jeffrey Lipsitz, 1:15- 2:15 p.m. Free.

The Morris 'Nafty' Naftolin Komedy Kabaret, Thursday, June 19 at 2:30 p.m. free.

Current Events with Joe Black, every Monday 10-11:30 a.m. $1.

Diabetes Education & Counselling with registered nurse and dietitian every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For information, call Alia 416-787-1661.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. June 17, lecture. June 24, concert. For information, call **Anna** ext.110.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

School and day-care registration for September 2003. Spaces available for morning school, Tic Tac Two, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, and for full day care, children 18 months to five years. Call ext. 351 or 248 to arrange a tour or for a registration package.

Tom's Place BJCC sale till June 15.

Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Moishe Stern Friday, June 13, 12 noon to 1 p.m. Room 202. No charge. Bring your own lunch, coffee and tea are free. For information, call Teme ext. 364.

First Annual Golf Tournament June 16 at Carrying Place Golf & Country Club. 8 a.m. tee off. For sponsorship opportunities, call Jim Emery ext. 371.

Fifty-Five Plus Art Exhibit: Wed. June 23, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the BJCC lobby. Meet the artists and instructors from the fifty-five plus painting class.

Fifty-five plus summer courses: Intermediate bridge starts Tuesday, June 24, 1 to 3 p.m. Advanced bridge starts Thursday, June 26, 2 to 4 p.m. Eight-week sessions. Room 120. Instructor: Joel Shapiro. BJCC Members $40, non-members $50.

The Chai Dancers will be celebrating their 25th anniversary in August. Former Chai dancers call Teme ext. 364.

PRAGER AT HOLY BLOSSOM: Syndicated radio host and author Dennis Prager was in Toronto recently for the Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg lecture at Holy Blossom Temple. He gave a speech called Israel in a Time of Terror and posed for pictures. Standing, from left: David Baskin, Holy Blossom president, Rabbi John Moscowitz, Justice Rosalie Abella. Seated, from left: Frances Bloomberg, Prager, Lawrence Bloomberg.

CHAT DRAW: Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) recently announced the winners of its 2003 annual lottery. From left, CHAT president Terri Weintraub presents the $10,000 grand prize to Marsha Slavens as Jerry Tollinsky, CHAT's director of development, stands by. Other winners included Michael Venasse, Baila Lubek, Norman Grill, Brad Smith and Florence Waxman.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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On Campus

Environment is Kool's abiding passion

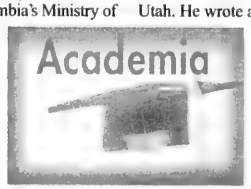
By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Rick Kool is all set to launch a new post-graduate degree program at Royal Roads University in British Columbia.

A zoologist and ecologist, he designed the MA course in environmental education and communication and will start teaching it Aug. 11.

Originally a Bostonian, Kool is a man of many interests.

He is on a one-year leave of absence from his job as an environmental education specialist at British Columbia's Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, and he is an adjunct professor at the University of Victoria's graduate school and faculty of education.



"My research interests are broad, from learning in informal milieus like museums to philosophical explorations in environmental education," he explained. "I can't say I've run across a subject that didn't in some way interest me."

Royal Roads, situated on a bucolic campus just outside Victoria, was founded in 1995 as Canada's only university exclusively offering applied and professional programs, primarily at the master's level.

Four major disciplines are taught and environmental sustainability is one of them.

In Kool, Royal Roads chose a scholar who has immersed himself in environmental issues.

"Even though I grew up in the middle of Boston, I've always been interested in nature," he said.

When he was 10, he and his parents – Samuel, a television repairman, and Hester, a Dutch child survivor of the Holocaust – moved to a small beach town south of Boston.

It was a fortuitous stroke of luck for a boy drawn to the outdoors. As he put it: "That allowed me to really become a naturalist."

Kool's high school biology teacher was also a formative influence.

At the University of New Hampshire, Kool majored in zoology. "I was fortunate to find a work-study grant with a biologist who studied tiny organisms, things like paramecium or amoeba, living in marine environments."

Kool's professor introduced him to the life of a biological scientist and the "wonders and mysteries" of a hidden, yet vitally important, world.

In 1971, having never been west of New England, he drove to British Columbia. "After a month, I knew I had come home, and never considered leaving. I became a Canadian citizen as soon as they would let me."

Enrolling at the University of British Columbia, Kool earned an MSc in zoology while working on a project on how lakes work ecologically.

At UBC, Kool was a teaching assistant. "I loved teaching and I was reasonably good at it," he said. "When one of my lab partners told me he had enrolled in the faculty of education's one-year teaching preparation program, I decided to do the same."

Bitten by the teaching bug, Kool took a doctoral degree in curriculum and instruction at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. He wrote a thesis on the relationship between "what we know and what we do with what we know."

It was a fascinating exercise, he said.

"My research began with an interest in young environmental activists and how they related what they knew with what they did.

"While I was doing this, the movie *Schindler's List* came out. Through a series of events, I finally asked my mother how she had survived in Holland and who had hidden her."

Kool tracked down the family that saved her. For him, it was a revelatory moment.

"And then I understood that, inasmuch as my mother was not meant to live, I was not meant to exist either. My existence hinged on the moral actions of a Dutch family that understood that knowledge without action is nothing. The Talmud is also rich in discussions about the relationship between knowing and doing."

Having finished his studies at Brigham Young, Kool taught science at a secondary school in the Vancouver Island town of Ucluelet.

Then he became a biology and ecology instructor at Douglas College in New Westminster and a post-secondary teacher at the University of Victoria.

Asked whether it was difficult making the transition from high school to university teaching, he said, "Teaching is hard work, yet truly good work. The transition was not so hard. I just kept on growing and learning."

Joining British Columbia's civil service, Kool developed the government's environmental education and park interpretation programs, and managed the public programs department at the Royal British Columbia Museum.

He expects to return to his job at the ministry next year. "My secondment to Royal Roads is for one year, till January 2004, but hope springs eternal and perhaps I will be able to stay on."

Having spent some three decades studying the environment, Kool has reached the conclusion that Canada is remiss in managing it.

"The main environmental problem we face as a nation is that our present lifestyle is drawing down on our natural capital. We do not yet know how to live within nature's resources. We live as if there are no limits to our use of resources."

Canadians are conscious of the environment, but in Kool's estimation, that is not enough. "Simply being aware means little if we don't do something significant to reduce our impact on the environment."

Invoking Judaism to hammer home his point, he observed, "Jewish tradition always stresses the importance of the deed."

Kool, 53, is on the board of directors of Victoria's venerable Congregation Emanu-El. His wife, Enid Elliot, is also a teacher, specializing in early childhood education.

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning
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The Canadian launching of
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We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Mazel Tov MOMENTS

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Rose Greisman, Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Greisman, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Silverberg announce the engagement of Michelle to Jason. Missed is Jason's mother, Linda Silverberg.

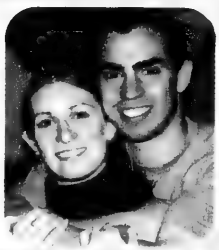
Esther & Allan Bortnick and Myrna & Isaac Blaichman announce the engagement of Jessica & Samuel. Proud grandparents are Pola Goldfluss and Lorraine & Lou Bortnick.

Mazel tov to our granddaughter and grandson Kara and Corey Wardinger on their joint bar/bat mitzvah. Your loving and proud grandparents, Ruth & Al Wardinger.

Mazel tov to Sarah Gentle & Daniel Cooper on their marriage in June 2002, with love from parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

Joshua, it's hard to believe you turned eight on April 23. You have grown into such a wonderful young boy. Happy birthday, Mom, Dad & Rebekah.

Beverley & Issie Shniffer, Annie & Jerry Scherer happily announce the engagement of Mira Kassirer & Elliot Scherer. Lovingly remembered is David Kassirer.



Susan & Robert Robinson, Esther & Bruce Newman and families announce the engagement of Jodi & Jamie. Grandparents are Leiba & Julius Long, Diana & David Robinson, Jack Wine.

Mazel tov to Marshall Deltoff of Toronto and Yocheved Leah Diaz of Orlando, Fla., on your engagement. Love, Michele, Brenna, Avery, Terrah, Arnie and Brenda.

Mazel tov on the engagement of Philip Beder & Dr. Randi Press. Parents, Stanley & Marilyn Beder, George & Barbara Press. Love, Beder, Press and Foreman families.

Mazel tov to Jessica Shulamit Bornstein & Asher Lev Cohen of New York on their engagement. Love from your family.

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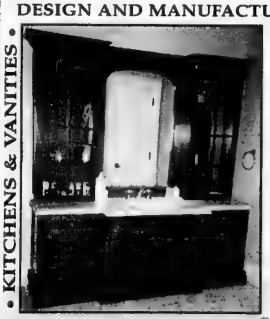

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'Occupation' is a legally neutral term

Ariel Sharon's assertion May 26 that Israel is in "occupation" of the West Bank and Gaza Strip sent shockwaves through the political establishment in Israel and created confusion among many of Israel's supporters in the Diaspora.

In reaction to criticism from both the Israeli right (among whom Sharon is ordinarily thought to belong) and some government legal experts, the Israeli prime minister subsequently steered clear of the word. But he persisted in saying that Israel cannot continue to rule another people (*New York Times*, June 2).

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Some journalists, conscious of the linguistic minefield of Israeli-Arab politics, are confused about whether to call the territories "occupied" or "disputed." Less diligent journalists, especially those with a pro-Palestinian bias, don't hesitate to use the inaccurate "occupied *Palestinian* territories."

As a group of *New York Times* reporters properly pointed out (in an article May 11 on the journalistic fraud of former *New York Times* reporter Jayson Blair), the "cardinal tenet" of good journalism is the search for truth. So let's ask: what is the truth about the term "occupied"?

Former U.S. diplomat and legal scholar Eugene Rostow, known for his conservative views on Israel, wrote the following in *Commentary* magazine in January 1990: "The rule of international law is surely that [Israel's] military presence *is* an 'occupation' implying certain rights and obligations. The courts and chancelleries of the world have treated Israel as an occupying power ever since 1967. Israel itself says it is more than an occupying power but a claimant as well, having acquired and held the territories in the course of two wars of self-defence. That is true, but Israel has not yet undertaken to annex the territory. And it does respect the international law on the subject as a matter of grace, as the Israeli government has said and as its Supreme Court has ruled."

Rostow explained that the West Bank and Gaza (even in the absence of a prior legal sovereign) remain unallocated areas of the Palestine Mandate, whose status is yet to be determined in direct bilateral negotiations according to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. (Areas in "A" under the Oslo Accords have been determined to be "Palestinian," and remain the sole exception.) Hence the bulk of the territories are indeed disputed but also – since under Israeli military control – "occupied." On May 26, Sharon openly acknowledged this fact. Yet all hell broke loose.

The reason is that although "occupation" is a legally neutral term, it has long been used by the Arabs to delegitimatize Israel. The Arabs allow for no distinction between territory acquired in a war of self-defence (as in the American occupation of Germany and Japan after World War II) and territory acquired in a war of aggression (Nazi Germany in Europe, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in Kuwait).

One way to avoid such negative connotations in Israel's case is to shun the word "occupation" or put it in ironic quotes. But strictly speaking, the term is neutral, although Rostow was naively wrong to assume that it had "no implication of 'vileness.'"

Unfortunately, all too often where Jews and Israel are concerned, efforts to imply vileness are rarely far from the surface. Sharon, in an act of surprising candour, was quickly reminded of this unfortunate reality.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

נייַע אויפלאַגע פון יִד.־ענג. ווערטערבוך

פֿון ש. סימכאָוויטש

ס'איז נאָר וואָס אַרויסגעקומען אַ נייַע, פֿאַרגרעסערטע אויפלאַגע פֿון פֿרדופס טראַנסליטעראַטן ענגליש־ייִדיש, ייִדיש־ענגלישן ווערטערבוך, וואָס איז פֿריער דערשינען אין 1991. די ערשטע אויסגאַבע, אין וויכיע טאָוולען אוּן אין געווינלעכער בוך־גרייס, איז אויפֿגענומען געוואָרן פֿאַזיטיוו דורך ייִדיש לערער אוּן לערנער אין אַמעריקע אוּן קאַנאַדע, אַ דאַנק דעם איינפֿירן אַ פּולע טראַנסליטעראַציע פֿון אַלע ייִדיש־ווערטער. דער צוגאַנג האָט פֿאַר־לייכטערט דעם אַנהייבער אַרויסצורעדן ריכטיק דאָס וואָרט אוּן אַזוי אַרום באַהאַלטן בעסער די שפּראַך.

די נייַע אויסגאַבע אנטהאַלט 742 וויטן מיט קלאָר אויסגעזוּכטע ווערטער אוּן פֿאַרמאָגט אַ יסודותדיקן ייִדישן וואָקאַבולאַר באַזירט אויף די לעקסיקאַגראַפֿישע אַרבעטן פֿון הארקאַווי, וויינרײַך, סטוטשקאָוו אוּן צאַנק. דער אויסלייג איז אַ מאַדערנער, לויט די תקנות פֿון ייִוואָ. בי יעדן סובסטאַנטיוו איז אָנגעגעבן דער מין, די מער־צאָל פֿאַרמען אוּן די ליסטע פֿון קיצורים איז אַ מינימאַלע.

פֿאַר די, וואָס קענען וויניק ייִדיש איז איך דער נייַער אויסגאַבע אינגעפֿידט נאָך אַ פֿאַרלייכטערונג: דער ייִדיש־ענגלישער אָפּטייל איז אינגעסדרט לויטן ענגלישן אַלף־ביתּ. יעדעס ייִדיש וואָרט איז אָנגעגעבן פֿאָנעטיש אוּן ענגלישער שריפֿט, באַנאַנד מיטן טייטש, ווי אויך מיט ייִדישע אותיות.

דאָס בוך איז אַרויסגעגעבן דורך אַ באַקאָנטער בוכ־האַנדלונג אין אָסטאָן. מען קען עס באַקומען דירעקט פֿון אַרויסגעבער דורך טעלעפֿאָנירן: 1-800-323-7723. אין טאָראָנטאָ קען מען עס קויפֿן אין „נגב" אוּן „איז־ראַעל" בוך־געשעפֿטן.

דוד מעוודל הרדוף שטאָמט פֿון שידלאָווצע, פּוילן. ער האָט עמיגרירט פֿאַר דער מלחמה קיין ענגלאַנד, שטו־דירט אין לאָנדאָן אוּן ווויינט זינט 1948 אין טאָראָנטאָ. דאָ איז ער געווען אַ העברעישער לערער אוּן אַ מוכר־ספֿרים. ער איז דער מחבר פֿון אַ ריי העברעישע לעקסי־קאָנען וועגן אפֿשטאַם פֿון נעמען אוּן תנ"ך אוּן אין די ווערק פֿון שמואל יוסף עגנון, ווי אויך פֿון אַ צאָל ביבלי־שע ספֿרים. הרדוף איז פֿאַרליבט אין ייִדישן לשון — די שפּראַך פֿון מילאָנען קדושים אין אירופּאָפּע אוּן ווידמעט זיך צום אויפֿהאַלטן אוּן פֿאַרשפּרייטן די קענטעניש פֿון ייִדיש צווישן די יונגע דורות.

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talmud-toire	n	Talmud Torah (a religious Hebrew school) תלמוד-תורה
talmud-toires	n pl	Talmud-Torahs תלמוד-תורות
talmudim	n pl	Talmuds תלמודים
tam	n	simpleton תם
tamen	n pl	simpletons תמען
tamevate		foolish תמעוואטע

Coast to Coast

Claims head asks ex-slave labourers to be patient

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The head of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany pleaded with Holocaust survivors to be patient if they have been rejected or not received an answer to their application to the German and Swiss slave-labour funds.

Gideon Taylor, executive vice-president of the New York-based organization, said his staff is "working round the clock" to process claims as quickly as possible. There are about 6,500 survivors in Canada whose applications were rejected or are pending, he told an overflow audience at a public event organized by the Survivor Assistance Office of the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors.

The conference received almost 270,000 applications for the funds from survivors worldwide, he said. Since June 2001, more than 119,000 Jews who performed slave or forced labour, living in 53 countries today, have been compensated in the amount of $586.5 million (all figures US) from the German Foundation, a program of the government and industry. Additionally, some 127,000 have been paid $183 million from the Swiss fund, a settlement reached with banks.

The second (final) payment will be made when the conference has processed all claims. "That will be a matter of months," Taylor said.

The order in which claims were processed was based on the likelihood that they would be approved, he said.

He described the slave-labour program as the most complex ever administered by the conference. The conference, he stressed, does not control a sum of money, but rather tries to back up the claims of applicants by finding the documentation the Germans require. (The Swiss automatically accept claims approved by Germany).

This has involved hiring more than 100 researchers to comb through archives in Yad Vashem, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and about 25 other locations around the world, in addition to the conference's own files.

"If your name does not come up, it does not mean you are not eligible. We sent a letter for more information to many people, which you should have by now… We are asking that you send us as much description [of your wartime experience] as you can. Hopefully, we will be able to submit this to the Germans and they will approve it."

For those who have received rejection letters, there is still hope. The reason may be a "technical question," such as a conflict between information submitted and what was found in the archives. "Or we may be wrong. With the huge volumes of claims, mistakes are possible," said Taylor, adding that the conference is negotiating with the Germans to accept claims in "the broadest and most liberal way."

If the rejection is confirmed, an appeals authority was recently created. It is based in Jerusalem and independent of the conference, he said.

As for applicants who have received neither a letter for more information or one of rejection, Taylor said, "It means your case is pending. We are looking in the archives as hard as we can. If we can't find what we need, we will send a 'request for information' letter."

Taylor said the first priority is to process the claims of survivors; claims from their heirs are secondary for now.

Payments from the German Foundation are to be made in two instalments, with the final amount to be determined by the total number of eligible applicants.

The maximum amount allowed under the German legislation is approximately $7,500 for former slave labourers and $2,500 for former forced labourers.

Taylor said the conference did not want to administer the slave-labour funds at first, but Germany insisted that it do so, or there would be no settlement.

This was Taylor's first visit to Montreal since joining the conference in January 1999. Dublin-born and Oxford-educated, Taylor said he had had little association with Holocaust survivors until he came to New York to work for the Joint Distribution Committee.

"It has been a privilege and an honour to do what I can, no matter how inadequate. We do our best, we fight as hard as we can, even after agreements are reached. We know your frustrations. We try to listen to survivors and take back the messages we hear from you," Taylor said.

When negotiations on slave-labour compensation began, "the first German demand" was that whatever the agreement, the Jewish community would accept it as "closure," Taylor said.

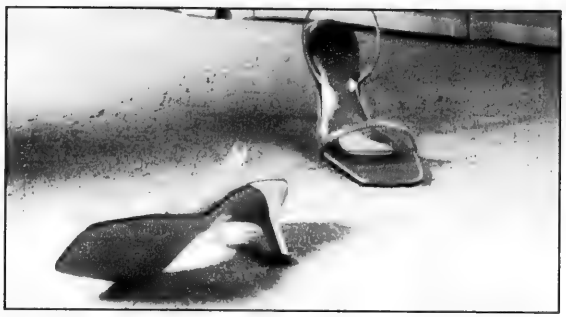
"We said in principle we [could] not continue if that was part of the agreement. With the German government, as the successor of the Reich, there could not ever, ever be closure. This is not only a financial, but a moral issue… We will never give up that struggle."

The Germans backed down and put it in writing, he said. "We have gone back twice since the German Foundation agreement and added about 7,000-8,000 people [who were previously ineligible]."

In the question period, Issie Veisfeld, who said he performed slave labour in Romania, bitterly criticized the conference for not helping him. "We were told there is no such thing as slave labour in Romania… and that we can't hire a lawyer anymore and sue Germany ourselves." Taylor replied that the conference tried to negotiate with Germany the broadest inclusion for the fund. "It does not mean we don't think there was no slave labour. It means we are fighting with the Germans to [relax] those strict, technical rules."

Some Romanian Jews did receive payment, but Germany later "blocked additional cases. It's not a case that we pay some and not others."

He suggested Veisfeld write the German government.



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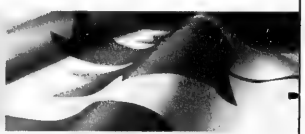

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Coast to Coast

Rights tribunal slams anti-Semitic Web site

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A human rights tribunal has ordered an Alberta man to stop using the Internet to disseminate anti-Semitic propaganda that included calls for the extermination of the Jewish people.

A tribunal of the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) ruled that a Web site operated by Coleman, Alta., resident Fred Kyburz fostered hatred against the Jewish people and should be removed from the Internet.

"When read in context, the messages on the Patriots on Guard Web site tell the reader that Jewish people are innately devious, treacherous and murderous. Not only do they want to kidnap, corrupt and kill 'white children,' their ultimate goal is to take over the world," the tribunal said in its ruling.

The tribunal also found that messages on the Web site included articles "that openly advocate the extermination of the Jewish people."

The tribunal ordered Kyburz, who did not contest the case, to remove the anti-Semitic materials and pay $30,000 to Richard Warman, an Ottawa lawyer who initiated the complaint against him.

A further $7,500, payable to the government of Canada, was imposed as a penalty "to reflect society's opprobrium for [Kyburz's] conduct." Failure to comply with the judgement could lead to contempt charges. Even before the judgement was released, Warman successfully lobbied the site's U.S.-based Internet host to remove Kyburz's Web site. Kyburz, however, continues to sponsor a Web forum on Yahoo.

Warman, who is not Jewish, saw the decision as "a vindication of two years worth of consistent vilification, as all of the evil Kyburz felt Jewish people were involved in were personified and embodied in his attacks on me."

Karen Mock, executive-director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, said the decision reinforces a similar ruling in the case involving Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel and hate material posted on his Web site. In that landmark decision, the CHRC exerted its jurisdiction over the Internet and issued a cease and desist order against Zundel.

In its decision, the tribunal noted that Kyburz retaliated against Warman for complaining about the Web site – something prohibited by the Canadian Human Rights Act. Not only did Kyburz call on Warman's former employer, the Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Canada, to fire him, he threatened Warman's life.

Warman said the threats "made me quite concerned about my personal safety," leading him to change his daily routines. Warman said he believes Kyburz "kind of transferred his hatred of the Jewish people to spewing hate material at [me] as a representative of the Jewish faith."

Some of the postings on his site revealed Kyburz's affinity for conspiracy theories. In one, Kyburz refers to Warman's "evil" efforts to shut down the site and said: "The fact is, we better learn before they are poisoning us with their proposed vaccinations and other medical poisons."

Warman said Kyburz appears to sympathize with a small anti-tax group that believes government taxes are illegal.

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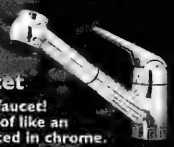

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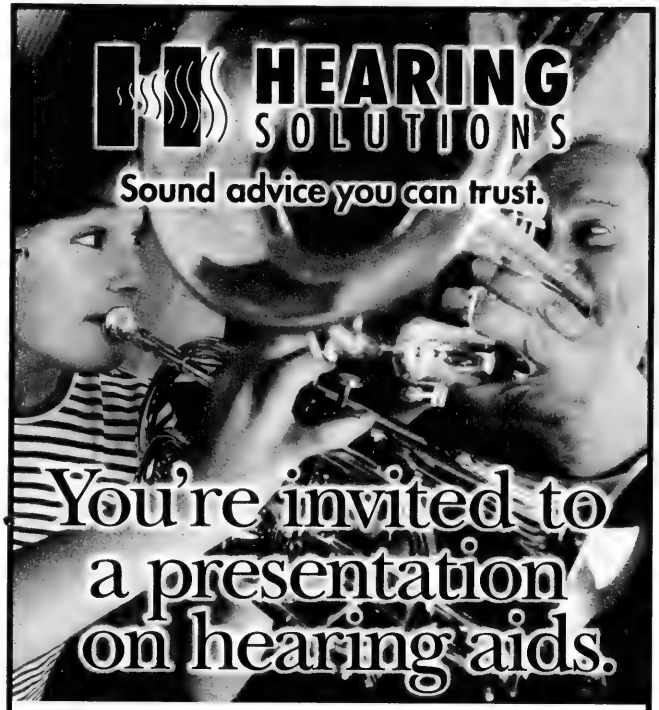

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"Get out and get active in the community. Do a little volunteering. Try to make friends so you have someone to go out with. I keep myself very active, that's my nature. Have the whole family for dinner every two or three months. I do 'cook and carry' – cook a nice meal and go to somebody's house. Then, a couple of weeks later, I go to somebody else. Get very active in your life; don't sit home."

-- Alice Shapiro

"Exercise, weightlifting … I'm a volunteer at Branson, I do Meals on Wheels and work for lawyers doing title searches."

– Ernest Steinberg

"Get off your rear end, get out of the house, get away from the TV. Meet people, go to seniors' centres … take part in activities … and be happy!"

-- Marion Greenberg

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Toronto broadcast journalist kicks smoking habit with Positive Changes

"Quitting was easy and effortless"

– Christina Cherneskey, CFRB

I used to smoke half a pack a day – one pack on a stressful day or an evening out. I smoked since the age of 14, that's over 25 years... ridiculous.

I tried cold turkey many times... it lasted less than 2 weeks. I tried the patch and the gum. Nothing worked. I almost started with the Zyban pills, but [I thought] why pump my body with more chemicals in addition to the nicotine? I was in this morass or canyon until I got an e-mail from a coworker who told me about Positive Changes.

I can't remember exactly when I stopped smoking because it's not an issue anymore. I stopped after the first session, but then I had a few lapses ... I let the stress win. But then when I was reminded to forget to smoke in the hypnosis sessions, then I stopped permanently. I didn't feel that I needed to buy them, to have them around; it just fell into place naturally for me.

"Why pump my body with more chemicals?"

I've noticed lots of benefits since I quit smoking. Firstly, I don't stink – for me that was a big improvement.

After winter and the weather changed, I felt immediately like walking. I felt energized. I have an appetite and I can taste my food. I'm dealing with stress differently now. Things [that used to stress me out] just aren't that big an issue anymore. Another benefit is that with the medical history in my family with heart and high blood pressure, I'm not adding to it. Imagine this – while I quit smoking I actually lost weight!

Christina Cherneskey can be heard on Saturday and Sunday from 11 am – 3 pm on NEWSTALK 1010

If you would have asked me as a smoker if I were in control the answer would have been "Back off baby, of course I am". But with hindsight, I was not in control. I would run down an escalator or two flights of stairs in the winter to have a cigarette in minus 40 weather. I would leave home and drive to buy a pack of cigarettes because I had forgotten to buy them. That's not control, not even close.

In my business you've got to have an opinion, and stick to it. This Positive Changes program has been amazing. I've gained much more than being smoke-free. Since the program, now what I research I retain. Before I used to always come into the studio with stacks and stacks of notes when I was doing my live talk radio show; now I only do it a little bit. I'm tapping into parts of my brain that I've never met yet. The hypnosis itself and power of suggestion has been an amazing experience.

I'm recommending Positive Changes to friends already. I'm confident that I will never smoke again because it's different this time. Quitting was easy and effortless. I feel like I don't need to go back to it. I know that it's not ever going to come back and take control of me.

"While I quit smoking I actually lost weight"

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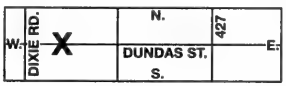


Mon.-Tues. 10-6; Wed.-Fri. 10-9; Sat. 10-5:30; Sun. 12-5

Coast to Coast

Jewish war vets honoured

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Jewish community's past and future came together at a gala dinner honouring the Ottawa Jewish War Veterans.

The event, held May 29 at Agudath Israel Synagogue, was a major fundraiser for Hillel Academy, the city's largest Jewish day school.

The pairing of the students and vets was most appropriate, Rabbi Reuven Bulka of Congregation Machzikei Hadas said in his opening address.

"The war vets made the future of our community possible, [while] Hillel Academy is dedicated to educating our children to continue our community," he said.

Indeed, explained event co-chair Benita Baker, the Ottawa Post of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada was anxious to reinforce its ties with the community and to pass on its members' message to youth.

The members call their mission "*mi'dor l'dor*" (meaning "from generation to generation"), and Baker said they were pleased to join forces for what would otherwise have been their own annual dinner.

During the cocktail hour preceding the dinner, guests were able to browse through an exhibit of photographs, uniforms and assorted military memorabilia provided by the Ottawa Jewish War Veterans, many of whom were in attendance with family and friends.

They proudly stood by their wartime photos, providing a glimpse of "then and now."

Verna Bruce, the assistant deputy minister in the Department of Veterans Affairs, represented Veterans Affairs Minister Rey Pagtakhan.

Reading from Pagtakhan's message, she challenged the vets to share their stories and challenged students to encourage them to do so. And she urged "the rest of us… [to] never cease to express our gratitude to those who fought for a lasting peace."

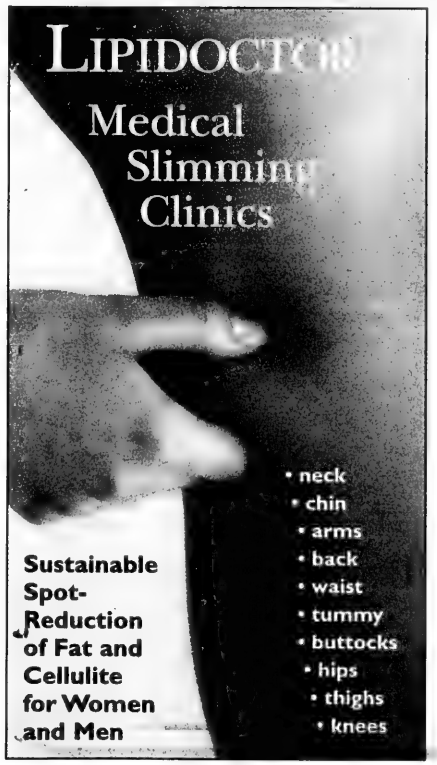
Israel's ambassador to Canada, Haim Divon, said the evening was about "saluting our heroes… The percentage of [Canadian] Jewish war veterans was the highest number representing one ethnic group," Divon said.

"Some of them helped [Israel] during the War of Independence and we shall never ever forget that, dear friends."

Following a commemoration ceremony for fallen comrades by Rabbi Arnold Fine, the mood turned cheerfully nostalgic as jazz singer Deborah Davis and her band, Segue-Way to Jazz took the audience on a sentimental journey with a selection of songs from World War I, World War II and Israel's Six Day War.

They were also joined by Cantor Daniel Benlolo of Congregation Beth Shalom West and accompanist Aviva Lightstone for several Israeli songs.

For the final number, Ottawa Post Commander Paul Bender, who helped the band research the war songs, led the band and audience in a moving rendition of *Now is the Hour When We Must Say Goodbye*.



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When asked what differentiates his therapy from over-the-counter remedies, Dr. Gore responds: "Infusion Lipolysis™ is a state-of-the-art clinical procedure, carried out in an established medical facility, followed by transdermal Rx meds. No pain; no bruising. You now really *can* lose fat thickness. And we will prove it to you during your no obligation, medical consultation."

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Hamas reiterates opposition to ceasefire talks

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Hamas repeated its opposition to ceasefire talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas on Monday, dealing a new blow to his hopes of persuading it to halt attacks against Israelis.

Abbas made a new appeal for dialogue on Monday after Hamas pulled out of ceasefire talks last Friday, accusing him of being too conciliatory to Israel at a peace summit last week in Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba.

Hamas leaders met in Gaza to discuss Abbas' appeal. But Ismail Abu Shanab, a senior Hamas official, said: "He has not changed his attitude from Aqaba. Therefore the situation is unchanged regarding dialogue with [Abbas]."

Another Hamas official, Abdel-Aziz Rantissi, said: "We stopped dialogue based on some developments and now there are new developments that need to be studied... Our position now remains as it was until we study them."

Earlier Monday, Abbas denounced new attacks by extremist groups that threaten the U.S.-backed "road map" peace plan and vowed to press on with efforts to persuade them to agree a ceasefire, declaring that for the Palestinians there is no alternative to dialogue.

Abbas said he will not use force against extremist groups under any circumstances, despite their stated determination to derail the road map with attacks on Israelis, including two Sunday shootings in which five Israeli soldiers were killed and troops shot dead five Palestinian gunmen.

Abbas says he won't use force to restrain extremists

"The position of the government is to denounce both attacks," Abbas told reporters Sunday in Ramallah. Condemning such attacks, he added: "We reject these acts, and if they continue they will complicate the situation and make the peace process difficult."

Apparently responding to reports of a rift with PA President Yasser Arafat, Abbas said he had co-ordinated every move with Arafat, confined by Israel to his Ramallah headquarters.

Referring to his efforts to persuade extremists to halt attacks against Israelis, he said: "For us there is no alternative to dialogue," but, he added, "We will not force anyone to resume dialogue."

Israel has demanded that Abbas crack down on extremist groups and disarm them, but Abbas has preferred negotiations in order to avoid a civil war among the Palestinians.

Abbas also responded to some of the criticisms voiced by Palestinians since the summit. He appealed for Israel to release Palestinian prisoners and to ease the suffering caused by closures of West Bank towns and villages.

He also condemned a security fence which Israel is building to seal off the West Bank. Israel says the fence offers it protection from suicide bombers, but the Palestinians say it constitutes a de facto border and grabs Palestinian land.

"We demand that [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush... [alleviate] the suffering of our people, starting with the prisoners, stop closures, end house demolitions, remove the shameful wall and dismantle settlement outposts," Abbas said.

Some parties have been trying to escalate the situation since the new Palestinian government was established, Abbas said, adding that such moves would have no effect on his decisions.

On the topic of a Palestinian "right of return," Abbas said: "We will not be able to accept the Israeli reservation" on the issue.

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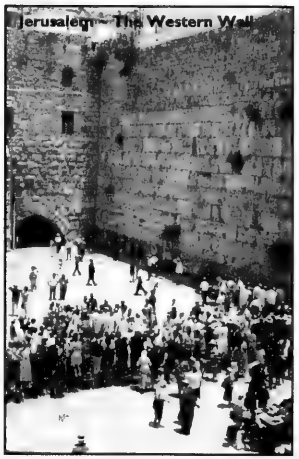

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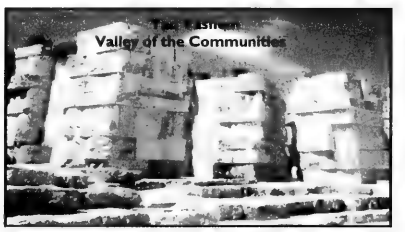

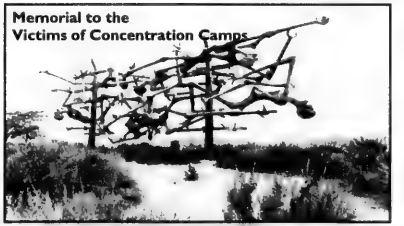

Terror groups unite in effort to shred road map

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — New violence has threatened the diplomatic progress made at two Middle East summits last week, posing a challenge to the U.S.-backed "road map" for peace.

At least five Israelis were killed and five wounded in separate attacks in Gaza and West Bank on Sunday.

They came after Israel reimposed a total closure on the West Bank, citing a high number of warnings of terror attacks, Israeli Army Radio reported

U.S. officials urged Israel and the Palestinians not to let extremists set the diplomatic agenda, but the weekend's events showed the difficulties in following up on the steps taken at the summits in Egypt and Jordan.

In Gaza, four soldiers were killed and four others wounded when three gunmen dressed in Israeli army uniforms infiltrated an army position near the Erez crossing. The gunmen were killed in the ensuing exchange of fire.

The three had apparently slipped into a line of Palestinian workers entering the Erez industrial zone and crossed a fence and wall separating the industrial zone from the nearby army position.

After reaching the entrance to the outpost, they opened fire and threw grenades at a soldier outside, killing him. They then shot and killed two soldiers on guard duty. The gunmen then entered and opened fire, killing one soldier and wounding four.

Soldiers returned fire, killing the three. Duct tape and plastic handcuffs were found on their bodies, suggesting they had intended to kidnap soldiers as bargaining chips for the release of Palestinian security prisoners.

In other violence Sunday, an Israeli was killed when two gunmen opened fire near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

In a rare move, three extremist Palestinian groups – Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which is linked to the ruling Fatah faction of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat – issued a joint statement claiming responsibility for the Gaza attack. A leaflet gave the names of the gunmen, all in their early 20s, one from each group.

"This joint operation was committed to confirm our people's united choice of holy war and resistance until the end of occupation over our land and holy places," the leaflet said.

It also said the gunmen left from the Gaza city of Beit Hanoun, currently under IDF control.

The shooting was the first such attack since U.S. President George W. Bush met Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas last Wednesday in Aqaba to push forward the road map peace plan.

The involvement of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades was seen as a direct challenge to Abbas, a senior Fatah member who has been trying to persuade extremists to halt attacks on Israelis and who angered some with his conciliatory remarks at the Aqaba summit. Accusing Abbas of conceding on Palestinian demands, Hamas froze ceasefire contacts with the PA and renewed its vow to carry out suicide attacks against Israelis.

Abbas said in Ramallah that dialogue is the only way to achieve Palestinian interests. He also called on Palestinian opposition groups to renew contacts with the PA.

Israel, meanwhile, called on the Palestinians to take immediate steps to crack down on terror. Deputy Defence Minister Ze'ev Boim said the attacks prove Palestinian terror groups are "not yet ready to accept" the road map, drawn up by the "quartet" of the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia.

Cabinet minister Effi Eitam called on the government to cease contacts with the PA until it takes steps to fight terror.

After the attacks, Secretary of State Colin Powell said such actions by opponents of peace were expected, and the United States remains committed to the road map.

"This is the time when both leaders have to do everything they can" to move forward, Powell told *Fox News Sunday*. He added Sharon is expected to meet his commitments and remove illegal settlements.

Sharon was on the defensive Sunday night, facing criticism from a Likud convention in Jerusalem for adopting the road map.

In remarks interrupted by boos, Sharon said the Israeli public supports him and that Israel would not yield on its rejection of the "right of return" for Palestinian refugees or other reservations to the road map the government had when it endorsed it.

With files from Ha'aretz.

How terrorists entered Israel

By AMOS HAREL and RONI SINGER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEV AVIV — The terrorists who carried out the suicide bombing at Mike's Place in Tel Aviv on April 29 crossed from Gaza into Israel with the aid of an Italian journalist, according to details of the investigation revealed Monday following the lifting of a court-imposed gag order.

The bombing, which killed three people, was carried out by a British citizen of Pakistani origin, Asif Mohammed Hanif.

His accomplice, Omar Khan Sharif, also a British national of Pakistani origin, fled when his explosive device failed to detonate. His body was found two weeks later in the sea off the Tel Aviv coast. It is not known whether his death was caused by an accident or exhaustion or whether he drowned himself deliberately.

According to the details released for publication by the Tel Aviv District Court, Hanif and Sharif were recruited by the militant Hamas organization in Damascus, where they had studied before coming to Israel.

The two travelled to Israel via Jordan, crossing the Allenby Bridge on April 12, and then proceeded to travel throughout the country, as well as the West Bank and Gaza, without hindrance. In Gaza, they finalized plans for the attack with Hamas leaders and posed as left-wing activists, attending events sponsored by the International Solidarity Movement.

The biggest problem they faced was how to cross from Gaza back into Israel once they were ready to carry out the attack. They solved this problem with the aid of an Italian journalist, who offered them a ride through the checkpoint in her car together with some other Italian journalists.

At the time, foreign journalists were allowed to pass through checkpoints virtually without inspection, so this assistance enabled the two to slip through undiscovered. It is because of this incident that Israel has since tightened the rules for foreign journalists and now insists on subjecting them to checkpoint inspections.

The Italian journalist was interrogated by the police and the Shin Bet security service, but apparently had no idea that the two men were terrorists. She has since left the country. The activists with whom Sharif and Hanif spent time in Gaza have also been interrogated, and some have been deported. But they also appear to have been unaware that the two were terrorists.

Contrary to the security services' initial assessment, Hanif and Sharif apparently did not bring their bombs with them when they came from Jordan. Shortly after the attack, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz announced the explosives had been hidden in a Qu'ran and smuggled through the Allenby Bridge crossing.

But after further investigation, the security services have concluded that the two probably obtained the bombs in Gaza. The scanners at the Allenby Bridge are highly sophisticated and would almost certainly have detected any explosives; it would have been much easier to get a bomb past the less sophisticated scanners at the Erez checkpoint from Gaza into Israel.

Another initial assessment that further investigation seems to have refuted is that the attack was aided by an international terrorist organization, such as Hezbollah or even Al Qaeda.

Security services have been unable to prove any international involvement, but the unofficial conclusion is that the bombing was apparently a homegrown production by Hamas in Gaza. The mastermind was probably Mohammed Def, who heads Hamas's military wing there.

Hanif and Sharif spent most of their time in Tel Aviv at a small hostel called Hayarkon 48 on Hayarkon Street. According to the proprietors, it may be there that they thought of making Mike's Place their target: during several days of their stay, a large poster prominently displayed on the lobby bulletin board invited hotel guests to musical evenings at the nearby pub.

The hotel's owner, Omri Gur-Lavie, said the two never aroused any suspicions among the staff.

"After all, they presented British passports and spoke perfect English," he said. "There was not a hint of Arabic, other than their names."

But en route to the attack, Sharif discovered a problem with his explosive belt and decided to turn back, leaving Hanif to carry out the bombing alone.

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Clown's magic works 'miracles' in Israeli hospitals

Continued from page 1

Friends and community members helped pay for the props Strong used on his three-week trip, which took him to 11 hospitals and seven schools and day cares across the country.

"I was busy from the day I got there," he said. "It was very rewarding."

Strong said he wanted to bring his clown act to Israel in the spirit of tzedakah.

"My idea was to go to poor areas where kids don't necessarily get a chance to see entertainers," Strong said.

"To see smiles on people's faces – that's my aim."

Although Strong had pre-arranged some visits, many were impromptu, which added to what he called the "miraculous" nature of the trip.

For instance, Strong was slated to visit the Alyn Hospital located on a nearby mountain range in Kiryat Yovel a day after an unlikely snowstorm hit Jerusalem this February, but the storm had shut down the city's transportation system.

"The lady at the hospital told me I wouldn't even be able to get a cab," Strong said.

But United Jewish Appeal workers sent a jeep to fetch Strong, and his show at the hospital was a hit.

"They were so happy that I came because there was nobody else at the hospital to do programs for kids because of [the storm]."

Strong visited Israelis of all backgrounds, including Arab and Druze children in Nahariya, orphaned Ethiopians and kindergarten students in the West Bank.

He said the reception he received was terrific.

"When you're [in Israel], everyone seems to be your family," Strong said.

Using clowns in hospitals is becoming increasingly popular in the country, he said.

"It's a tremendous form of therapy for everybody. It's amazing how is transforms a whole ward, or a whole hospital."

Strong hopes other entertainers will follow in his footsteps and go to the Jewish state to help people forget the Middle East conflict and laugh a little.

"If [my experience] encourages other people, that's the whole idea," Strong said. "It makes such a difference. You can't imagine."

Strong plans to bring several other entertainers with him when he returns to Israel next year.

In his Toronto shows, Bonkers uses comedy, music and magic and also dresses up as different characters, including Batman and Spiderman.

Strong was born in London, England, and came to Canada in 1971. He began clowning as as a hobby, but stopped working as a footwear salesman several years ago and took up clowning full time.

Israeli company develops SARS detection kit

Continued from page 1

in Israel and found it was identifying the virus in its incubation stage with high accuracy. We sent the information to contacts in Singapore whom we have close relations with. They invited us last month to come for a presentation and to conduct some tests."

Medex Screen, founded in March 1999 under the auspices of the Industry and Trade Ministry's technology incubator program, has worked for several years developing the Medex Test device. The device can provide a diagnosis in eight to 10 minutes and is capable of identifying the virus in its incubation stage, long before other symptoms (like temperature) indicate its presence.

Founded by Dr. Alex Kanevsky, the company moved to Dimona in 2000 and currently employs seven workers. Medex Screen recently signed an agreement with a chain of clinics in the Philippines, in conjunction with local insurance companies, to establish centres for diagnosing an immune system illness, using the company's product.

The Philippine company has committed to sales of $1-2 million (US) and Medex Screen anticipates earning net profits of about $300,000 from the partnership during its first year.

Produced in Israel, unit cost of the device is expected to be about $2,500 (US).

"When we reach the stage of mass production, we'll transfer production to Southeast Asia," Hirshman said.

"SARS changed our business plan to a certain extent. Until the clinical testing related to SARS is completed, we're focusing on the original uses and marketing planned for the device." he added.

Medex Screen's business model includes regular royalties as well an ASP (application service provider) model. Under the ASP model, the company sells the device, but all test results must be sent back to Medex Screen for diagnosis.

With files from CJN news services.

June 2

• Israel re-opened a Gaza Strip crossing as part of confidence-building gestures toward the Palestinians. Some 10,000 workers entered Israel.

June 3

• Acting Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski was elected the city's mayor for the next five years. Lupolianski won with 51 per cent of the vote, while second-place fmisher Nir Barkat mustered 43 per cent. Voter turnout was 38 per cent, the lowest ever recorded in a Jerusalem mayoral vote.

• Yona Yahav was elected mayor of Haifa. Yahav, who contested the position as head of the Shinui-Greens-Neighborhoods Union list, won 52 per cent of the ballots cast to beat his nearest rival, Likud and One Nation candidate Shmuel Arad, who came away with 43 per cent.

June 4

• Hamas vowed not to put down its weapons despite Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas' call for "an end to the armed intifadah."

• The High Court rejected a petition against the appointment of Rabbi Yona Metzger as Ashkenazi chief rabbi.

June 5

• Around 20,000 people rallied in Jerusalem's Zion Square to protest the deal struck at the Aqaba summit between Israel and the Palestinians to implement the U.S.- and internationally backed road map for peace.

• The Israel Defence Forces lifted the curfew on the West Bank city of Jenin, Army Radio reported. With that move, no Palestinian city is currently under curfew.

June 6

• *Shavuot*

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Please put your hands on this art exhibition

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

When American artist and graphic designer David Small decided to use plastic paper for his interactive book, he imagined the medium would be great for cleaning up fingerprints and dirt. He never thought it would be wiped down for microbes.

Small's Illuminated Manuscript, on display at the Real Time Gallery this month, is a 26-page book that is meant to be touched. The text is beamed down from a projector mounted to the ceiling and visitors can manipulate the words by touching the plastic pages.

Small, who was in Toronto recently for the exhibit's Canadian opening, says that a month ago, when the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) scare in Toronto was at its height, he would have been worried about more than just dirt stains on his book. But now that the alarm has settled somewhat, he's more relaxed.

"Relatively speaking, it's a safe piece of artwork. It's on the same level as a doorknob," he says.

To ease fears, Small says the book is cleaned frequently to remove both microbes and fingerprints.

The book is mounted on a platform and housed in a spartan room with concrete floors. Hidden beneath the platform is a computer that controls the projector. The projector reads the sensors embedded in the book's pages and transmits that information to the computer. It is the computer program, written by Small, that allows the viewers to manipulate the text by touch.

Small initially intended The Illuminated Manuscript to be an alphabet book, but Sept. 11 changed that.

"After Sept. 11, it seemed too trivial to me to have a book that wasn't about something," he says.

Inspired by an article that his grandfather had written in 1941 about World War II and then-U.S. president Franklin Roosevelt's famous Four Freedoms speech, Small changed the theme of his project to make a political statement on freedom.

"That was a big inspiration to me, to see something my grandfather had written when he was in his 20s, and to me, a lot of what he was talking about felt very relevant in 2001," says Small.

In a masterful piece of juxtaposition, Small has pitted fiery speeches by political figures of FDR, U.S. President George W. Bush and Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden crusading for freedom against the chilling testimony of his great-aunt describing the cattle car ride to Auschwitz.

"I had all these writings about these lofty ideals of freedom and then here was somebody talking about the absolute loss of freedom," Small says. "All of the political and intellectual ideas come at it from a very intellectual point of view, not a personal point of view, and this was a very personal story."

The name itself has significance. Illuminated manuscripts hearken back to medieval times, when monks would copy texts and emboss them with designs. In this cave-like room with concrete floors, The Illuminated Manuscript is the only thing that emits light – a symbol, as Small suggests, of the wisdom within it.

Small first created The Illuminated Manuscript in 2002 for Documenta 11, a politically charged artists' exhibition in Kassel, Germany. When he arrived at the exhibit, Small saw that many of the works were much more political than his, and many were anti-American.

"It made me want to go in the other direction and do something very pro-American… I never even really thought about having such an American identity," he says.

Small, 37, grew up in a secular Jewish home in Connecticut, where his parents ran a company that sold microscopes. He says the most Jewish thing he did as a child was learn the prayer for lighting Chanukah candles. He still remembers it.

In 1999, Small graduated from MIT with a PhD in media studies. His thesis, *Rethinking the Book*, was about new technology in the information age.

Since graduate school, Small has focused on the differences between presenting information traditionally, with paper and ink, and digitally, with new media and technology.

"Once you have words that can move and be in three dimensions and be animated across the screen in response to your actions, how is that going to change the way we think about writing?" he says. "It doesn't make sense that we will start changing the medium of the text from print to new digital form without changing the underlying text itself."

Despite his artistic successes, Small defines himself firstly as a graphic designer. He has begun many of his works more because of his fascination with typography rather than an artistic idea, he says.

"I feel more comfortable talking about the technological side than I do about the rest," he says.

Some of his earlier work includes the Talmud Project, which was the prototype for The Illuminated Manuscript and combined sections of the Torah and Talmud with writings by a contemporary French philosopher; the Human Genome, a display for the genetics exhibit of the Museum of Science and Industry; and four interactive displays for the Museum of Sex. Small also runs his own graphic design company, called Small Design Firm.

The Illuminated Manuscript is on display until June 28 at the Real Time Gallery, 55 Mill St., Toronto, 416-364-1177.

Monsieur Batignole and The Burial Society

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Two new Jewish films have recently arrived at video stores. Each of these films played in theatres for a very short time and then disappeared until their recent re-emergence on video.

Monsieur Batignole is a charming French film that appeared at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival recently. It is set in Paris during the Nazi occupation of France.

The title character, Edward Batignole, is a small time butcher who is content to get along in life and doesn't like creating too many waves.

Batignole's future son-in-law is living with the family and is an aspiring writer who refuses to accept the fact that he has no talent. He is also a small time collaborator for the Nazis and informs them that a Jewish family is living in an apartment above the butcher store. The Jewish family is arrested and deported, but the youngest son Simon manages to escape and returns to his family's apartment to find it occupied by the Batignoles.

M. Batignole takes pity on the boy. Batignole hides and feeds the boy and eventually arranges for Simon and Simon's two cousins to escape to Switzerland, even escorting them across the border himself.

Monsieur Batignole is a tender heart-warming story that will touch everyone who sees it and now everyone will have

Continued on page 44

CORRECTION

In the article "Magic by Jordan will let you be a child again" (June 5, page B21), magician Jordan Rozencwajg's name was misspelled. As well, his correct phone number is 905-764-8835. *The CJN* regrets the error.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 47.

R	A	M	P	■	M	A	T	E	S	■	G	A	R	S
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B	E	S	T	■	N	E	A	R	S	■	R	N	A	S

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Arts & Travel

Celebrating Vincent Van Gogh's 150th anniversary

By NANCY WIGSTON
Special to The CJN

AMSTERDAM — Vincent Van Gogh sold only a single painting in his short but productive lifetime, yet he has become one of the best-selling artists on the planet, his work routinely fetching millions of dollars.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of Van Gogh's birth in 1853, and Dutch museums have naturally seized the chance to celebrate. To understand the man behind the sunflowers, Holland has launched two special exhibits, one in town and the other in the country.

Detail from Self-portrait as an Artist, 1888. Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam [Vincent Van Gogh Foundation]

Van Gogh lovers can visit the eponymous museum in Amsterdam, then take a special bus directly to the countryside park at Otterio, where the single largest private collection of the artist's work was amassed by one of his early admirers.

Visitors line up early at the modern building in Amsterdam that houses the world's largest collection of Van Goghs. A special show in honour of his 150th – the museum's "gift" to Vincent – is called "Vincent's Choice." It's an original concept, the idea being to present the kinds of paintings and prints that Van Gogh grew up with and grew to love. His own works hang beside them, so we see before us the intimate interaction between the artist and the works that inspired him.

The exhibit moves like biography through the life of the great painter; we see the Dutch masters (he considered Rembrandt the ultimate among them), the prints his art-dealing uncles made available to the family and the works that Van Gogh admired, the simple rural themes in paintings by less famous artists, such as Brion and Daubigny, and his teacher in The Hague, Anton Mauve.

His many copies – what he called "interpretations" – of Jean-Francois Millet are also on view. It's gripping to see the two painters' work hung side by side.

Another passion of Van Gogh's was the Japanese woodcut. Working with his art dealer brother Theo in Paris, he helped collect 550 sheets of woodcuts by Japanese masters. One result was his incomparable *Small Pear Tree in Blossom*; another was his move to Arles, in Provence, where he sought not only light but also Japanese motifs. Van Gogh's own collection of Japanese woodcut prints are also on display.

Of course, Van Gogh remains famous for having cut off part of his ear after a falling out with fellow painter Paul Gauguin, and for painting the bandaged result. Gauguin paintings figure in the exhibit's Impressionist section, which also includes one of Van Gogh painting sunflowers as well as works by his admired contemporaries Emile Bernard, Toulouse-Lautrec and Claude Monet.

This is a highly personalized exhibit, bolstered by excerpts from the voluminous letters Van Gogh wrote to his brother, in which he made more than 1,000 references to specific painters and their works.

Just as Van Gogh's own life was rife with emotions, which were often unhappy, so he attracted others to his emotive painting style and tragic story, after his suicide at age 37 became public knowledge.

One of his fans was a woman named Helene Kroller-Muller, immensely wealthy but also less than happy in her domestic life. In middle age, Helene developed a passion for art and esthetics. She studied esthetic principles with the well-known teacher and art dealer H.P. Bremmer and spent many hours bent over his books on art. An early champion of Van Gogh, Bremmer had written a book about Holland's most famous tortured artist.

The Van Gogh tragedy gripped the romantic imagination of art lovers and collectors alike. At the family hunting lodge on a 5,000-hectare park in Otterio, 90 minutes from Amsterdam, Helene studied, collected and eventually planned and built a museum to house her collection, which included 87 paintings by Van Gogh alone.

Her books, even the table where she sat, form part of the Kroller-Muller Museum's engaging new show, on until Oct. 12, called "Vincent and Helene."

The relationship implied by the exhibit's title never existed in reality, but something about the painter who always signed his work "Vincent" intrigued Kroller-Muller. An assistant recalled the "joyous rapture" that greeted Bremmer when he arrived with two Van Goghs for her.

Kroller-Muller's collecting reached almost a fever pitch. During a single morning in Paris, in April 1912, she purchased seven Van Goghs. Bremmer acted as her middleman, buying the paintings from Van Gogh's sister-in-law Jo, the widow of his brother Theo, who also died young.

At Otterio, Kroller-Muller's purchases are displayed in the order in which she made them. The familiar *Terrace of a Night Café* is here, plus many less well-known pictures, including an unusual *Sunflowers* in which the massive flower heads droop with their own weight. Equally fascinating are the six fakes mistaken for real Van Goghs. Visitors will notice that the fake Van Goghs improved as the real Van Gogh's work grew in popularity. In a final bit of irony, even the forgers were inspired by their subject.

IF YOU GO: "Vincent's Choice" is running at the Van Gogh Museum until June 15; "Van Gogh Modern" explores his influence on modern artists, from June 27 to Oct. 12. Paulus Potterstraat 7, 1070 AJ Amsterdam, info@van-goghmuseum.nl. Prices: adults, 9E; teenagers 13-17, 2.50E; children 0-12, free. Buses leave from the Van Gogh Museum to the Kroller-Muller Museum in Otterio for 10 Euros return. Museum entry costs 10E. Closed Mondays.

Set in the wildlife park where Kroller-Muller used to ride, the museum/park has many outdoor sculptures and hundreds of free white bikes for visitors' use. For schedules and information, visit www.kmm.nl or www.holland.com.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

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Workmen's Circle presents Our Mothers Sing: Songs of Mothers in Various Cultures. This 40th Yiddishland Cafe evening features **Denise Williams**, **Michael Mandel**, **Nina Shapilsky** and **Rodion Boshoer**. Tickets $12 available at Israel's Judaica on Eglinton. Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Sunday, June 22, 7:30 p.m. Reservations, 416-787-2081.

* * *

Book Launch: L'Dor Vador Publications of Ottawa has just produced *The Magic Pot*, a new children's book written by **Sharon Abron Drache** and illustrated by **Ellen Schowalter**. A book launch was held last week at the National Library and Archives in Ottawa, and another is scheduled for June 15, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., in the party room off the lobby of 260 Heath St. W., Toronto.

Abron Drache, who will be reading from the book, describes it as "a timeless fable about seven-year-old Rifkeh who discovers that learning to give reaps astonishing rewards for herself and her poor sick Grandmother Malke." She describes L'Dor Vador as an Ottawa-based publishing company that will specialize in Jewish stories in Canadian settings. The launch is co-sponsored by Toronto bookseller Nicholas Hoare and the Writers Union of Canada.

* * *

Madcap in Minsk: Medina Theatre Ensemble presents *The Menuval of Minsk*, written, adapted and directed by **Morris Jacobs**. Loaded with endless high-shticking punchlines, the Minsk Express travels from Chelm to Vaudeville and into the Catskills for a madcap, fast-paced journey through Jewish humour. B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. $5. Monday, June 23, 8 p.m. 416-785-0344.

* * *

Cantorial Concert: Hamilton's Beth Jacob Synagogue presents *Eitz Chaim – The Tree of Life*, a gala cantorial concert featuring **Shneur M. Bielak** of Beth Jacob, **David Edwards** of the Lodzer Centre, **Sidney S. Dworkin** of Shaare Hashomayim, **Ben Silverberg** of Shaar Shalom and piano accompanist **Nathan Rosen**. Reception to follow. $18 in advance, $25 at the door. 375 Aberdeen Ave., Hamilton. Sunday, June 22, 7:30 p.m. 905-522-1351.

* * *

What's Doing at Israel's: Mildred Wyman, author of the three-volume family history *A Forest of Trees*, celebrates her 85th birthday by reading from this work. Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments, free admission. Wed. June 11, 8 p.m.

* * *

Names in the News

• The smiling faces of **Jennifer Podemski** and her sisters **Tamara** and **Sarah** grace the cover of the latest issue of *Say Magazine*, devoted to the spirit of Aboriginal youth. Jennifer and Tamara have already proven themselves as actors, with Sarah now a serious contender at acting school; all have a mixed Jewish and aboriginal heritage.

• A 1916 painting by Austrian expressionist **Egon Schiele** is expected to fetch up to 7 million British pounds at a Sotheby's auction in London this month. Titled *Krumauer Landschaft* or *Little Town on the River*, the painting belonged to a prominent Jewish art patron in Vienna when the Nazis seized it in 1938. It was sold in 1953 to a Linz art gallery and displayed there until returned to its rightful heirs earlier this year.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Artist **Vivian Reiss** renovated the house at 110 Lowther Ave. and filled each room with her paintings, which include landscapes, still lifes and celebrity portraits of dancer **Peggy Baker**, cellist **Ofra Harnoy**, mezzo-soprano **Jean Stilwell** and chef **Jamie Kennedy**. The show, titled The Space as Muse, continues through June 14. 416-832-7845.

• An exhibit of **Steve Levinson's** photography opens June 12, 5 to 8 p.m., at Painted City Gallery, 655 College St. (between Bathurst and Ossington). Until July 12. 416-364-0269.

• Provence With Love, an exhibition of watercolours by Toronto artist **Linda R. Goldman**, is on view at the Yorkville Library, 22 Yorkville Ave., until June 30. 416-393-7647.

• **The Willowdale Group of Artists** present a members juried art show and sale of 60 new paintings. Kathleen Gormley McKay House, 197 Main St., Unionville. June 12 to 22. The group's Civic Garden Centre art show takes place at The Link Gallery, Edwards Garden, 777 Lawrence Ave. E., June 17 to 29.

• Dig/Dug, an exhibition of works by lens-based artists **Adam Brickell** and **bh yael**, continues at the Koffler Gallery through July 13. The artists consider the complexity of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre site. More such works by **Isaac Applebaum**, **Adrian Fish**, **Katherine Knight** and **Arthur Renwick** are being shown from July 24 to Sept. 26. 4588 Bathurst St.

* * *

Out of Town: The Red Barn Theatre in Jackson's Point, Ont., reports that advance bookings are strong for the summer season, with group sales more than double what they were last year. The historic theatre attracts most of its audience from the Toronto region, but tour buses arrive from all over southern Ontario and even a few from the United States.

The Barn's 2003 season marks **Jordan Merker's** second season as artistic director. Offerings include *Girl in the Goldfish Bowl*, **Morris Panych's** adult comedy that was recently nominated for seven Dora awards (June 18 to July 5); *The Last Resort*, a murder-mystery musical comedy by **Norm Foster** and **Leslie Arden** (July 9 to 26); *Private Lives*, the comic gem by **Noel Coward** (July 30 to Aug. 16); and *Menopositive! The Musical* by *J.J. McColl* and *Reuben Gurr* (Aug. 20 to Sept. 6).

Merkur is director of all but *Menopositive*, which **Janet-Laine Green** directs. Adults $25, seniors and students $20, bargain Tuesdays and matinees, $20. 1-888-RED-BARN or www.redbarntheatre.ca.

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By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

The Ability to Forget, a compelling new collection of short stories by Canadian expatriate writer Norman Levine, is a welcome addition to his much-praised oeuvre, which includes *By A Frozen River*, *Canada Made Me* and other celebrated collections going back several decades.

Levine's trademark first-person narration is usually as sparse as it is sparkling. These 15 quirky and quasi-autobiographical sketches present economical accounts of memorable encounters combined with a minimalistic flourish that transforms them into art.

The author frequently juxtaposes two encounters or experiences in a single tale, leaving the reader to infer the connection between them. With Levine, a fierce subtlety is often in play, the whole is usually more than the sum of its parts, and the meaning always emerges from between the lines.

The first story, *My Karsh Picture*, quickly wins us over and offers a taste of what's to come. In it, Levine recalls sitting after-hours for a portrait with an assistant of the legendary photographer in his Ottawa studio, just before leaving to join the war as a young air force pilot during WWII.

Filtered through the sweet prism of memory, the stories are often tinged with sadness and loss. Yet, as in *My Wife Has Left Me* and *Gifts*, they also betray an inescapable comic sensibility.

In *Gifts*, for example, Levine meets two strangers in a restaurant who offer to drive him from Ottawa to Toronto. They proclaim themselves as bank robbers but we think they're just joking until they enlist his help in distributing $20 bills in the front doors of houses in a town enroute.

A seeker of adventure, irony and thrilling character revelation, the author delights in such delicious little ambiguities and mysteries.

He also adheres religiously to the first-person experiential narrative technique. One senses that he would regard the third-person omniscient voice as a manipulation of the author-reader relationship.

Indeed, he dons such a disguise in *The Man With the Notebook*, using the third person to convey information that seems essentially about himself. Suddenly the prose seems cold, uninviting, distanced. The experiment didn't work.

In a few stories, Levine refers to his Jewish roots and his Jewish upbringing in Ottawa. But it's unclear whether he identifies his own personal sense of exile, which he conveys with such sensitivity, with that of the Jewish people, from whom he seems so detached.

In *Continuity*, the Levine persona meets a Hebrew professor along the Cornish coast, both having shown an interest in local Jewish cemeteries.

The professor tells him that Jewish travellers through the region in the 1700s would chalk Hebrew messages in frying pans at certain inns where Jews were welcome, to assure the next Jewish traveler that the pan's kashrut had been preserved.

Levine seems to be searching for similar links with the past, similar assurances that sympathetic others have also trod the lonely and peripatetic past he has chosen for himself.

Even though I regard Levine's earlier story *Thin Ice* as one of the best thematically Jewish stories written by a Canadian, I admit I've been disappointed by a few stories by him (such as *Something Happened Here*) from other previous collections.

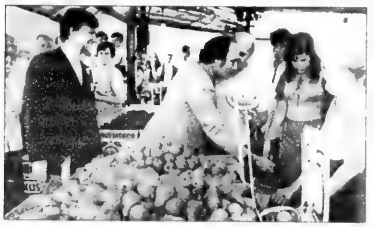
Perhaps the best tribute I can pay to this new collection, therefore, is that it prodded me to reread some of those earlier pieces and reappraise them in a more favourable light.

The Ability to Forget is published by Key Porter Books under the L&OD imprint and costs $21.95.

A nostalgic look at Kensington Market

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Currently the haunt of Asian, Portuguese and Caribbean immigrants, Toronto's Kensington area was once inextricably associated with Jews.



Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau pokes around the Kensington market in 1970.

The heyday of Kensington's identification with Jews was from the 1920s to the 1960s.

But even during this period, Kensington was inhabited by many other newcomers, ranging from Italians to Ukrainians.

Kensington, in particular, was known for its colourful outdoor market, which, for all intents and purposes, might have been pulled out of an atmospheric central European shtetl.

Now in the heart of Chinatown, Kensington is a paradigm of Canadian multiculturalism, an ethnic melting pot to which Torontonians and tourists alike gravitate. In 1970, Pierre Trudeau, Canada's prime minister, ventured into its depths.

Kensington's story is the subject of *Kensington* (Boston Mills Press), a nostalgic coffee table album with text by Jean Cochrane and photographs by Vincenzo Pietropaolo.

British colonial forces acquired the Kensington lands from three Mississauga Indian chiefs in 1787.

In the following century, Kensington developed into a genteel neigbourhood.

By the turn of the 19th century, it was no longer the preserve of middle-class Anglos but rather the home of newly arrived immigrants.

Many Jews from villages in eastern Europe and Russia congregated in and around Kensington. By 1913, Toronto's Jewish population was about 32,000.

Scratching out a living as peddlers, junk dealers, second-hand clothes merchants, shopkeepers and garment industry workers, Jews gradually made their way in this teeming neighbourhood.

They built shuls, such as the Kiever Synagogue, and a host of other institutions to serve the community.

And always, they shopped at the Kensington Market, with its crated chickens and live fish and wafting aromas of freshly baked bread and bagels.

Such was Kensington's convivial old-world atmosphere that CBC-TV used it as a backdrop for the popular and enduring sitcom *The King of Kensington*, starring Al Waxman and Fiona Reid.

Through sharp words and graphic black-and-white photos, *Kensington* brings to life a beloved urban neighbourhood that has attained legendary status.

Read, look and enjoy.

A new collection of Simchovitch's poetry

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Canadian Jewish poet, novelist and scholar, Sam (Simcha) Simchovitch, recently published a book of collected Yiddish poems titled *Dem Netzach Antkegn* (*Toward Eternity*).

The poems were taken from three of his former Yiddish Collections: *Sorrow and Consolation* (Montreal, 1989), *Luminous Autumn* (Toronto, 1990), and *Sparks in Embers* (Toronto, 1997), all limited edition books that are no longer available.

Der Netzach Antkegn, Simchovitch's 14th book, is arranged in five sections that reflect the poet's life over more than half a century – Home and Homelessness; Memorial Lights – Holocaust-Yizkor; Towards Peaceful Shores (coming and settling in Canada); Yiddish Sounds; and Pure Tears (on old age and other topics).

Simchovitch was born in Otwock (Otvotsk), Poland, in 1921. He was 18 when he ran away with a few others on Sept. 7, 1939, a week after the Germans attacked. He fled to the Soviet Union and after the war, returned to Otwock, where he found all of his family had perished along with almost all the 14,000 Jews in the town.

He spent eight months in France and immigrated to Canada in 1949 with his wife and daughter. He taught in Hebrew schools in Montreal and Ottawa and came to Toronto in 1967 as principal of the Borochov School. He left to become teacher, librarian and curator of the museum at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

He retired from full-time work in 1989 and says that is when he began writing more seriously. He still works at the Beth Tzedec Museum part time.

His works have received international acclaim. He was honoured for his literary work with the J.I. Segal and Chaim Zhitlowski awards and has received a number of literary prizes from the Toronto Jewish Book Awards.

Simchovitch has written in Yiddish, Hebrew and English. His writings are a historical record. From his European shtetl childhood, through the war years to the rebuilding of a new life in Canada, he has filled his works with optimism and gratitude. They speak for the millions of Jews, especially for the young generation of Jews who did not survive, and for those, like himself, who rose to overcome their grief and pain.

Simchovitch, who contributes articles, poems and book reviews to the *Yiddish Forward* in New York, is preparing an edition of his collected poems in English titled *Out of the Abyss*, which will appear this summer.

In one of his poems, Simchovitch laments that there were once more than 20 noted Yiddish writers in Canada. Today, there are only a few.

Dem Netzach Antkegn (*Towards Eternity*) was funded by Velvel Katz and his daughter Ida Abrams in honour of his 105th birthday in August 2002. Katz died in April. It is available at the Negev Book and Gift Store, Israel's The Judaica Centre, or by calling 416-635-7199.

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Addiction expert holds seminars in Ottawa

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Abraham Twerski, an ordained rabbi, psychiatry professor and an international authority on chemical dependency visited the national capital recently to speak to educators, social workers, clergy and members of the general public on issues ranging from parenting to domestic violence.

At a professional development seminar for staff of Yitzhak Rabin High School, one of the sponsors of his visit, Rabbi Twerski spoke about bullying.

"Many decades later, I still carry the scars of having been the victim of a bully in grade school," he told his evening audience. The workshop was also attended by members of the general community, including many from social service agencies and those interested in dealing with addictions.

Rabbi Twerski, the author of more than 40 books and a frequent radio and television guest, is the founder and medical director emeritus of Gateway Rehabilitation Center in Pennsylvania and has recently become involved with a rehabilitation centre in Jerusalem known as Shaar Hatikvah, meaning "gateway to hope."

Twerski also met with a group of almost a dozen rabbis to discuss domestic violence in the Jewish community.

"There were a number of issues that we wanted opened up," said Mark Zarecki, executive director of Jewish Family Services of Ottawa, the other sponsor of Rabbi Twerski's visit.

"One of these issues is spousal violence and another is the issue of addictions and alcoholism. It was important for some of the clergy and leadership to hear how they should deal with these issues. The session was scheduled to last one hour, but lasted 2½ hours. They were very open and interested, and we were very, very pleased."

Rabbi Twerski's keynote address at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre attracted a diverse audience of professionals and community members looking for answers to "How to Raise Children in a Violent Society." The Ottawa Police Service and Catholic Family Services also sponsored the lecture.

"Morality has fallen by the wayside; drugs are epidemic," Rabbi Twerski said. "There is no more respect for authority across the board."

That's the bad news, he said. The good news is that if parents show their children by example, leading good lives themselves, and teach respect by being respectful, they may have success.

Citing the Talmud, Rabbi Twerski noted said although God "is the sovereign being of the whole world, he does not control man's moral behaviour. He can control it, but has chosen not to. Control by fear and intimidation is not healthy. Intimidation breeds resentment, not love."

Children must be disciplined, but there is a difference between discipline and abuse, Rabbi Twerski said.

Television and video games expose children to violence, but Rabbi Twerski does not advocate simply banning them. Rather, he suggests that parents tell their children that there are better ways to spend their time.

"We have to find ways to assert the authority of wisdom rather than the authority of power," he said.

Though parenting is a very difficult job, Rabbi Twerski said, he reminded his audience that even "Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the great patriarchs, did not have much success with their children. We just have to do the best we can."

Mini-golf fundraiser to support Sunnybrook cancer research

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Elayne Kopman was "a wonderful human being" who was dedicated to her family, her friends and her community, so, it seemed fitting to remember her in a way that would carry on her legacy of caring, says her son Richard.

After her recent death from lung cancer at the age of 54, Richard Kopman decided to found the Elayne Kopman Hope for Health Foundation for Cancer Research. The goal is to raise funds for the prevention and treatment of all types of cancer.

In particular, it is now supporting Dr. Neil Berinstein's advanced therapeutics program at Toronto's Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre.

Kopman's organization operates under the umbrella of the Hope for Health foundation for Cancer Research, founded by Erle Strauss and Evelyn Pancer. Kopman said that besides moral support and encouragement, Hope for Health offered tactical advice and guidance.

"We wanted to make sure that [any research we supported] was done properly as well as ethically. There is a lot of scam going on."

The first fundraising effort, a squash tournament held at Mayfair Lakeshore Raquet and Fitness Club, this past March raised $9,000. Sixty people took part, said Kopman, who hopes to make the event an annual affair.

The next fundraiser is the Elayne Kopman Mini-Golf Classic, to be held June 22, at the Putting Edge at highways 400 and 7. It is directed at children, but adults are welcome to play with the kids, Kopman said.

In addition to mini-golf, the event will feature a carnival, barbecue, pizza, loot bags, raffles, doughnuts, pop and water – all donated. A number of Toronto Blue Jays mascots will also be on hand to help things along.

There will be four tee-off times, 9 a.m., noon, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Pre-registration cost is $25 per child, $40 per adult or $100 for a family of up to 5 people including 2 adults. Tickets can be purchased at the gate for $10 extra per category.

The cost is completely tax deductible.

Kopman has other plans to raise funds, including a wine-tasting evening and a movie premiere.

"We wanted to arrange programs that were just fun, and not connected to illness," he said.

For details, or to register for the mini-golf fundraiser, call 416-485-8407, or e-mail richard@elaynekopman-h4h.org.

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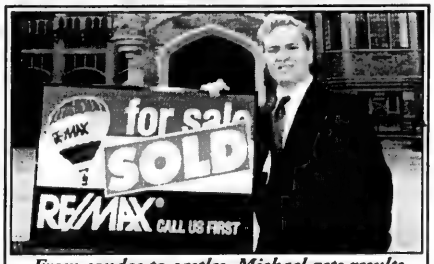

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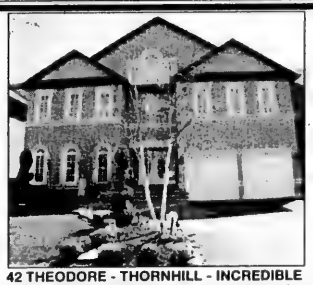

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Fab home, large entertainment rms, pool, gazebo, 5 bdrms on 2nd level, guest suite, office on 3rd level, fin bsmnt, 6 bathrooms, ubelievable upgrades and finishes. A must see. $875,000. Stephen Selesnick** & Michael Gruenstein* ext. 281/533

GREAT FAMILY HOME!
A wonderful 3 bdrm, 3 bath home w/a terrific serene yard located near public transit & shopping. All of this for only $329,900. Ferne Sherkin-Langer* & Hannah Math Slan* ext. 307/504

TIMBERLANE / YORK DOWNS "RAVINE"
$1,675,000. Spectacular 6,000+ custom home, grand entrance, 10' ceilings, 4 bedrooms + [SOLD] floor guest suite & baths, grnd LR, separate DR, 2 storey library, huge indoor pool & spa, circular drive. Jack Samuel* & Gert Kerbel* ext. 252

RESIDENCES OF RIDLEY BOULEVARD
Two choices! Amazing view & sunsets from this 1 bedroom + solarium & a sun-filled 2 bedroom, 2 bath suite w/west exposure. Both incl appliances & parking. Perry Steinberg** ext. 334

3 BEDROOM CONDO ON MARLEE
Approx 1,200 sq. ft. – bright & spacious – just redec'd parquet floors t/out, s. appliances, parking, amenities galore. $249,000. Call for more info or to see. Stephen Bianco* ext. 224

BATHURST & STEELES
$514,900. Stunning Ridge Gate 4+1 bedroom with hardwood floors, formal LR and DR, renovated master and master ensuite, finished basement. Michelle Noik* ext. 289

BATHURST & GLENCAIRN - LOCATION! LOCATION!
$700,000. Perfect condo alternative – unique custom built bungalow, 2+1 bdrm, oversized LR & DR, main floor family room for your entertainment. Fabulous 60' x 140' lot. Fin'd lower level. Won't last. Carole Lazer* & Joan Kirsh* ext. 348/234

HEATH & SPADINA - 1,500 SQ. FT.
$449,000. Spacious 2 bedroom with 2 full baths. Bring your grand piano. Hardwood flooring, lots of windows. Walk to subway and the great restaurants of the Forest Hill Village. Cheryl Joseph* & Natalie Kopman* ext. 235/315

RENTAL – RIDELLE @ BATHURST
$1,000/mo. Spacious 1 bedroom with great view & hardwood floors. Cheryl Joseph* ext. 235

SPARKLING FOREST HILL CONDO
$249,000. Modern, bright, spacious 1 bdrm, 1 bath condo in Lower Village. Terrific unit w/updated kit and renovated bath. Walk to TTC, restaurants, shops, park. Matthew Wise* ext. 509

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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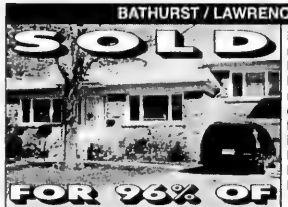
BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!
New custom-built home on 50 x 103 ft. lot. 4 bdrms., 4 baths, 3 fireplaces, family room, finished basement. Finest details & quality finishes! $699,000. Call Richard Cash, Sales Rep., (416) 787-1712.

* * *

COMMERCIAL PLAZA FOR SALE
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Modern plaza with gas bar in high-traffic area, **RARE OFFERING** at $2.49 million. Call our commercial real estate specialist Joel Snitman at (905) 764-0869.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Renovated & decorated! Builder's own home on 48 x 117 ft. lot. 3 + 2 bdrms., new kitchen & baths, gleaming hardwood floors, sep. entry to in-law suite. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712. SOLD

AVENUE RD. / BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Spacious renovated exec. 5 bdrm. home at Saguenay, tree-lined street close to park, updated kitchen, new baths, hardwood floors, 2002 roof. For the most discriminating buyer! **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $699,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

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268 TORRESDALE AVE
Open House Sunday 1-4
Bathurst/Steeles – H-U-G-E Backsplit, magnificent 50x120' lot, separate entrance to bsmnt. $2,000 income potential just from 2 fin. lower levels. Only $424,900.

268 RIDLEY BLVD.
Avenue Rd/Wilson. Seldom avail. Approx. 1,500 sf, 2 bdrm + den. Luxury corner suite with open balcony. Rare 2 deeded pkg spaces. Steps to direct bus to subway. New Price $369,000.

7 TOWNSGATE DR.
Bathurst/Steeles. Best deal in area!! 2 deeded prkg spots. 2 bdrm, 2 full baths, over 1,400 sf, new beautiful hrwd. flrs. Magnificent indoor pool. Only $306,900.

3555 BATHURST ST.
Across from Baycrest Centre. Centrally located, huge 1 bdrm. Wall to wall windows, open balcony. Just refinished gleaming parquet floors. Freshly painted. Only $137,500.

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$219,000. Affordable. 3 bedroom condo. Renovated.

DON MILLS/STEELES
$279,900. Delightful 3 bedroom townhouse. Reno kitchen + bathroom. Huge kitchen.

AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE
$355,000. Building lot 30' x 107'. Demand area. Great price. Act fast!

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Summer Occupancy Available

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Windfield Lane on Bond Ave nue—east off Leslie
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Super deal for 1st time buyers. Great 3 bedroom condo, 2 baths, asking $199K.

JUST LISTED

BATHURST/CHABAD GATE
Real dollhouse, 3 bedroom, 4 baths, finished basement, with jacuzzi, completely updated. See it - love it.

FRASERWOOD/LAWRENCE
6-plex, 5 x 3 bedrooms, 1 x 1 bedroom, retrofit.

BROWNRIDGE - NEW WESTMINSTER
Elegant 4 bedroom home, 2,500 sq. ft. See it -- love it.

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SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
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AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE
Sixplex, well maintained building, 2-3 bdrm, 2-2 bdrm, 1-1 bdrm, 1-bachelor, balconies, garage + parking, A-1 location, Don't miss!

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
6 room bungalow, now used as doctors office, finished basement with private entrance, lots of parking, steps to all.

416-633-7373

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

House for sale. Thornhill, Centre/Atkinson. 4000 sq. ft. Call 416-937-4306.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

A beautiful, spacious 4 bed., 3 bath, home. Clark/Bathurst. Nr. shul/school. 416-894-5333.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

NORTH YORK. 1-2-3 bedroom condos avail. Appls. 416-661-1041 G. BARON RLTR.

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003

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55 Skymark Zenith: Beautiful penthouse, 2 b.r. + sol., w/skylights, price reduced. For my updated inventory, colour brochures & 360° virtual tour, call:
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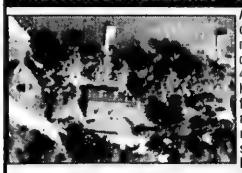
216' OF WATERFRONT ON LAKE SIMCOE 1/2 ACRE - PRESTIGIOUS HEDGE RD. - STEPS TO THE BRIARS



A wonderful retreat from the city, or a full-time residence just 45 mins. to the city. This magnificent estate boasts 6 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths, a great room with hardwood floors and a limestone fireplace, large windows, 2 newer gas furnaces, full basement. Great custom kitchen with stainless steel appliances and large hand laid slate tile island.

Asking $1,199,000

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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

Addresses to be envied!

www.avantgarderealtor.com

$1,029,000 77 Avenue Rd. Distinctively Designed! Approx 2000 sq ft, spacious 2 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, open concept LR/DR, Ebonized hardwood flrs, marble wood burning f/p, 2 balconies w/ clear views & so much more! **OPEN HOUSE SAT. 2-4.**

• • •

$1,229,000 The Bellagio Bloor/ Mt Pleasant. Incredible view Rosedale Valley Ravine, rare 3 bdrms, 2 1/2 baths, 2 f/p, great W/I closets & The Bellagio Spa.

• • •

$465,900 99 Avenue Rd Pied-a-terre w/ fab SW view, 1 bdrm, 10' ceilings, hardwood flrs, balcony & wonderful kitchen.

• • •

$309,000 77 Harbour Sq. Desirable 1 bdrm w/ lake view, balcony.

416-975-3811 Avant Garde Real Estate Ltd.

Townsgate, upgr. corner unit, approx. 1400', outdoor terrace over 2000', hrdwd flrs, marble, 4 pkg. magnif. view. 416-898-0185.

Bath./Finch, spacious & elegant 2 br. + den, 2 bths., balc., 2 car parking. $279K. 416-880-4046.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate. 1550 sq. ft., 2 bed., 2 bth. 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371, 416-224-2837.

Clark/Hilda, 1800 sq. ft. Avail. August 1st. Call 416-226-4427.

Bathurst/Clark, 2 bdrm., 1+1/2 bths., balc. All inclusive. $1600/mo. 416-523-7465.

55 SKYMARK
Don Mills & Finch. 3 bedroom + solarium. $2,150/month. **SANTEE LEUNG**, Santee Realty Inc., **416-441-2003.**

45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED

Looking for a condo. at 3000 Bath. St., 2 bedroom, closing negot. Call 416-880-2132.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Bathurst/Steeles condo, own bedroom & bathroom. Shared kitchen, laundry, locker & parking. Call 647-294-9314.

3 bdrm. townhouse in Thornhill to share with 2 n/smkrs. under 35. Call 416-831-5964.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ELDORADO, 2500 Bathurst St., lux. apts., large suites, reno'd. Immediate. 416-787-9451.

34 Carscadden Dr. accepting applications for our beautiful bldg. in a ravine setting, 1 bdrm. July 1, 3 bdrm. June 1. 416-636-0137 / 416-633-1495.

BATHURST/LAWRENCE, lrge. 1 bdrm., parking & laundry, near subway and shopping, 416-787-4450, 416-785-1893.

Bath./Lawr., bright, reno'd, 1 & 2 bdrms. + liv. rm., a/c, pkg., July 1st. Call 416-898-0185.

Fully reno'd., 1 bdrm. bsmt., priv. entr., Bathurst Manor, steps to public transport. $980/mo. Call 416-543-1762.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Newly Renovated Bath./Lawr./Wilson
1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments from $599-$1,500 + utilities.
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BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
960-3238 - Bus. 631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

78 SHORT-TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE

Avail. to rent main flr. of house, 4 bdrm., 2 bths., from July 22-Aug. 18, 2003. 905-889-5126.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

ANITA LATNER

330' SW Lake Muskoka
1.5 acres rock & pine..deep & shallow..gentle sloping bldg. lot.. **$650,000.**
Just built. 330' Lk Muskoka 3-acres Taylor Island
4 bd. solid pine..frplc.. Muskoka rm..custom kit.. brand new appl/fixtures.. skylight..GST incl..boat slip & pkg transferable.. **$629,000.**
www.anitalatner.com
(705) 687-2879

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area. Lux. 4 bdrm., sandy beach, tennis. Seas./mo. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

Lake Simcoe West, Beaverton, lakefront, 8 bdrms., available July/August. 905-737-2219.

Lakefront cottage, s. of Belle Ewart, 3 bdrms., shallow beach, safe for children, for month of July. Call 905-628-1297.

115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE

BELLE EWART, lakefront co-op, 3 bdrm, equipped; perfect for young family. 905-889-8687.

120 COTTAGE WANTED

Cottage for family Aug. 16-30, 4 bedrooms, lakefront, beach preferred. 905-707-2333.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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199 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AVAILABLE

Bath./Lawr., store/office, appr. 1000' + full bsmt., renod., a/c, pkg., July 1st. 416-898-0185.

Bath./Lawr., income prop. 10% cap., store & 2-2 bdrm. apts., exc. cond. Call 416-898-0185.

200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE
2727 Steeles Ave. W. Suitable for schools, daycare, showrooms, business, executive offices, churches, etc. Fully licensed and conveniently located in a prestigious building.
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240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

DIETARY MANAGER FOR RETIREMENT HOME
The ideal candidate will have, preferably, Kosher kitchen mgmt. exper. in hotel/restaurant/institutional setting. The individual must be a team leader and possess good interpersonal skills. Duties incl. menu planning, supervision of staff in the preparation of daily meals, organizing work to ensure that all aspects of food preparation and service are within health guidlines. The Mgr. is responsible for ensuring that necessary supplies are available to the Dietary Staff to complete their duties and that the dept. remains within budget. This position reports to the Executive Director of the facility. Qualified candidates please contact: Sharon Rosenblum, 416-787-5626 or e-mail: pinevila@cplodges.com on or before June 20, 2003. We thank all candidates.

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

A part-time opportunity exists for a dynamic individual with experience and knowledge in fundraising to play a key role in the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School's next phase of growth.
The Development Officer will drive the development, implementation and evaluation of the School's fundraising initiatives. Qualified candidates should e-mail résumés to: elysa@djds.ca by June 16, 2003.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Experienced Hairstylist and Nail Technician needed. Call 416-720-8793.

247 DAY CARE AVAILABLE

Loving Home Daycare, Bathurst/Steeles. Speaks Hebrew and Russian. Affordable rates. Call Ilana at 416-995-6871.

250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

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Del's Cleaning Service, we cleans condos, offices, houses and renovation clean up, after party clean. 416-651-9688.

Cook/housekeeper, exper. w/refs. Lidia, 416-534-4676.

Polish cleaning lady with references available. Call Maria, 905-275-2942.

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The *best* cleaning for you!
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European cleaning lady with car available, dependable with references. Call 416-239-6586.

Donna avail. to take care of elderly & companionship, live-out, refs. 416-247-5519, after 6 p.m.

Exper. woman available to clean homes, 7 days/wk. Refs. avail. Call 416-739-6616.

Good cleaning lady available. References available. Call Regla at 416-992-0162.

Caregiver/companion, mature, responsible, relates well with elderly, avail. to provide excellent patient care. 416-650-9879.

Super Clean Maid Service, top quality & affordable service, 20 yrs. exper., prof. cleaning. Call Teresa 416-653-2334.

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Live-in caregiver needed for elderly person, driver's licence and references required. Call 416-635-9682.

257 HEALTHCARE AVAILABLE

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Reasonable Prices
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Stay in touch with family, friends. Get medical & community info. at your fingertips. Friendly in-person/by phone classes. Mature students welcome. $45/hr. 416-220-4862.

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ALLEN AND BARBARA MAYER *(nee Rotberg)*
are thrilled to announce the birth of their baby girl,
COLE JORDAN
Cole, affectionately called Charlie, was born on May 30th at 12:14 pm, at Toronto East General Hospital, weighing 6 lbs., 2 ozs.
Proud grandmother is Ruth Mayer. Cole is named after her late grandfathers', Henry Rotberg and Ernest Mayer.
Many thanks to the Staff of Toronto East General Hospital, and all of the good wishes from our friends and family.

273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES

Bringing People Together for over 20 years. www.bptinc.ca View photos. 905-731-5204.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

Address your mail to:

The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ont.
M3B 3K4

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

Jewish, 5'7" athletic, 42-yr. old male seeks slim 5'2"-5'6" 33-38 Jewish female for long-term relationship. Write to CJN Box #4576.

Newly single prof. JM, 45, well est./fit, seeks female to enjoy being spoiled. 416-229-2685.

Established engineer (working for IBM), 5'5", shomer shabbath, seeking shomereth shabbath, 50-58, Hebrew speaking for serious relationship. 647-292-3015.

21 years old, handsome male student would like to meet a girl between 19-28. Call 416-731-4737.

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

With appreciation to
Gillian Ruby of
Gillians Caregiving Agency
for outstanding dedication, excellent service and compassionate care for my parents **Rella** and **Michael Goodman** during their recent illness.
Susan Friedmann

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Antiques wanted: Furniture, china, silver, fine art. Call 905-764-1112.

320 CONTENTS SALE

Prestine cond., 18th cent. queen size 4 poster bed/set from ArtShoppe, paid $12K, asking $6K. Other antiques, etc. Call 416-944-2647.

330 OBITUARIES

BENJAMIN'S LANDMARK MONUMENTS
ALL MONUMENTS ARE NOT CREATED EQUAL
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3429 Bathurst St. (corner of Melrose)
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Memorializing Life
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BRODY, Aaron – on May 25, 2003, late of 100 Antibes Dr.
ALEXANDER, Lily – on May 26, 2003.
MATHER, Linda – on May 23, 2003, late of 4222 Bathurst St.
SCHAPIRER, Clara – on May 26, 2003.
SCOTT, (Shulman), Robert Dillan – on May 27, 2003, late of 51 Woodcrest Rd.
GRENSTEIN, Nina – on May 29, 2003.
HEN, Alfred – on May 29, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SCHWEITZER, Oscar – on May 30, 2003.
LEV, Hymie – on May 30, 2003.
WAINSHTEIN, Etia – on May 30, 2003.
SAUNDERS, Michael – on May 31, 2003, late of 70 Kipling Cres.
GERB, Evgueni – on June 1, 2003, late of 5950 Bathurst St.
TANNY, Aron Avraham – on June 2, 2003, late of 22 Peveril Hill Rd. S.
NYMAN, Nicki – on June 1, 2003.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

YOUNG, Sam – on May 10, 2003, late of 500 Avenue Rd., #904.
SUGAR, Max – on May 11, 2003, late of 56 Westgate Blvd.
GLOWER, David – on May 11, 2003, late of 180 Observatory Lane.
SILVERMAN, Bernard – on May 12, 2003, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd., #6.
SIGEL, Ethelyn – on May 11, 2003, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
KAPLAN, Samuel – on May 12, 2003, late of 10 Tallforest Cres.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

JACKSON, Henry – on May 12, 2003, late of 163 Romefield Circuit.
BURDEN, Leonard – on May 13, 2003, late of 4350 Bathurst St.
BLOOM, Jennie – on May 13, 2003, late of 100 Canyon Ave., #501.
RUSKIN, Rose – on May 13, 2003, late of 35 Canyon Ave., #808.
SOLOMON, Sarah – on May 14, 2003, late of 44 Charles St. W., #48.
HERSH, Mendy – on May 15, 2003, late of 31 Tyrrel Ave.
ISENBERG, Harold – on May 16, 2003, late of 65 Skymark Dr., #2202.
BARUCH, Adele – on May 17, 2003, late of 400 Walmer Rd., #432.
FELDBLOOM, Faigie – on May 17, 2003, late of 6200 Bathurst St.
SHOSTACK, Ruth – on May 17, 2003, late of 80 Antibes Dr., #2707.
FREEDMAN, Herb – on May 18, 2003, late of 5 Kenneth Ave., #902.
STERNKLAR, Bunny – on May 16, 2003, late of 6102 Park Ave.
DESSER, Max – on May 19, 2003, late of Bayview Extendicare.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SHIRLEY MOLDAVER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 22nd at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community EEE Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

332 MONUMENTS

IZENBERG GOLDBERG Monuments
Serving generations of families for over 80 years
•Finest quality memorials crafted in our own factory - under our supervision
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Arts & Travel

The Burial Society full of twists and turns

Continued from page 36

the opportunity to rent it or purchase it on video or DVD.

The second film, *The Burial Society* is a small and very original Canadian production. Shorn of all its adornments, this is really a caper film with a number of twists and turns that will keep you guessing, even as the end credits roll.

Sheldon Kasner is a quiet, overworked and under appreciated man who works as the loans manager at the Hebrew National Bank.

Behind the ordinary and often mundane activities of the bank, lies a large money laundering operation and when $2 million goes missing, Sheldon is accused of being responsible.

Sheldon flees for his life and tries to disappear within the ranks of the mysterious workings of a small town Jewish burial society. Sheldon's new found refuge is discovered, but before he can be killed, Sheldon gets the other members of the burial society to help him flee the country.

The problem is that things never seem to turn out the way Sheldon plans.

There are a number of clues and false leads throughout the film and the audience is often left wondering whether Sheldon did it or not.

Rob LaBelle and veteran Canadian actor Jan Rubes star in this somewhat convoluted film that is now available in many video stores throughout the country.

Both videos have been released in Canada by Seville Pictures.

335 UNVEILINGS

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg students visit U.S. Holocaust museum

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — For Tali Braunstein, seeing the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., was a tremendous learning experience.

"I learned a lot of things about the Holocaust I didn't know before," she said. "I learned a lot about propaganda and what really happened, and I also learned about the good people who helped save Jews."

The Winnipegger was among a group of 25 Grade 9 students from her school, out of a total of 106 public school students from Manitoba, who participated in the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program and trip to Washington from May 11 to 14. Another 300 students from 13 cities in 8 provinces went on the same trip earlier this spring.

As far as Holocaust survivor and educator Barbara Goszer is concerned, the Holocaust program "is the best thing the foundation has come up with."

She accompanied the students to Washington. "It was a magnificent experience," said Goszer, who worked with the students for several weeks before the trip.

"The kids were exhilarated and stimulated. It was nice that some of them came up to me while we were touring the museum to ask if I was OK."

The visit to the Holocaust museum was just one part of the Washington experience. The group also visited other key sites and museums, including the Smithsonian Institute and Mount Vernon, George Washington's estate.

The objectives of the Asper Foundation's Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program are to promote tolerance and sensitize Canadian high school students to the consequences of racism through a specially designed education program, said senior program manager Jeff Morry.

The program was started six years ago in Winnipeg with Grade 8 students from Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate, the city's Jewish high school.

It was subsequently expanded to Jewish Grade 9 students in the city's public schools and is now a national initiative. Almost 30 per cent of program participants are non-Jewish.

All participants take an 18-hour education program on the Holocaust and human rights, with an emphasis on American history and the civil rights movement, Morry said.

The educational component of the program was developed for the Asper Foundation by Holocaust and human rights educators.

After completing the educational component, students head to Washington, D.C., where they spend several days touring the Holocaust museum and other monuments to freedom.

The students are also required to volunteer in their communities on public projects of their choice when they return. The majority of the trip's cost are borne by the Asper Foundation.

In the past six years, almost 1,500 students from a variety of religious backgrounds and more than 30 communities across Canada have participated.

The Asper Foundation was established in Winnipeg in 1983 to further the philanthropic objectives of Israel Asper and the Asper family

Morry said the Asper Foundation is working on a number of significant initiatives, most notably the recent announcement of plans to build a $200 million, 21-storey Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, slated to open in 2007. In addition to the museum's focus on human rights, plans call for it to incorporate the largest Holocaust gallery in Canada.

The Asper Foundation's Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program will be expanded in coming years to sponsor visits to the museum by 100,000 Canadian high school students each year, Morry said.

SIDDUR CEREMONY: Grade 3 students at Beit Rayim Hebrew School recently took part in a siddur ceremony.

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Pre-teen tennis star contemplates turning pro

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

At a time when most people her age are gearing up for their last year of elementary school, 12-year-old Sharon Fichman is embarking on the final 18 months of her junior tennis career.

The future star of Canadian tennis is focused on joining the professional ranks in December 2004, when she turns 14 and becomes eligible for the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) tour.

The Toronto native hopes to one day reach the world's top 10. The last Canadian to do so was Carling Bassett-Seguso 18 years ago, when she reached a career-high ranking of number 8.

Fichman recently led Canada's under-14 junior team to a second-place finish in qualifying for this summer's Junior World Championships, to be held Aug. 11 to 16 in the Czech Republic. The team defeated Mexico and Puerto Rico at the North American and Caribbean qualification event before losing to the host United States in the final at Key Biscayne, Fla.

Fichman played in the singles matches and was to have also played doubles against the United States, but a blister on her foot kept her off the court.

Fichman was the lone Canadian of the three-player junior team to sweep her matches, defeating Valeria Pulido of Mexico 6-3, 6-4; Natalia Guevarra of Puerto Rico 6-0, 6-1 and Alexa Gatch of the United States 6-0, 6-4.

Her dramatic singles win over Gatch, the United States 14-and-under national champion, was crucial as Canada lost the other singles and doubles matches to the top-seeded American team. Had Fichman failed to win, Canada would not have advanced to the finals.

The 5-2, 105-lb. righthander established herself on the international tennis scene last fall when she won the Junior Orange Bowl, becoming the first Canadian to take home the title since Bassett-Seguso won it in 1979.

Sharon Fichman
[Photos courtesy the Ontario Tennis Association]

She won the Miami event without dropping a set. Two weeks earlier, Fichman captured both the singles and doubles crowns at the Eddie Herr International in Bradenton, Fla., one of the largest junior tennis championships in the United States.

"I know [Tennis Canada] is expecting I'm the next big star," said Fichman, who captured her first national title at the end of March by winning the Canadian under-14 indoor tennis championships in Repentigny, Que. "If it does happen, I'm going to love what I do. I just play tennis for myself."

It's an attitude Fichman has adopted so the pressure to perform doesn't become overwhelming.

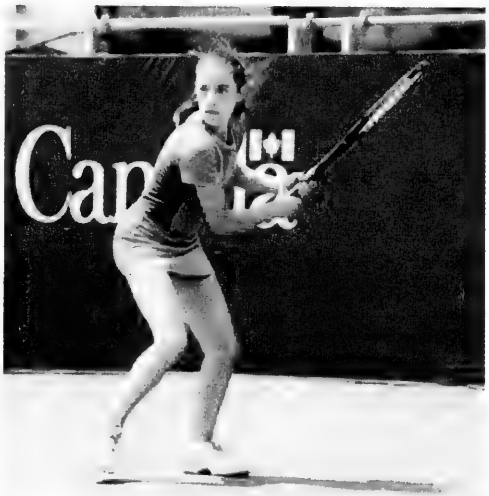
After winning her first tournament, the Open Benjamins, in Bordeaux, France, in October 2001 in the under-12 singles category, Fichman admits it "kind of got to her" and she was a bit nervous showing up to future competitions.

"Since then, I kind of learned my lesson," she said. "I now try to put it behind me and keep going."

The Grade 7 student at Forest Hill Public School is on the court about three hours a day, fine-tuning her game with coach Ben Armstrong. Fichman is interested in attending UCLA after her career ends and said she may one day become a tennis coach.

She expects to represent Canada in two years time at the Maccabiah Games in Israel, but for the time being she is hopeful that she'll qualify for next year's junior French Open at Roland Garros Stadium in Paris.

"I grew up playing on clay," said Fichman, who trains on hard courts, but says the red clay at Roland Garros is her favourite surface. "I won my first big tournament on it. I just love the feel of it."



Tennis Canada vice-president Stacey Allaster said a lot of hard work lies ahead for the young prodigy to get to Paris next May.

"She's off to a great start," Allaster said. "She's going to have to play a lot more junior international events and get her ranking up so that she would qualify just like she would if she were playing on the main tour."

"Sharon may have a good career, but it's too early to know," said Rene Simpson, coach of the Canadian Federation Cup team and the current women's Canadian 35-and-under national champion, who has worked extensively with Fichman over the past year.

"I would not advise Sharon or anyone to turn pro, unless you really have no competition at your level. You really have to prove yourself fast at age 16," said Simpson, who played on the pro circuit for 10 years.

"Sharon has a lot of hustle, great shots and the most important quality that you just can't teach: a big heart. Sharon never gives up to any opponent. That attitude alone will make her prevail over many players," added Simpson.

With files from Marvin Glassman in Miami.

BJCC gears up for first ever golf tournament

By NEIL BECKER
Special to The CJN

There is a buzz in the air at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre as time ticks down to the centre's First Annual Golf Tournament.

At 8 a.m. on Monday, June 16, as many as 72 golfers are expected to tee off at the Carrying Place Golf & Country Club for what organizers are hoping will be a day of food, fun and camaraderie.

"It will be a scramble/best-ball format," said Jim Emery, the BJCC's director of facilities. "The funds from this tournament will go towards equipment improvements such as treadmills and bikes along with various programs."

The idea of a fun-filled golf outing was hatched by a group of guys from the men's health club who wanted to combine their love of the sport with a chance to kibbitz with friends.

"So far, everyone is excited and starting to talk about it," says Emery. "We're expecting a lot of laughs and you don't have to be a champion golfer to play."

In addition to receiving breakfast, lunch and 18 holes of golf at a championship course, participants will vie for a number of prizes, with contests for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

The entry fee is $175.00 per person.

For more information, contact Emery at 416-636-1880 ext. 371.

On being different

By JODI KOVITZ

A year ago, I saw *Trembling Before God*, a documentary about faith, sexuality and religious fundamentalism. In the film, intimate personal stories of Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian serve to illustrate the philosophical problem they face: how can one who is gay be devoted to Judaism and God when homosexuality is prohibited in the Bible?

Sadly, the film also illustrates how isolating it can feel to admit to being "different" within the Jewish community.

As 20-somethings, most of us go through the process of exploring and evaluating ourselves in order to discover who we really are and what we want out of our lives. We struggle to accept and love ourselves, despite those things that make us different. For some, being 20-something can be a really difficult time, particularly if we are confronting the issue of how to carve out an alternative lifestyle in what can feel like a rather homogenous community.

What makes it so difficult to come out as a gay or lesbian 20-something in the Jewish community? Aside from the religious conflict that most Jews may face in being gay or lesbian, the difficulty for many people seems to arise as a result of cultural norms, expectations and the associated pressure.

One friend of mine who is a lesbian (out only to several close friends) relayed her feelings about coming out to me. She said, "There is immense pressure on us 20-somethings to get married, form our own 'traditional' families, and continue to grow the Jewish community.

"I fear coming out," she continued, "because I want so badly to just have that and be happy with it. I know inevitably I will have to admit to myself out loud how I really feel, because living in silence and pretending that I want to get married to a man is excruciating. I feel isolated from my family, and in turn from my community."

A colleague recently told me about his experience coming out. He said the most difficult part of it for him was the fear of disappointing his parents. He knew that they wanted him to marry a "nice Jewish girl," have babies, a house and a dog, just as they had done and everyone else's kids in the community seemed to be doing.

It was encouraging to me to discover that his parents were incredibly supportive when he came out.

He said, "I've learned through my own experience that it is not actually as hard as it seems. I think all it takes is some belief in yourself and those people around you."

Where can young adults turn for support in coming to terms with their Jewish and sexual identities? One great community resource for group and individual counselling for Jewish people who are gay and lesbian and their friends and family is Jewish Family and Child Service of Toronto. They can be reached at 416-638-7800. In addition, Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual Youth of Toronto (LGBYT) is a group that offers support to Jewish youth 25 years and under through programs and group meetings. Check out www.lgbyt.org.

Can 20-something Jewish Canadians who are gay come out and live open, happy lives? Of course they can. I think that we, as friends, family and members of the community can help make the process of accepting different sexual orientation and exploring alternative concepts of family a little easier by continuing to express our understanding, acceptance and tolerance of difference.

I continue to welcome your feedback at jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

Bowl 'n' All Spinach Dip

1 pkg. instant vegetable soup mix
1 cup sour cream
1 cup mayonnaise
chopped green onions, optional
6 oz. frozen cut spinach, thawed and drained
1 round loaf pumpernickel bread

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

Some parents have been very vocal about the serious tuition increases at some of the Jewish day schools for the 2003-04 academic year. There have been school meetings, parent protest meetings and suggestions about how to respond. There has also been criticism about how education is organized and funded in the community.

In this limited space, I would like to provide the facts as I know them from my perspective.

Everyone knows that it is increasingly expensive to be Jewish in Toronto. Many of us in organized Jewish life, professionals and volunteers, are very concerned about middle-income and low-income families, who must be included in community life.

Regarding the specific issue of day-school tuition, the Toronto Jewish community has a unique program, unparalleled elsewhere, that provides assistance to parents who cannot afford full tuition.

Over the last 10 years alone, close to $70 million dollars has been spent in this program. It's true that the amount available was capped some years ago, but because we have all felt the severity of the need, many community leaders have been working diligently to find funds to increase the annual budget. This year, there will be a significant increase, soon to be announced.

Quietly and without deserved recognition, professional staff and experienced volunteers work constantly to monitor the equitable distribution of the funds in the tuition subsidy program. They inspect the work of school tuition committees, offer training to schools, write tuition guidelines and analyze the finances of funded schools.

UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education studies enrolment trends in order to help schools recruit new students. Every effort is made to make access to our schools universal.

Parents must concern themselves with the education of their own children within the limits of their household budgets, but it is important to know that both in the administrations of individual schools and in the organized community, there are many concerned Jews who devote time and energy to worrying about the schooling of all children at rates that all of us can afford – individuals and the community.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

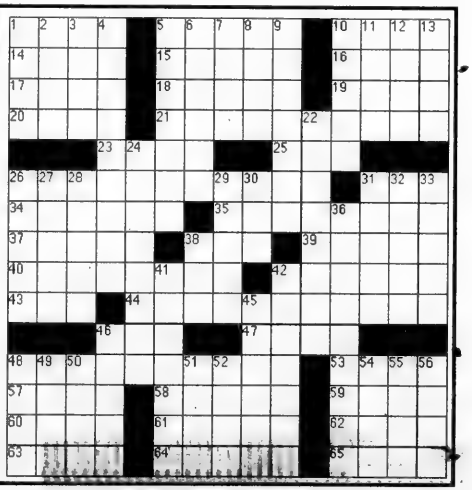
Crossword Puzzle

(Answers to the crossword are on page 36.)

Traveling Light
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann/ Legacy Crosswords

Across
1. Walk up this to board ship
5. Lion and lioness
10. These are thin gamefish
14. Girlfriend in Paris
15. Mountain ridge you may climb
16. Here, in Havana
17. Standing in line on travel can ____ your fortitude
18. Infamous ship of the past that traded in human cargo (abbrev.)
19. Naturalist, gave his name to a California redwood forest
20. Say this way in Seville
21. The islands between Cuba and Venezuela
23. Land Israelites conquered (abbrev.)
25. Cav follower makes this a delicacy
26. A choice of two Matriarchal names
31. Forlorn
34. Add this following 'S'and you have one of Vegas' all-time top performers
35. _____ Noche (fill in two words to make this read "Tomorrow evening", as in an appointment in Madrid
37. Sailing ship's bow-____
38. You might tour Ramat ___
39. Euripides tragedy
40. Chef search?
42. Commercialized term for a tall building partition
43. Mama chicken
44. Sail a pleasure ship (3 words)
46. ___ Na Na
47. We might tour Rosh ____
48. San Francisco is where this Jack London novel's story starts
53. On a pleasure schooner, you might help ___ the sails
57. Film director Preminger
58. Empty-headed, pointless
59. ____ bag, handy on any trip
60. Any vicinity you might see
61. Is pres. at
62. ____ Asia (Beware of Sars)
63. Of the first rank
64. Approaches
65. Key nucleotide molecules

Down
1. Assess, rank
2. 19th century farm tool producer
3. Haze, fog
4. This Israeli city lies N.E. of Tel-Av..
5. The ladies might apply this before dining with the captain
6. Sci-Fi author _____ Andrews and namesakes
7. Shed a ____ as a good vacation ends
8. And 6, in Latin
9. Learn a few words of this in Belgrade
10. Bolder
11. Latin for water
12. You'll be guided to this in a Tel excavation
13. Dear ___:
22. Nassau native
24. Evanston, Ill. is just above this
26. _____ Nodules, markers of degeneration in the iris
27. How the French would say where to find The Raven
28. Moses' priestly brother
29. Italian violin-maker
30. Fled or raced
31. Japanese architect, collaborator with Fuller and Noguchi
32. When closed with 'ide', makes south Australian city
33. Handed out cards, in that pinochle game on 'a' deck
36. Next guy up, in Giants game
38. See this beast on safari
41. Relating to the celestial world
42. Homonym for Her Royal _____
45. "Hey, big _____!" as in song, shortened
46. Ermine, in summer
48. Country east of the Negev
David and family traveled to circa 1014 BCE
49. ____-us, Agememnon's father
50. Hwys.
51. Det-_____, relaxing of strained relations between nations
52. Facts and figures
54. Trail-riding in Wyoming? This might be the color of your mount
55. "___ home run!"
56. On your day off, you might see this team at Shea



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Leadership Sinai is pleased to announce July 10 as its new date for ***Shaken Not Stirred***, which was postponed due to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak.

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This Week

National

Rabbis split over legalization of same-sex marriage. *Page 12*

Israel Day Festival 'brings people together!' *Page 13*

Tribute to Israel

Celebrating Israel's extraordinary achievements. *Section B*

Arts & Travel

Book awards celebrate Jewish subjects from biblical times to the present. *Page 33*

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Trampoline athlete Samantha Sendel jumps for gold at meet. *Page 42*

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[Israeli photo]

Sharon puts Hamas on notice

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the cabinet during its weekly meeting Sunday that Israel will continue to take action against what it calls the "ticking bombs" of terrorists. He also said Israel has American approval to carry out such operations, even in Palestinian areas. The government has said that any Hamas member will be a target for elimination. There were reports that the U.S. administration had asked the Israeli government to stop targeted attacks. Israel said that if the Palestinian Authority is not going to rein in its terrorists, then the Israel Defence Forces will do so.

Please see related stories on page 8 and 31.

UJA Fed. adds $1 million to Jewish education budget

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

For the first time in more than 10 years, UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education has approved a funding increase for tuition subsidies and educational programs.

Last week, it committed more than $1 million in new money to Jewish education for next year, raising the total amount set aside for tuition assistance and programs to $11.1 million.

Subsidies, which are given to parents of Jewish day school students who can't afford full Jewish school tuition fees, were increased by $900,000 to a total of $7.85 million.

The board also approved $120,000 to be added to the existing $3.14 million already directed at educational programs, which include grants for educators and institutions, teacher certification and professional development.

First subsidy increase in more than 10 years

"The increase of $900,000 for family assistance is part of an overall plan to widen access to families who want to send their children to day schools," said BJE chair Marshall Kesten.

Kesten said "the additional funds will allow the BJE to provide a measure of relief for middle-income parents through an adjustment to tuition subsidy guidelines," which are tables used to establish subsidy allocations for families in each income level

Al

lines are established, the board is hoping that more middle-income earners will be able to able to qualify for subsidies, Kesten said.

There are 2,700 students on subsidies at 15 BJE-affiliated day schools (elementary and secondary) that are currently eligible for tuition assistance.

Seymour Epstein, BJE executive, said, "UJA Federation is very sympathetic to families of all income levels and understands that sacrifices need to be made to send children to Jewish day schools."

ge 24

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Unrest in Iran drawing attention — please see page 29

The News in Brief

Canada

CJC Meets Ministers

OTTAWA — Canadian Jewish Congress leaders, including president Keith Landy and executive vice-president Jack Silverstone, met Solicitor General Wayne Easter and Justice Minister Martin Cauchon in separate sessions last week to discuss issues that included anti-Semitism, terrorism, community security and war crimes. In a release, CJC said it thanked Easter for putting Hezbollah on Ottawa's list of terror groups banned in Canada, along with others that target Israel and Jews such as Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, and urged him to add the Tanzim militia to the list. CJC also "stressed the importance of strong unequivocal denunciations by political leaders" of anti-Semitism and noted a number of university campuses as "hotbeds of anti-Semitic activity," Landy said. CJC also lamented the lack of progress in prosecuting Nazi war criminals, noting that no new cases have been started in the last two years.

Israel

Red Cross Makes Deal

JERUSALEM — The International Committee of the Red Cross and Magen David Adom signed their first co-operation agreement last week. Francois Bellon, head of the ICRC delegation, said it would "assist the MDA in its tireless efforts to save lives and alleviate human suffering, without discrimination." MDA's emergency medical service, which includes funding to train paramedics, is the focus of ICRC support. The two groups had not signed any previous agreements because of pressure from Arab and Muslim countries.

Dead Sea Water Project

JERUSALEM — Israel and Jordan are working on a joint project to save the evaporating Dead Sea. The project, which calls for a canal and pipe system to transfer water from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, will be presented at an international conference in Jordan this week. The World Bank has pledged most of the funding to dig the canal.

Muslims Polled on Israel

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Many Muslims, including 80 per cent of Palestinians, believe the Palestinians can't achieve independence as long as Israel exists, says a May poll by the Pew Global Attitudes Project. It surveyed more than 15,000 people in Muslim countries and asked if they agreed with the statement "the rights and needs of the Palestinian people cannot be taken care of as long as the State of Israel exists." Ninety per cent of Moroccans agreed, as did 85 per cent of Jordanians, 72 per cent of Kuwaitis, 65 per cent of Lebanese, 58 per cent of Indonesians and 57 per cent of Pakistanis.

World

Germany Funds Jews

BERLIN — Germany's Parliament approved a deal June 13 that will triple government funding to the country's Jewish community. The move endorsed the agreement reached in January between German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and German Jewish leader Paul Spiegel that gives the Jewish community the same legal standing as the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches. As a result, the Central Council of Jews in Germany will receive an annual stipend of about $3.5 million (US).

Belgian Case to Proceed

BRUSSELS — A lawsuit against a senior Israeli official for alleged crimes against humanity can continue, a Belgian court ruled last week. The suit was filed under Belgium's universal jurisdiction law by Palestinian survivors of the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre, carried out by Lebanese Christian militias. It was filed against Amos Yaron, head of Israeli forces in Beirut in 1982 and now director general of Israel's Defence Ministry. Israel recently said it will boycott all further proceedings in the case, saying Belgian officials are politically biased. Belgian courts recently modified the law to allow the transfer to U.S. courts of a suit filed against the first president Bush over the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Promise to Release Files

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina will release secret evidence related to a 1994 bombing at a Jewish community centre that killed 85 people. Argentine Jewish leaders welcomed Nestor Kirchner's announcement, made June 5, less than two weeks after he was elected president. "It is the most important news in nine years," said Abraham Kaul, the head of the AMIA Jewish centre, where the bombing occurred. Argentine Jews have long pushed for intensifying investigations into the AMIA bombing and into a 1992 bombing at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires that killed 29.

Paper Apologizes for Editorial Cartoon

CHICAGO — Chicago's Jewish leaders are accepting an apology from the *Chicago Tribune* for an editorial cartoon that many viewed as anti-Semitic.

An editorial apologizing for the May 30 cartoon appeared Sunday in the *Tribune*, alongside a letter by Lester Rosenberg, chairman of the board of the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago.

The paper acknowledged the cartoon "is not just offensive. The content was wrong, dangerous and anti-Semitic," said the federation's executive vice-president, Michael Kotzin.

The cartoon depicted a kneeling U.S. President George W. Bush laying out dollar bills on a "pathway for peace" viewed by a hook-nosed likeness of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon with a Star of David on his jacket. Sharon stares at the money and says, "On second thought, the pathway to peace is looking a bit brighter." On the other end, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat waits with arms crossed.

The cartoon's erroneous message, critics said, is that Israel's motivation for peace is triggered not by a desire to end bloodshed but by U.S. dollars.

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Ahenakew charged with promoting hate

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Six months ago, aboriginal leader David Ahenakew stunned the nation with an anti-Semitic diatribe that praised Adolf Hitler, called Jews a "disease" and suggested Jews had it coming when Hitler "fried" six million of them.

Last week, Saskatchewan's department of public prosecutions announced Ahenakew had been charged with promoting hatred under section 319(2) of the Criminal Code. He could face two years in jail if convicted.

At the same time, the advisory council that determines membership in the Order of Canada said it would defer discussing Ahenakew's continued membership until the legal proceedings end.

Jewish groups applauded the decision to charge Ahenakew, who once served as chief of the national Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

"All of us are very pleased with the fact justice is going to take place," said June Avivi, chair of the Saskatchewan region of Canadian Jewish Congress.

CJC's national office concurred.

"The statements made could hardly have been more hateful," said CJC president Keith Landy. "The law was introduced precisely to protect groups identified by such characteristics as race, religion and ethnic origin from publicly-expressed views that vilify and attack them and thereby undermine the promotion of justice, tolerance and respect for diversity in Canadian society."

Chief Perry Bellegarde of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) would not comment on the legal process, but noted the FSIN had distanced itself from Ahenakew's remarks months ago. He stressed that Ahenakew's remarks did not represent those of the FSIN.

Ahenakew landed in hot water in mid-December when, addressing the FSIN, he applauded Hitler. Asked by a reporter from the *Saskatoon Star Phoenix* to repeat his comments, Ahenakew said, "That's how Hitler came in. He was going to make damn sure the Jews didn't take over Germany and Europe. That's why he fried six million of those guys, you know. Jews would have owned the goddamned world. And look what they're doing. They're killing people in Arab countries."

Avivi said the Ahenakew affair, coupled with an earlier firebomb attack on the Saskatoon synagogue, left the community on edge. But it also prompted the Jewish and native communities to draw closer. "We have started to build bridges between us," she said.

The local community was gratified when native leaders condemned quickly Ahenakew's remarks, though a decision in February by the FSIN's senate to reinstate Ahenakew after he had been removed "gave us some shivers."

That decision was reversed by Bellegarde, who attributed it to organizational politics and Ahenakew calling in favours.

Bellegarde said relations with the Jewish community are "positive."

"We've basically broken bread together and seen each other as people." That marks an important step in building relations and educating each side about the other, he said.

Native leaders attended a Shabbat dinner at Congregation Agudas Israel as well as the community's Yom Hashoah commemoration. Members of the Jewish community participated in an aboriginal feast and round dance.

The result is that relations, which were virtually non-existent on the organizational level, have improved, Avivi said.

That pattern has repeated on a national level, said Manuel Prutschi, CJC's national director of community relations.

Only a few weeks ago, Ted Moses, grand chief of the Grand Council of the Crees, addressed CJC's Quebec plenary. As well, in the aftermath of Ahenakew's remarks, AFN national chief Matthew Coon Come attended services and spoke at a Montreal synagogue – a "very powerful and forthright gesture," Prutschi said.

"There has been an outpouring of solidarity and support" from a number of aboriginal groups.

"A lot of activity has been aimed at not letting the incident damage the longstanding relations between the two communities, and it has led to stronger and more intense bonds across the country," he added.

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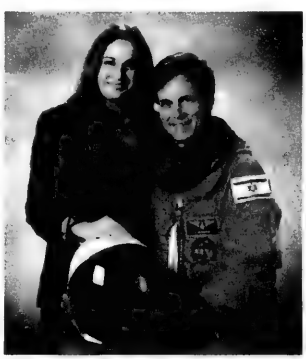

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Tribute to a community

From the editor's desk

The Jewish people has a very close relationship with history. Indeed, our sacred texts canonize history. History bids us, as Jews, to know who we are and to strive constantly, while glancing back, to fulfil our personal destinies, within life's limitless possibilities, as members of this small-numbered, remarkable people.

Memory, of course, is history's key custodian. Our family structure, our faith, our traditions, our symbols, our education system and our communal life are aimed in large part at preserving memory, thereby passing from one generation to the next a profound awareness of our history.

The inauguration last week of the renovated Montreal Holocaust Memorial Museum was a rare, poignant example of the conjoining of history, memory and community.

As has been noted elsewhere in this issue, more than 1,000 people gathered at the Gelber Conference Centre to dedicate the re-opening of the museum.

Montreal's community leaders decided some time ago that on the eve of the museum's 25th year, it would be vastly enhanced, a solemn shrine to the millions murdered, but also a dynamic, living centre where individuals would come "to learn, to feel and to remember."

The inauguration ceremony was primarily about the museum itself, its archives, artifacts, meditative and teaching spaces. It was also about the survivors whose lives inspired it.

Indeed, one of the most touching moments in the event program was a presentation by Sara Schichter, a Jew from Belgium, who recounted some of the details of the story of her survival from the Nazi killing machine.

It was a story movingly told.

In an elegant and understated manner, she told the audience of the last time she saw her mother, of her escape into the woods, and of the brave woman who risked her own life to save that of a frightened fellow human being, detested by the Nazi-ruled authorities, reviled for being Jewish and hunted as unfit to live any longer on Belgian soil.

Time and again, speakers emphasized that the museum would soon take its place in the country's national roster of museums and special halls of learning. To be sure, it will become a hallowed space for Canadian Jews, but it will also be a vital educational space for Canadians in general.

But there was an additional excitement to the evening. There was a sense too that the ceremony was also about the centuries-old community whose steely resolve and clear-eyed determination had given the museum life.

The wide, trans-jurisdictional array of elected and other public officials who attended the event was visible proof of this. They were at the ceremony to acknowledge the new museum, but their very presence paid tribute in a profound way to the venerable Jewish community of Montreal, or as Haim Divon, Israel's ambassador to Canada, referred to it, the "cradle of Jewish life in Canada."

Mayor Gérald Tremblay expressed how proud he was that his city would be the site of this new important institution. In almost poetic cadence, he offered his personal statement, ever mindful of the significance of the moment, that he was at the ceremony in sadness, yet full of hope as well. The occasion was one for remembering the past, but it would also serve to protect the future, Tremblay said.

The provincial government was represented by the recently elected premier, Jean Charest, and by his predecessor, now the leader of the Opposition, Bernard Landry. Former premier Lucien Bouchard, who was also in attendance, "spoke" to the audience about the museum's importance by way of a videotaped message.

Relaxed and feeling quite at home with the large assembly, Charest tried to place the catastrophe that befell the Jews into a historical context. He lamented that it had been "remarkable how the rest of the world had turned its back" upon the Jews of Europe. As an example of the world's utter indifference to the Jews' plight, Charest cited the ultimately ineffectual conference of European, American and Australian officials on refugee problems [that is, rescue of the Jews] held in Evian-les-Bains in France in 1938.

Charest was especially moved, he told the audience, by one artifact in particular in the museum: a gift for Fania Fainer, an inmate in one of the camps, that was made by some of her fellow inmates to celebrate her 20th birthday. The gift, Charest said, his voice heavy with emotion, was a testament to the strength of the love among friends that could not be vanquished, even in the camps.

Federal Revenue Minister Elinor Caplan spoke on behalf of the federal government and invited "all Canadians to come to Montreal to see the museum, and to learn from it" in order to strengthen Canada's pluralistic society.

Bloc Quebecois leader Gilles Duceppe also briefly addressed the audience. But the most rousing oration was delivered by Montreal-area MP and Liberal leadership hopeful Paul Martin.

In a well-researched speech that featured a number of Jewish themes, Martin was the only speaker to overtly and directly draw a connection between the destruction of European Jewry and the founding of Israel, whose existence, he said to loud, cascading applause, should never be placed in doubt. ***—MBD***

SeeJN

ANTI-HATE MARCH: Canadians from diverse faiths and walks of life came out on June 8 to send the message that hate has no place in our country, by participating in the second annual Canadian March for Humanity to Queen's Park, organized by Canadians Against Antisemitism, and co-sponsored by the Canada Christian College, League for Human Rights of B'Nai Brith Canada and Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto. Inset are participants Stanley Morais and his daughter.

[Anna Morgan photos]

Abbas said incapable of fulfilling road map obligations

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Mahmoud Abbas, the recently appointed prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, is incapable of ending terrorism and thereby fulfilling a key condition of the road map, the internationally sponsored peace plan supported and promoted by the United States.

This is the sombre assessment of Barry Rubin, an Israeli expert on the Middle East and a biographer of Abbas' powerful rival, PA President Yasser Arafat.

"It's finished," Rubin said last week about the road map. "Nothing is going to happen. [Abbas] has already failed, though I don't say this unsympathetically."

Here as a guest of the Canada-Israel Committee, Rubin made his comments a day after Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, in a joint attack, killed four Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip, and just days after Hamas broke off ceasefire talks with Abbas.

Rubin said Abbas' objective is to co-opt radicals opposed to the road map, and his refusal to crack down on extremist groups out of fear of touching off a Palestinian civil war shows he is an ineffective leader.

"It's hopeless," declared Rubin, director of global research at the Interdisciplinary Center, Israel's first private university, based in Herzliyah.

"He won't accomplish anything. Abbas can't change things, and he's already seen as a loser. This is only clear now, though we had feared the worst."

In a bold remark, Rubin claimed that the road map will not be implemented as long as Arafat wields power.

"[Abbas] has no authority and he won't accumulate any," he said.

Rubin said Arafat has created a new body, the National Security Council, to control the security forces and the peace process. He has also placed loyalists in the PA ministry of the interior and has ordered regional governors to report directly to him rather than Abbas.

Barry Rubin

"Arafat runs everything," asserted Rubin, whose latest book, *Yasser Arafat: A Political Biography*, will be published by Oxford University Press in August.

Rubin said that few important Palestinian figures support the policies identified with Abbas: sidelining Arafat, demilitarizing the intifadah and reaching a compromise agreement with Israel.

If Abbas fails to enforce his will on the Palestinians, Israel will not ease its array of restrictions on the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza, Rubin warned.

The Palestinians, in any event, are not in a mood for serious compromises, he said, citing a new Pew poll that showed 80 per cent of Palestinians think their national rights can't be fulfilled by a two-state solution.

Rubin envisages no letup in terrorism directed at Israel.

"The Palestinians are continuing on the same strategy of the past 2½ years," he said, referring to the intifadah.

Without committing himself to a timeline, Rubin predicted that the intifadah will eventually collapse. "Israeli security measures have had an effect, and the Palestinian public is exhausted."

Asked whether he agrees with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's view that Arafat is "irrelevant," Rubin said Arafat is relevant to the current political situation but irrelevant to making peace.

Comparing Arafat's goals with those of Abbas, Rubin said Arafat is prepared to accept a two-state solution, provided he is not required to sign an end-of-conflict accord with Israel and Palestinian refugees are permitted to return to Israel.

By contrast, Abbas is ready to sign a deal based on a plan submitted by former U.S. president Bill Clinton in 2001: the virtual withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank and all of Gaza, shared sovereignty in eastern Jerusalem and the resettlement of refugees in a new Palestinian state.

In Rubin's estimation, the "right of return" issue will be the most difficult to resolve.

For now, he noted, the Palestinians are convinced that Israel does not want peace. As a result, they tend to demonize all Israeli prime ministers, from Sharon to the late Yitzhak Rabin.

Rubin believes that Sharon is capable of signing a permanent status agreement with the Palestinians, despite his stated preference for long-term interim accords.

Rubin said Sharon is a pragmatist rather than an ideologue, and under the right conditions, he would relinquish most of the settlements in the territories.

"Sharon is not the man he's portrayed to be," said Rubin. "He is 75 and he's interested in his image in history."

Nevertheless, Rubin added, Sharon would probably not offer the Palestinians the sweeping territorial concessions put forward by his predecessor, Labor's Ehud Barak.

Rubin said that in the wake of the war of Iraq, Israel's strategic position has never been better.

"Arab states have essentially abandoned the military struggle against Israel. The existential danger to Israel is no more."

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Peace camp urged to speak out more forcefully

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

In the face of continuing Arab-Israeli violence, Israel's mainstream peace movement has fallen short of the mark by failing to raise its voice courageously enough, the keynote speaker at a Jewish peace conference said here recently.

Israeli peace activist Terry Greenblatt said Israeli activists have not conveyed the message that the Palestinians are ready to negotiate an agreement with Israel.

"We have a partner," said Greenblatt, director of Bat Shalom, a Jerusalem-based feminist organization that advocates a two-state solution.

But Israeli peaceniks have not sufficiently conveyed this idea to Israelis. "That voice wasn't heard," she told the Jewish Voices for Peace and Justice conference, held earlier this month at the University of Toronto.

Greenblatt, an American who has lived in Israel for the past 33 years, levelled the accusation after being asked whether Palestinians feel betrayed by the Israeli peace camp.

She held left-leaning Israeli members of the Knesset, writers and academics, among others, responsible for this perception.

But she tempered her analysis by acknowledging that Israel's peace movement has lost momentum since the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising almost three years ago.

"Our ranks have shrunk dramatically," she said.

Greenblatt, who is also co-founder of the Kol Ha-Isha Feminist Center in Jerusalem, said that women have an "exceptional role" to play in bringing peace to Israel.

Describing her work as a "constant struggle," and herself as a "disobedient" voice in the global Jewish community, she said, "It is hard to defy the wisdom of the tribe."

Greenblatt said efforts are being made in the Diaspora to silence dissent and criticism of Israel's policies.

And in Israel itself, the notion that Palestinians in the territories should be transferred, or expelled, is gaining ground, she added.

Bat Shalom's mission, she explained to an audience of about 175 kindred spirits, is to challenge the dogma that Israel has no negotiating partner among the Palestinians.

If there is to be peace, Israel must withdraw to pre-1967 lines, share Jerusalem and resolve the Palestinian refugee problem, Greenblatt said.

She noted that the road map, the internationally-sponsored peace plan, is an improvement over the Oslo peace process because of its explicit call for a Palestinian state.

During the question-and-answer period, an unidentified Palestinian woman claimed that Bat Shalom's headquarters lies on land her grandfather donated to a children's park.

Taking issue with Greenblatt's advocacy of a two-state solution, the woman demanded the full "right of return" for Palestinian refugees to what is now Israel. She said they can go back to their old villages.

Sheryl Nestel, one of the organizers of the conference, said the event was held in solidarity with Israeli and Palestinian groups that refuse to regard each other as enemies.

Saying that a vital Jewish Diaspora cannot exist without diversity and dissent, she noted that Israel has yet to come to terms with the need to withdraw to its 1967 borders.

The conference ended with a series of workshops on topics ranging from "Jewish Ethics, Jewish Law and the Occupation" to "Creating Jewish/Arab Dialogue."

It was sponsored by several organizations: Jewish Youth Against the Occupation, Jewish Women's Committee to End the Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, Ad Hoc Committee for a Jewish Anti-Occupation Ad in the *Toronto Star*, Yosher Jewish Network for Social Justice, Tikkun Community Toronto and the Toronto's Women's Bookstore.

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O ACHY BREAKY CANADA: The United Synagogue Day School choir sang the national anthem with country singer Billy Ray Cyrus, best known for his 1992 hit *Achy Breaky Heart*, at the Toronto Blue Jays game June 1. [Photo courtesy of Joe Warmington, Toronto Sun]

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Baycrest questions link to N. Carolina SARS case

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Controversy broke out last week between Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and public health officials over how a 47-year old North Carolina man contracted SARS after a visit to Toronto in May.

The man was visiting a relative on the third floor of Baycrest's hospital. Five days later, the relative's roommate and the roommate's wife developed SARS. (Immediately after spiking a temperature, the roommate was transferred to an acute care hospital.)

Baycrest has always insisted that none of the four people had previously shown any symptoms of SARS, or any other illness, and exposure to someone with symptoms is thought to be the only way to contract the illness.

But Dr. James Young, Ontario commissioner of public safety, said further investigation revealed the roommate's wife was coughing when the North Carolina man, a business consultant at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was in the room.

Late last week, both the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control confirmed him as a likely SARS case, Baycrest officials said. Last Saturday, he was released from home quarantine after being symptom-free for 10 days.

The case was said to be a key factor in WHO considerations about whether to issue a second travel advisory against Toronto – it didn't – and led to its decision to downgrade Toronto to an area with "pattern C" SARS transmission.

(A "pattern A" country has cases passed from patients to health-care workers. In "Pattern B" countries, they have also passed from health-care workers to their family members. In "pattern C" countries, transmission has occurred to people who aren't readily recognized as having come into contact with known SARS cases.)

Baycrest president and CEO Stephen Herbert sent a message to his staff last week objecting to media reports the Baycrest exposure was "conclusive." He noted that the patient's wife did not have symptoms at the time of contact, including a cough, and did not show any symptoms until five to six days later.

As well, he said Baycrest physician Terumi Izukawa spoke to the North Carolina man, who reported no direct contact with the patient or his visitors.

"It is also unusual that if there was exposure, no one else got sick," Herbert said in his message to staff.

Herbert told *The CJN* that last Thursday, Baycrest officials met with Young, Colin D'Cunha, Ontario's chief medical officer of health, and Phil Hassan, Ontario's deputy minister of health.

"They have the same concerns that we do" as to "how someone could get SARS when no one showed symptoms, and there was no contact," Herbert said.

Both facts were verified by the North Carolina man on two separate occasions, he said. Public health officials still consider the case open and are continuing to review it, he added.

Herbert said screening at Baycrest, as at other institutions, is very strict. All entry to the main complex is limited to one door, and all visitors must complete a screening form, have their temperatures taken and wash their hands.

As well, to help track visitors, he said Baycrest has instituted a new procedure, in which a form is posted on each resident's or patient's door to record visitors' names and the time they visited.

Herbert said the case raises the question of whether people always tell the truth on the screening form, especially if they are desperate to see a loved one.

He said that with all the media attention on the situation, people are aware of its seriousness. "We need to rely on people answering truthfully."

In related news, an unconfirmed report in the *Jerusalem Post* last week said a young man who recently returned from Toronto is in a Tel Aviv hospital showing symptoms of SARS.

TIKKUM OLAM PROJECT: Grade 3 students, along with grade 5 Peacemakers from Bialik Hebrew Day School, spearheaded a toy drive as part of their Tikkum Olam project for the school. The toys will be donated to single parent families in Israel. Seen here, with a selection of the many toys that were donated are (from left) Evan Gropper, Laura Baum, Jonathan Rosenbluth and Mattan Lustgarten.

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Why dieting for the swimsuit season is the biggest mistake you can make!

This is the time of year when everywhere you look you see images of sleek, toned bodies. It's also a time when many feel the pressure to resort to crash diets, hoping to fit into a smaller swimsuit size in a few weeks' time. It's also no surprise that weight-loss centres offer specials during the summer months and magazines tout diets that promise losses of 10, 15, and even 20 pounds in less than a month's time.

Unfortunately, quick-fix and fad diets come with a painful price tag. Only 12% of those who lose weight on a crash diet maintain the weight loss for one year. The other 88% not only gain back the weight much sooner, but ***many gain back even more than they lost.*** After gaining weight back, demoralized dieters, feeling like failures, often abandon all hope of ever reaching a weight that they can feel healthy and happy about.

Nutritionists and medical experts have come down hard on crash diets for these very reasons. Diets can't produce long-term results *because they focus solely on short-term success.* They force you to think about — even count — every bite you eat instead of helping to change the way you think about food. Eating habits are deeply ingrained in our subconscious mind. Without changing these habits, dieters fall into the same traps of cravings, binging, and emotional eating over and over again.

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The West too is threatened

As of this writing, Israeli and Palestinian Authority (PA) officials are still discussing ways to undertake mutually beneficial security arrangements. Against the backdrop of the carnage that was let loose last week by the triumphalist terror trio of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, the discussions seem almost surreal. In a sense they are. But they are also an indication of how determined Israel is in its pursuit of peace with the Palestinian Authority.

But Israel's determination to achieve peace does not override its equal determination to bring down the terror structure. Indeed, only if Israel succeeds in the latter will it enhance the possibilities of finally achieving peace.

For that reason alone, all countries who wish to see the Palestinians and the Israelis living side by side, at peace, should join the effort to totally dismantle the terrorist infrastructure. The radical and Islamist Palestinians are themselves holding back the independence, progress and prosperity of their own people. And it has always been that way.

But there are also other reasons why peace-loving nations should coalesce around the elimination of terror. It is, simply, the correct, moral, humane thing to do.

Last week, after the latest Hamas atrocity aboard a bus, which killed 17 people in Jerusalem, in a statement so stupendously hypocritical it presupposed total sensory blindness on the part of the western world, Hamas announced that it "will target every Zionist occupying [its] land... Every Israeli has become a target."

Every Israeli is already a target for Hamas. Every Israeli has been a target. That is precisely why Hamas, its operatives and collaborators choose to bomb buses, shopping malls, discotheques and pizzerias. Hamas' pronouncement would be laughable if it were not utterly vile and obscene.

There can be no compromise with Hamas or with other like-minded organizations, because their main ambition is the annihilation of the Jewish state. Hamas is opposed to peace with Israel because it is opposed to Israel. Period. Thus, as recent history has shown, each time a peace process has been launched between Israel and the PA, Hamas has launched its blood-letting terror.

If the West is truly interested in advancing peace, it is time for the countries of the West to unambiguously denounce Hamas, to firmly tell Hamas that the West will never allow Israel's existence as a Jewish state to be threatened. The Canadian government should have the courage of its often expressed convictions about its friendship with Israel and take the lead.

Islamic radicals target Israel because it is a Jewish state. They also target Israel because it is a western state. As we have already seen in North America, Europe and Australia, the threat is not very far away from our shores and our streets.

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Says CJN is anti-Alliance

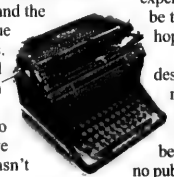
I read your editorial "Concerning our Federal Leaders" with outright disgust (*CJN*, June 5). How can you comment on the leaders of the federal government and completely ignore Stephen Harper, the leader of the Opposition, and the Canadian Alliance? This is not the first time your newspaper has willfully omitted the party. Why does it pain you to admit that the Alliance has proven to be Israel's only friend in Parliament? To continue to shun the second largest party in Canada does not lend credibility to your paper. Thankfully, the majority of the Jewish community stands by the actions of the only true friend of Israel and Jewish causes, the Canadian Alliance.

Michael Cooper
Toronto

* * *

Says CJN is anti-NDP

The editorial contempt for Jack Layton's attempts to regain Jewish support for the NDP is yet another example of this newspaper's contempt for anything progressive ("Concerning our Federal Leaders," *CJN*, June 5). *The CJN* has demonstrated a similar slant on the U.S.-led war against Iraq and the current U.S. occupation in Iraq, as well as the issue of public support for private religious schools. Meanwhile, ex-Alliance leader Stockwell Day and Mike Harris and Ernie Eves' Tory government in Ontario get almost nothing but praise.



Jewish conservatives have made a big effort to get the Jewish community to shed its progressive heritage and become conservatives. This hasn't occurred.

Is Layton right about a "warming"? I'm not sure, but I think it is likely, with the rightward drift of the Liberals (with Paul Martin's leadership seemingly inevitable), that pro-Israel progressive Jews will continue to hold their noses and vote Liberal.

Matt Fodor
Toronto

* * *

Beth Shalom in Ottawa

When we learned that the Beth Shalom Synagogue in Ottawa was moving from the Orthodox movement to join the Union for Traditional Judaism, we were both flattered and baffled.

Flattered, because we believe our message of open-minded halachic observance is compelling and attractive to Jews of all ages and backgrounds.

Baffled, because we were never notified by the shul nor did we approve Beth Shalom's new affiliation. To date, we have not received a formal application from the synagogue. There have been only a few telephone conversations with a shul representative. Were Beth Shalom to formally apply to join the UTJ, we would require a visit from a UTJ representative to both the executive board and the congregation, and that the congregation understand the UTJ's theological philosophy (hashkafah) and review our literature.

The UTJ promotes increased commitment to tradition, not the dismissal of age-old customs. While we embrace shuls with and without mechitzahs (and some with both mixed and separate seating in the same sanctuary), we fear that Beth Shalom's steps to remove its mechitzah and permit women to chant the haftorah may not be steps toward tradition, but simply attempts to attract membership. We certainly favour boosting shul attendance, but not in ways that steer toward egalitarian services.

We welcome communication with Beth Shalom and look forward to sharing with them our outlook on shul-building. But it would be regrettable if shul members based their recent vote on a false premise.

Rabbi Bruce Ginsburg, UTJ president
Rabbi Ronald Price, UTJ executive vice president
Teaneck, New Jersey

* * *

Re: Send Queen's Park a message

Regarding Mark Greenberg's letter, "Send Queen's Park a message," I agree that as Ontarians, we need to send a message to Queen's Park (Letters, *CJN*, May 29). However, my personal experiences this year lead me to question what seems to be the official "Jewish position" on the upcoming (I hope) provincial election.

As a high school student, I can understand the desire for a private school tax credit. But that doesn't make it justifiable. For Catholic schools to be funded and for other religious schools not to be is discrimination. I think that a sensible solution would be to stop funding Catholic schools. There should be no public funding of religion in the first place. Of course, this would mean parents who choose to send their children to private schools would have to pay more. That's too bad, but it is a choice to send a child to a private school. Many parents who send their children to public schools have no choice – they simply cannot afford private school, even with a tax credit.

It is also important to remember that not all Jewish students attend private schools. Many, myself included, attend public schools that are literally falling apart thanks to years of Tory neglect. This year, my school, along with many others, lost our youth counsellor, a vital source of support for many students. I also have been sharing a math textbook with two other students this year. That is unacceptable. Before middle- and upper-class parents get tax credits for the mixing of religion and government, public schools must be properly funded.

When going to the polls, please remember Jewish students like me who are too young to vote. Think about the trade-off. Do you want a tax credit when it comes with a government that is destroying education, treating poor and homeless people inhumanely and using your tax dollars to show contempt for the people of Ontario and its democratic traditions? If the Tory government would spend less taxpayer money on clearly partisan ads and ridiculous photo-op stunts, maybe members of our community could get private education tax credits without public education being hurt.

Adina Scheim
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The Secret of Kibbutz Hill: Unsung Heroes of Israel's War of Independence

By RUTH HEIGES
Israel Press Service

The mundane hill behind the high-tech industries of the Kiryat Weizmann Science Park in Rehovot generally attracts little attention, as eyes are involuntarily drawn to the towering particle reactor at the nearby Weizmann Institute of Science. Increasingly, however, both Israelis and visitors are discovering the heroic story of the "kibbutz that never was."

For decades, Kibbutz Hill was taken simply at face value. Only in 1985 was its secret declassified: for a critical three-year period (1945-1948), the most important function of this kibbutz had been to serve as a cover for an underground munitions factory known as the Ayalon Institute. Within the Haganah, the largest of the underground Jewish military organizations, the word "institute" was code for an armaments plant.

The same people who had the chutzpah to stamp USA on the hand grenades they manufactured for use in the War of Independence (short for *Unser Shtickl Arbeit* – Yiddish for "our little piece of work") also had the nerve to establish a bullet-manufacturing facility right under the noses of the British. And when asked the purpose of the stamped sheets of brass they were importing, they explained, "Why, for producing lipstick tubes, of course!"

For years prior to the war, Kibbutz Hill had been a training area for pioneers preparing to start their own kibbutzim. When the Haganah decided it needed a facility for manufacturing nine-millimetre bullets for its Sten guns, the idea was born to create a secret plant under Kibbutz Hill. For cover, a functioning kibbutz was quickly put in place, complete with members, livestock, crops – and an industrial laundry and commercial bakery. The laundry even served the nearby British camp, and the bakery provided the camp with bread. But their real purpose was to camouflage access to the bullet factory located 12 feet below and provide ventilation for it (the chimneys of the bakery's furnace were used for injecting clean air and the chimneys of the laundry were used to pump out the polluted air) and make sufficient noise to obscure any sounds that might emanate from it.

Other ruses contributed to the subterfuge, some of them extremely simple, such as a sign at the entrance warning about the presence of hoof-and-mouth disease. The time it took for an unwanted visitor to disinfect his shoes in a chemical footbath was sufficient for sending a warning signal to the plant.

Yosef Blitt, one of the bakers, recalls one occasion when British soldiers came to search for illegal weapons.

"We kept beer on hand especially for them," he says. "Since we didn't drink it, it was always warm. When one of the officers jokingly complained about this, the 'kibbutz' secretary replied, 'We never know when you're coming. If you let us know in advance, we'll chill it for you.' From that day on, we always had enough advance notice of an inspection that we could hide anything suspicious in plenty of time."

The oven under which the stairway to the factory was hidden.

The secret facility, which measured 26x107 feet (8x33 metres) and was covered by 13 feet (4 metres) of earth, operated without detection from 1945 until the outbreak of the War of Independence and through 1948, keeping the Sten guns firing. In fact, such was the extent of the subterfuge that the majority of members believed that Kibbutz Hill was a genuine kibbutz and had no idea that 45 of their number were engaged in this project.

'We led a double life'

The building and operation of the "institute" was a co-operative effort by members of Hatzofim Aleph (a pioneer group) and people from Ta'as, the clandestine military industry. At a later stage, they were joined by Palmach (Assault Companies) trainees from two additional pioneer groups.

Tzippi Dagan was one of three Palmach members enlisted to persuade another 36 of her unit to come to Kibbutz Hill, without revealing the real reason. One of those was her then-boyfriend and future husband, Mati. She was immediately assigned to the munitions factory, but couldn't tell Mati, who was recuperating from a serious illness. When asked what her work assignments was, she would say, "Outside the fence," in the various agricultural areas, as she knew he was too weak to visit her.

On a number of occasions, though, he noticed gold-coloured residue in her hair or on her clothes and asked where she'd been working.

"Each time I told him I'd been in the orchards spraying trees, or spraying pesticides in the vegetable fields or orange groves. Finally, however, she went to the work foreman and said, "I've run out of agriculture stories. I must tell Mati something."

At about the same time, Mati announced, "Tzipke, I'm tired of sitting in my room and reading. I'm going to work in the orchard tomorrow."

Tzippi answered that she would be working in the vegetable fields the next day. It was only when they bumped into each other in the laundry, waiting to go downstairs into the munitions factory that they realized one another's true work assignment.

To help maintain the deception, workers spent hours under sun lamps, so as not to look suspiciously pale. They also received medical supervision and specially supplemented diets to compensate for not being in the sun.

"We led a double life – one above ground, one below. If we'd been found out, we would certainly have been killed," Tzippi says.

After the War of Independence, the inhabitants of Kibbutz Hill moved away and began to build new lives. The Ta'as Defence Industry unit largely continued to work in the new state's defence industries. The largest group, Tzofim Alef, went on to found Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael with some of the members of the Palmach group, such as Tzippi and Mati. And the members of the fourth group, a small number of Hechalutz (pioneer) members from England helped found Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi. But even separated, they remained united in one aspect: all kept the secret of Kibbutz Hill for close to four decades.

Some claim that not even then-Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion knew of the institute's operation, but that he ordered the site preserved once he eventually learned of it. In 1987, two years after the secret was finally declassified and following a refurbishment project, Kibbutz Hill was declared a national site and the Ayalon Institute Museum opened.

Tzippi says, "When we arrived at the ceremony after almost 40 years, one of the Palmach guys called me over and said, 'Tzipke, tell me, do you think that when we were here in 1947 the munitions factory existed?' He still had not made the connection, or realized that I had been one of those who had worked underground."

Mati and Tzippi had also not yet revealed their secret to their sons.

"Apart from the fact that we believed the story still to be classified, we were embarrassed and ashamed to have been in the Palmach and not been fighters on the battlefield," she says.

Today, Tzippi, who has retired from teaching and has been widowed for 12 years, has taken on documenting the experience of Kibbutz Hill and lecturing on the subject to soldiers.

Blitt, a recent widower, frequently visits Kibbutz Hill, occasionally conducting tours. "I always spend Independence Day there," he says. "It restores me."

A year and a half ago, Blitt received a call from one of the young guides at the Ayalon Institute, asking if he could come out to meet someone. It turned out to be the former commander of the British camp that had been located at the train station. "Someone told me about this place," the man explained, "and I just had to come and see how the Jews had fooled us."

Thinking of parents

For many of us, this is a time of year when we think of our parents more than we normally do. On Shavuot, we re-read the Ten Commandments, in which, of course, the fifth commandment relates directly to one's parents. Many of us say the *Yizkor* prayer in our parents' memory. In our secular lives, we have just celebrated Father's Day. Last month, we celebrated Mother's Day.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

My thoughts too turn to my parents.

My late mother (*ale'ah hashalom*) was the most effective teacher I ever had. Possessed of a powerful will, she could do what others might not dare to tackle. "If you will it, you'll be able to achieve your goal," she would say, and prove it with her own life.

I am proud to say that I was her number 1 pupil, and I will always remember her number 1 teaching: "The most important thing in life is to show up. If you're not present, people will forget you." That wise observation has guided me for many decades.

Mother died in the spring of 1993. But even though she left this earth a decade ago, she remains very much alive for me.

When she left us at 103 years of age, she was still a student at the University of Toronto, for learning was a very special love of her life. Born and raised in Germany, she always hoped to follow the example of her sister, Alice, who in the early 1920s entered university and obtained her PhD, something that very few women in Germany had done before her. Though Mother never obtained an advanced degree, the university became her home away from home.

Her example inspired many other elders, and thus she became a truly effective teacher.

To my late Dad (*alav hashalom*), I owe my intellectual interests. Jonas Plaut had the air of a successful businessman and could have been one, but chose instead to be a teacher. For many years after World War I, his former students told me about his marvelous skills. He was a purveyor of ideas that stimulated the mind.

Shortly after his arrival in Munster, Germany, in 1910, he met a young lady who was taking her sister to the elementary school affiliated with the town's seminary.

That young woman was Selma Gumprich. Jonas and Selma married a year later, in 1911.

The fifth commandment to honour our parents is meant to be fulfilled for as long as we live, not only for as long as our parents live. Thus, even though my parents are no longer alive, my memories of them are, especially so at this time of year.

Stories we need to tell

Recently I had the pleasure of witnessing a poignant reunion during a presentation at our local Jewish centre.

The reunion wasn't between two family members, but rather between a brother and his sister's suitcase – a suitcase that had been recovered from a concentration camp where she was killed on her very first day there in 1944.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

Hana Brady was only 13 when she was sent to her death in Auschwitz's gas chambers. The suitcase she had once dutifully packed to take with her on a voyage that no one thought would be so short was miraculously recovered by a Japanese woman at the Holocaust centre in Tokyo.

She set out on a quest that spanned the globe to track down any living relatives who could fill in the gaps of Hana's story. She found her brother, George, who now lives in Toronto and is nearing his mid-seventies.

Both of them spoke last month in Calgary. As an audience member, I found myself particularly impressed by George's sense of humour when he spoke about trying to "make it" in Canada as a Holocaust survivor.

He talked about applying for a job at a Simpson's department store and writing on his application form that he had previously been at Auschwitz. An overzealous sales clerk filled in the blank space he had left under "reason for leaving" with "Left Auschwitz for a better position."

He also joked about marrying a doctor so she could take care of him in his old age, only to find out she was a gynecologist.

But most importantly, he talked about what finding his sister's suitcase meant to him.

It's these kind of unique family stories, artifacts and legends that are not only incredibly fascinating, they're integral to the fabric of our beings.

When you come together like that in a room full of people, many of whom have felt the pain of persecution at some point in their lives, you instantly feel like part of a unit, and you know that everyone there has a story that is in some way similar to yours.

I thought back to my own stories, passed down from generation to another, that I keep inside my head to tell my own children one day.

My great-grandfather was notorious in his small Russian village for being a clairvoyant psychic whom local townspeople would often consult for advice.

Yet, he was staggeringly clueless when it came to predicting his own future. He had fought alongside the Germans in World War I and refused to believe that they could cause him any harm when World War II rolled around.

When my great-grandmother finally gathered up her children and fled the village for safety, he stubbornly remained behind, only to be captured by the Nazis and forced to dig his own grave.

My grandmother also tells stories of hiding in the depths of the forest, of foraging for food, of a sister who died of pneumonia due to lack of adequate nourishment.

Recently a friend of mine who dabbles in black and white photography gave me a framed portrait of myself for my birthday. My mother saw it and remarked on how closely I resemble my grandmother in it – a testament to the power of genetics, I suppose.

I find these stories take on an especially surreal quality when they force me to break away from the daily monotony of life and work.

This week, I started a new job in Calgary's downtown oil and gas sector, and I have found it frighteningly easy to blend in as just another face in a sea of conservative business suits.

Among the people crammed into tiny elevators, all of us staring at the same tiny television screen in the corner until it's time to get off, it can be so easy to forget who you are and where you've come from – and what makes you unique.

But it's presentations like the one I attended last month that hit you the hardest.

Sometimes we forget what a small world we really live in.

Barbara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

Israel: a place to get a permanent smile

It's difficult to reconcile having so much to say with knowing that no words can adequately express all that needs to be said. I have been in Jerusalem for more than a month now, and I am still overwhelmed.

My experience began on a Canada Israel Experience Birthright trip. With 80 peers from across the country, I was given the gift of a lifetime. Each day my eyes were opened to new sights, my mind to history and culture brought to life in the the most tangible of ways. From north to south, east to west, we experienced our homeland.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

Part of the Birthright program includes a "mifgash," an encounter between trip participants and Israel Defence Force soldiers. We had the opportunity to travel with and get to know young men and women our age who are protecting the land we call home. In one of our more memorable conversations, they expressed their amazement and support to us for coming to visit Israel. We stood in utter amazement, wondering how they could be inspired when at the end of our simple journey we would return safely to Canada while they returned to an army base.

Over the course of my 10 days on Birthright, I watched the hearts of my friends open up to a country they had once known so little about, but where they now feel truly at home. It is only once you are here that the images we see in the media dissolve, leaving a country of wonder and amazement.

During my free time in Jerusalem, I met students participating on another trip coordinated through Canada Israel Experience. On it, university students from Toronto were exposed to all sides of the Israeli political spectrum as they listened to speakers and travelled throughout the land.

Journeying with them to Gush Etzion, a West Bank community beyond the Green Line, we came to understand stories that don't play well in the media. We saw a beautiful and thriving community with roots that precede Israel's own history as a state. We realized that politics makes us forget about people, and that conflict distracts us from seeing the bigger picture.

Speaking with my fellow trip participants, it became clear many of us are searching for the same things. We all feel a passion for Israel but find ourselves unable to communicate something without having experienced it personally. Coming to Israel, we have been given the opportunity to meet people, see the land and the politics with our own eyes and thus gain an affirmation of our beliefs that we can bring back to our campuses.

Ultimately, though, what I most appreciate about my time here in Israel is that when you are here, you are simply here, living life. Walking down the street, you realize that every person you pass shares a common past, present and future. Even the pushiness and rudeness that is part of the stereotypical sabra attitude can be appreciated while you are here. Indeed, there is something about this place that leaves me with a permanent smile on my face.

I have been living in Jerusalem, where nothing is ordinary. The air here just feels a little different – it has a taste like no other. The holy city we flocked to in the days of the temples still stands as a testament to all that we have strived for – and will continue to strive for.

Celebrating Shavuot and seeing the streets filled with people throughout the night walking from shiur to shiur, ending in shacharit prayers at the Kotel, one can't help but realize the significance of what exists here.

The very concept of a Jewish state is now more profound for me. To see a society functioning under the precepts of a faith, culture and tradition so rich in ideology and objectives demonstrates the potential and strength of the nation and people we are all a part of, no matter where we live.

I have been intoxicated by my stay in Israel. I have found a capacity for thought and exploration that didn't exist for me in Canada. There are so many other experiences I could convey, so many thoughts to explore, but leaving aside the specifics, what I appreciate most is that I have been able to find myself at home.

The Kirshner File

U.S. struggles with chaos and violence in Iraq

Three months to the day after American and allied armies stormed into Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Iraq wallows in a welter of disorder.

As it slowly emerges from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein's Baathist dictatorship, Iraq struggles with chaos, lawlessness and violence and copes with an abysmal lack of essential services.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

It is clear that the reconstruction and democratization of Iraq will take considerably longer than the United States had anticipated.

Cognizant of this, U.S. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld has pledged to keep as many troops in Iraq as necessary.

There are 160,000 American and British soldiers in Iraq today, but many more will be needed to maintain order. Prior to the invasion, the U.S. army chief of staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki, predicted that hundreds of troops would be required to secure Iraq.

The United States is enforcing its occupation through a carrot-and-stick policy designed to win hearts and minds and root out remnants of the old regime.

But for now, Iraq is mired in instability and uncertainty – so much so that when U.S. President George W. Bush visited the Middle East earlier this month, he did not even set foot in Iraq.

Bowing to sober advice, he chose to view Iraq from the safety of his airplane, at an altitude of some 31,000 feet, knowing full well that U.S. troops are under fire along its length and breadth.

Contrary to expectations, the United States emerged relatively unscathed from the three-week war. From March 19, the launch date of the invasion, until May 1, the day Bush declared an end to hostilities, 139 U.S. soldiers were killed in Iraq. (During the first Gulf War in 1991, the U.S. death toll was 148.)

Thinking, perhaps, of the 92,501 casualties Britain sustained in the 1914-1918 military campaign in Iraq, the Pentagon expected much worse.

But since the official cessation of the second Gulf War, more than 40 American soldiers have been killed in fighting and accidents.

Virtually every day, Iraqi gunmen attack U.S. patrols, convoys, checkpoints and garrisons with assault rifles, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades.

These attacks – which bear an uncanny resemblance to those mounted by Hezbollah against Israel in southern Lebanon from 1983 to 2000 – make one wonder whether a general uprising is brewing. The last such uprising broke out in 1920, when Britain occupied Iraq.

In the current situation, almost all the attacks have occured in central Iraq, a predominantly Sunni Muslim area where Saddam, a Sunni, enjoyed strong support.

Not surprisingly, American officials believe that hardcore Saddam loyalists are behind the majority of assaults, the flashpoints of which have been Baghdad and Fallujah. But Islamic fundamentalists and foreign Arabs may also be involved.

Until last week, the United States believed that these attacks were not centrally planned. But on June 9, Rumsfeld speculated that they may be the result of an organized guerrilla offensive led by Baath party members.

Interestingly enough, Rumsfeld admitted that the failure to apprehend Saddam – who may or may not have been killed in the war – has galvanized Baathists into thinking their cause is not yet lost.

For a brief moment after the war, the United States seemed resigned to the presence of hundreds of Baath party members in high-ranking ministerial posts.

But on May 11, in a bold swing toward de-Baathification, the commander of U.S. forces in Iraq, Gen. Tommy Franks, abolished the Baath party, which first seized power in 1963 and again in 1968, and removed dozens of Baathists from government ministries.

On May 16, the new American civilian administrator in Iraq, Paul Bremer, announced that 15,000 to 30,000 Baath party diehards would be barred from public service jobs.

Baathists are far from being the only opposition force the United States faces in Iraq, which is populated mainly by Shiite Muslims.

Since the fall of Baghdad on April 9, pro-Iranian Shiite clerics who dream of an Islamic state have rushed in to try to fill the vacuum caused by Saddam's demise. Rumsfeld has warned Iran that attempts to "transform Iraq in Iran's image" will not be tolerated. But significantly, the United States has no objection to an "Islamic democracy" modelled after Turkey.

In the meantime, Washington is working day and night to win over the Shiites, who were oppressed by Saddam. But the road the United States has embarked upon will be long and bumpy.

Consider a few recent developments.

On May 10, a pro-U.S. Shiite cleric, Abdul Majid al-Khoei, was murdered in a mosque in Najaf. Since his assassination, a flurry of important Shiite religious leaders, from Moktada al-Sadr to Muhammed al-Hakim, have explicitly called for a state governed by the principles of Islam and for the ouster of "infidels" from Iraq.

Still other imams have expressed more radical views.

Donald Rumsfeld

At Friday prayers on June 6, in one of Baghdad's largest mosques, an imam named Mouaid al-Abaidi described the recent spate of attacks targeting American soldiers as heroic acts of self-defence and urged his listeners to wage a jihad against U.S. forces.

On May 19, in yet another sign of Iraqi dissatisfaction with the occupation, 10,000 Shiites gathered in the centre of Baghdad chanting, "No to the foreign administration."

The United States clearly wishes to build the foundations of a broad-based representative government in Iraq, which has been accustomed to harsh military rule since its independence in 1932. But given the current turmoil roiling Iraq, the flowering of Iraqi democracy is far off.

Originally, Washington intended to convene a conference of about 300 Iraqis to draft a new constitution and elect an interim homegrown government.

But in a major shift that has greatly upset pro-American Iraqi exiles such as Ahmad Chalabi, president of the Iraqi National Congress, the United States has instead chosen to allow an Iraqi group to advise Bremer. He is a tough, no-nonsense administrator who succeeded the hapless Jay Garner, a retired general who ran the relief effort in northern Iraq following the first Gulf War.

Before democracy can take root in an ethically divisive nation such as Iraq, law and order and basic services will have to be completely restored.

In the days after American Marines captured Baghdad, toppling grandiose statues of Saddam and asserting their authority by the force of arms, there was a catastrophic breakdown of municipal services throughout Iraq and, most noteworthy, in Baghdad.

With the ferociously hot summer weather fast approaching, electricity and clean running water were in short supply, and telephones and sewage treatment plants did not work.

Worse still, Iraqi towns and cities were subjected to a wave of looting, armed robberies, car-jackings and revenge killings.

Intimidated by the anarchy, merchants closed their shops, traders stopped doing business and managers of state-owned companies shut their doors. Aggravated by 12 years of United Nations economic sanctions, unemployment climbed sharply, further impoverishing the Iraqi people. The situation has since improved, but Iraq is still very much of a broken country.

During the chaotic period immediately after the war, the National Museum in Baghdad – an unsurpassed repository of archeological treasures of ancient Mesopotamia – was plundered by ordinary citizens and professional thieves as U.S. soldiers stood by.

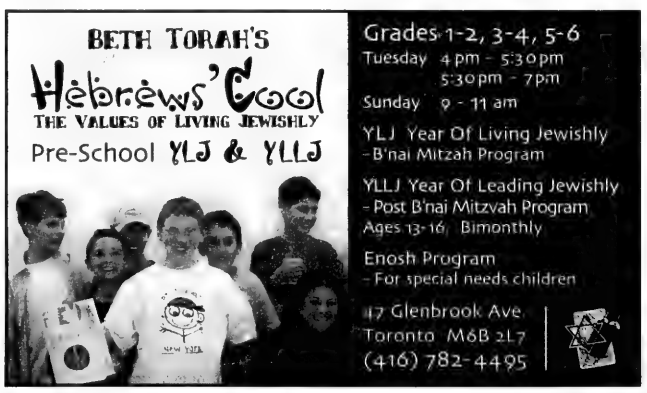
It now appears that the incalculable losses the museum incurred were exaggerated. Nevertheless, many pieces, from inscribed tablets to gold jewelry, are still unaccounted for and may have been bought by unscrupulous antiquity dealers.

At the urging of the United States and Britain, the United Nations on May 22 lifted the sanctions and legitimized the occupation of Iraq. Iraq is now free to resume unfettered oil exports, the revenue from which will contribute immensely to Iraq's reconstruction.

At its peak, Iraq produced about 3.5 million barrels of oil a day. After the resumption of Iraqi oil exports in 1996, the figure rose to two million barrels. Last month, Iraqi oil fields were only producing 300,000 barrels per day. By the summer, production may reach a million barrels a day.

By any yardstick, Iraq, with its plentiful oil and water reserves, its agricultural lands, its industrial base and its educated population, has the potential to become one of the most prosperous nations in the Arab world.

But if the United States fails to restore order and revive the economy, Iraq will descend into a sinkhole of despair, with all its terrible consequences.



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Rabbis split over legalization of same-sex marriage

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Reactions were mixed in Jewish circles to last week's landmark Ontario Court of Appeal ruling that legalized same-sex marriage in the province.

"It's a wonderful move," enthused Rabbi Debra Landsberg, incoming chair of the Canadian Coalition of Liberal Rabbis for Same-Sex Marriage.

"As someone who entered Canada [from the U.S.] having already officiated at a gay marriage ceremony, I believe in the sanctity of marriage as something distinct from an ongoing, long-term relationship," said Rabbi Landsberg, spiritual leader of Toronto's Temple Emanu-El.

The coalition, comprised of 25 Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis across Canada, presented a 21-page factum to the court in support of same-sex marriage, arguing that homosexual couples are just as capable of fulfilling Jewish values as heterosexual ones, and that Jewish law in this area is "not immutable."

Ed Morgan, the rabbis' lawyer, called the ruling a "resounding defeat" for the federal government, but one that "was only a matter of time."

The June 10 ruling rewrote the definition of marriage to include same-sex couples, saying denying gays and lesbians the right to marry offends their dignity, discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation and violates their equality rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The historic, unanimous judgment makes same-sex marriages legal for the first time in Canada.

Courts in British Columbia and Quebec have also struck down marriage laws, but gave governments until next year to rewrite their legislation.

The Ontario judgment goes further because it ordered Toronto's city clerk and the provincial registrar-general to issue and accept marriage licences for two couples who wed in 2001 under the ancient Christian tradition of the publication of banns. That allowed them to avoid having to get city-issued licenses.

The court rejected the fear of religious groups that gay marriage infringes on religious freedom because it would force them to conduct ceremonies against their will.

"This case is about the legal institution of marriage," the court said. "We do not view this case as, in any way, dealing or interfering with the religious institution of marriage."

Rabbi Landsberg said same-sex marriage fits with her understanding "of the appropriate extension of what is understood as marriage in a Jewish sense." Halachah is open to "natural growth and development, just as the Jewish people are."

The court, ruling on an appeal of a lower court's finding that the traditional definition of marriage was unconstitutional, changed the definition of marriage from being "the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman," to "the voluntary union for life of two persons to the exclusion of all others."

Rabbi David Novak, professor of Jewish studies at the University of Toronto and a vocal opponent of same-sex unions, sees the ruling as harming the traditional definition of marriage.

"It's unfortunate this type of decision makes the institution of marriage virtually meaningless," said Rabbi Novak, who told the House of Commons committee studying same-sex unions this spring that Judaism regards marriage as the union of a man and a woman and is driven by the biblical commandment to "be fruitful and multiply."

He said the court ruling opens the door to other unions: "Polygamy... incest. Why just two human beings?"

He challenged liberal rabbis "to show me one classical Jewish source to show what they are advocating is justified."

Apart from altering the definition of marriage, Rabbi Novak foresees other problems in the Jewish community, including opening synagogues to discrimination if they refuse to perform same-sex weddings.

Also, "what if one [partner in a same-sex marriage] applies to be a teacher in a Jewish school? What about synagogue membership for couples?

"I don't think gays will stop. I think their aim is to totally, completely transform the moral tone of society."

He also called on Orthodox and traditional religious leaders to speak up more on this and other issues.

"People looking on get a very skewed view of Judaism when they see 25 liberal rabbis supporting same-sex marriage" without a countervailing Orthodox view, he said.

Morgan, the lawyer who represented the liberal rabbis before the Court of Appeal, said in his capacity as chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, that he recognizes there is a diversity of views among Jews on this issue.

"I think that's mirrored in the community at large," he said.

As of last week, there seemed to be no rush among Jewish same-sex couples to seek a marriage license.

Last summer, Rabbi Justin Lewis of Kingston officiated at the wedding of two Jewish women in Toronto. Rabbi Lewis, spiritual leader of the Reform Congregation Iyr Ha-Melech, described it as a complete Jewish ceremony, with a chupah, ketubah, witnesses, proper brachot and an exchange of rings – "the whole works" – although it wasn't in a synagogue.

But when he tried to have the marriage registered by the province, "I received a telephone call threatening to revoke my right to officiate at weddings if I continued to do same-sex marriages.

"I hope that's changed now."

Rabbi Dovid Schochet, head of Toronto's Vaad Harabanim, did not not mince words in his reaction to the court ruling.

"It's a *chillul Hashem*, a desecration of God's name and law. It's not a matter of broad-mindedness. It's very simple. Sodomy is not only a Jewish matter, but it's forbidden by the [seven] Noachide Laws, which apply to everybody."

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UJA Federation

Israel Day festival 'brings people together'

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

A mass of people clad in blue and white filled Mel Lastman Square recently to celebrate Israel Day – a festival showcasing Israeli food, music, dance, and art.

The eighth annual non-profit event, held June 8, was organized by the Canadian Zionist Federation (CZF).

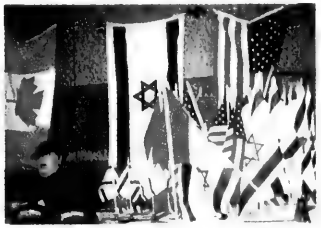
"It's good for the community… It brings people together," said Tillie Margolis, festival chair and president of the central chapter of the CZF.

Margolis said the current situation in the Middle East is "all the more reason" to have such an event. "It shows people Israel is a wonderful country."

Shlomo Lazar, a student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, wore an Israeli flag as a cape as he enjoyed the festival's sights and sounds.

"Although [the festival] shows what Israel is going through so people will understand, it helps people be happy and think of [its] good side," he said.

A chain of vendors along the rim of the square sold a variety of Israeli products to support the country's ailing economy. Festival-goers could buy items ranging from eclectic jewelry to flower arrangements to beauty products.



Howard Rosenberg said his family's business in Israel is suffering from the country's ongoing economic slump. This is why his relatives have sent him their educational toys to sell in Canada.

"They need the help," he said, standing in front of a colourful stack of toy boxes.

Anna Hayek Kanpol imports jewelry from seven Israeli designers. Being from Israel herself, "I feel like it's my small contribution," she said as she displayed a red coral pendant designed in Tel Aviv.

Stella Kvaterman imports flowers from Israel and sells them online at israelflowers.com.

She said the flowers are not unique to Israel and Canadians can buy the same flowers that come from other countries.

But she said her flowers, which she sells for Shabbat and special events such as bar mitzvahs and weddings, "symbolize something and bring some meaning to Jewish events… it's something alive that comes from Israel."

Other Israeli products for sale included Naot sandals, T-shirts, silverware and wooden mezuzot.

"The vendors added to the flavour," Margolis said.

Joseph Fox, co-chair of the Buy Israel program – sponsored by UJA Federation and the Israeli consulate – that encourages Jews to buy Israeli products, said Jews should aim to spend at least 20 per cent of their budget on Israeli-made items to support the country.

"You can't have a strong country militarily and diplomatically unless you have a strong economy," he said.

Buy Israel publishes a list of stores that carry Israeli products and where to find them, which Fox distributed at the festival.

Below: Flag vendors display their wares, while (above) The Chai Dancers entertained at the Israel Day festival. [Lauren Krugel photos]

The day also included entertainment by Israeli dancers, school choirs, magicians and rock bands.

Due to the rise in anti-Semitic incidents in Canada over the last 2½ years, the organizers had security on their minds, Margolis said.

Although the CZF could not afford to hire police to patrol the square, a few officers kept an eye on the surrounding neighbourhoods, she said.

As well, retired Toronto firefighters in uniform and plain-clothes volunteers from Shomrim, a New York City-based Jewish police association, helped to keep the square safe.

"We were very lucky nothing happened… We were concerned about that," Margolis said.

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Institutional, personal responses to uncertainty

***Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters: The story of two Jewish orphanages in Montreal, Quebec, 1909-1942*, by Judy Gordon, Lugus Publishing, $25.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Between 1909 and 1942, in a time of war and difficulty, two Jewish orphanages flourished in Montreal – the Hebrew Orphan's Home in Westmount and the Montefiore Hebrew Orphan's Home in the city's north end. These institutions were created so that poor Jewish children and orphans were not placed in Christian facilities to receive shelter and education.

The orphanages were largely unknown, even to longtime members of the Jewish community. The author, married to a former resident in one of the homes, has done an impressive amount of research for her absorbing and often entertaining account of bygone days when, in the 1930s, bagels cost one cent and a man's suit could be purchased for $9.99.

In his forward to the book, well-known Canadian author Morley Torgov writes that the colourful biographies of former residents "stem from firsthand knowledge and experience, and offer unadorned, straightforward and honest remembrances, enhanced by reproduced documents and photographs that tell all the truth one could wish for. The stories are at once touching, sad, joyful and above all, life-affirming."

A brief but lively history of Montreal from 1900 to 1940 contains fascinating information. We learn about the infamous Montreal interns' strike, one of the hundreds of anti-Semitic incidents that occurred between the two world wars. Samuel Rabinovich was a young medical student who came first in his class at the University of Montreal.

"As he started his internship at Notre Dame Hospital, all 14 of his fellow interns walked out, refusing to work with a Jew, concerned that their Catholic patients would find it 'repugnant' to be touched by a Jewish physician. He resigned. It took until 1945 before restrictions were lifted."

This largely sociological work provides ample lists of tables and figures, including the names of those who attended the Sunshine Camp in the Laurentians and their joyful annual reunions. There is plenty here to interest anyone curious about a unique chapter in Canadian-Jewish life during a period of change and painful acculturation.

***Elephant Street*, by Ron Charach, Signature Editions, 2003, $14.95.**

Charach is a practising Toronto psychiatrist as well as a poet (this is his seventh published book of poetry). Fearful and troubled, he searches for meaning in a world of ambiguity and uncertainty.

In *Jewish Earthquake*, he recalls the collapse of the wedding hall in Jerusalem in May 2001. "Beneath the dancing feet of a hundred wedding revellers/ the floor opens up, and with terrified screams/ three stories collapse into one/ captured in what the TV announcer later names/ the most horrific wedding video ever made./ Twenty-five crushed to death, scores more injured./ (a fateful choice among banquet halls for a simchah,/ a contractor who removed a support beam/to open more commercial space?)"

In *The Night After*, he writes of a foiled plot to dynamite a daycare centre. The poem concludes, "Like benediction, relief comes/ only from immersion in sleep/ and in earth yet unclaimed/ by a long-forgotten dream of peace,/ a peace that stretches not just from Cairo to Amman/ but Baghdad to Riyadh, Beirut to Damascus/ – to Jerusalem! – / all the sacred incendiary points between/ Salaam and Shalom."

The Old Cardiology Dream is humorous with a hint of terror. "Last night I had/the old cardiology dream,/ of a baby born with six hearts./ So many valves that could falter!/ And how rare,/the necessary synchrony./ Baby, I will cherish you,/ one-man percussion band that you are,/ and devote my life/ to seeing yours through./ May none of your frail pink hearts/break mine."

Charach's is a sensitive voice, attuned to the storms and stresses of our age.

Discoveries large and small

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

After the death of her mother about a decade ago, Toronto resident Judi Ghert found that she left behind "a treasure trove" of diaries, photographs and letters, most pertaining to a trip she'd taken from the United States to Palestine in 1935.

Roots & Remembrance

Ghert used the return addresses on the envelopes to track down some long-lost relatives, including one who showed her an ancestral chart going back to 1810. Her own great-grandfather, she learned, was named Joseph Kossowsky.

These spectacular results were only the beginning for Ghert, who by then was fully bitten by the genealogy bug.

Attending a genealogy conference in Boston, she was amazed to discover that an Israeli researcher, Chaim Freedman, was seeking information on her great-grandfather and his descendents. Kossowsky, it turned out, had been descended from the Vilna Gaon, the illustrious 18th-century Lithuanian rabbi.

Ghert contacted Freedman and he added her previously missing branch onto the tree, which was published in 1997 as *Eliyahu's Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon and His Family.*

"It was the shock of my life to discover that my great-grandfather was the sixth missing sibling that he had been looking for," said Ghert, who could suddenly lay claim to a distinguished rabbinical lineage and a family tree of more than 20,000 names.

"Everything I did snowballed. It just kept getting bigger and bigger. Suddenly I discovered I have a fantastically huge family all over the place, in South Africa, Europe, England, Israel, the United States. It's absolutely mind-boggling."

The Vilna Gaon "was my great-great-great-great-great-grandfather," she said. "I have to refresh my memory how many generations it goes back. I'm a direct descendant through his son, Yehuda Leib."

* * *

Often, a series of small discoveries may lead up to the sort of colossal breakthrough described above. However, even small discoveries can be fascinating in themselves.

Over the years I've tracked down the descendants of the various siblings of my great-grandfather, Tsvi Hirsh Glicenstein, but I had no luck for his brother, Faybus Ber, born in Konin, Poland, in 1866.

Faybus (Feivel) Ber came to England with his widowed mother and siblings in the late 1880s, and appeared in the 1891 census as Barnett Gluckstein. An 1899 birth certificate indicated that his wife was Esther and their newborn son was Raphael. That was all I knew about him – until last month, when I spotted a tragic reference to Raphael on JewishGen's Internet discussion group for U.K. researchers.

London researcher Harold Pollins had been investigating some extremely young British-Jewish casualties in World War I, including a 15-year-old soldier killed in Belgium in 1914. He was identified on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Web site as Robert Barnett, aka Raphael Gluckstein, the son of Philip and Esther of Stoke Newington, London.

Since Philip is the usual English translation of Feivel or Feivish, I knew almost immediately that I had found my grandfather's first cousin. His death sparked questions in the British press as to why children were being sent into battle.

Another youngster joined the Canadian army to fight for Britain in World War I. According to his attestation papers (accessible via the National Archives Web site, www.archives.ca), Welsh-born Reuben Ginsberg of Montreal was only four feet eight inches tall when he enlisted at the age of 14.

Wounded in France at 15, Ginsberg was recuperating in hospital when a Jewish chaplain discovered him and arranged for him to have a bar mitzvah. One hopes the chaplain also found some way of keeping him from returning to the front.

Jewish Life

Pirates, rabbis and Jewish history

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

After the destruction of the Temple and the commonwealth 1,935 years ago, the epicentre of Jewish life shifted to Babylonia (modern-day Iraq). There, communities flourished and academies were established that grew and produced major scholars and scholarship.

What caused the centre of Torah learning to move on to its next stop in the Iberian Peninsula is one of history's most curious incidents.

Roughly, it occurred just prior to the end of the first millennium. A band of pirates from the province of Cordovia in Spain, who set their eyes and their sails to sea, soon found just what they had gone looking for: an undefended ship.

But in its cargo hold, there were none of the treasures they had envisioned. Instead, they found it was mostly full of merchants. Among them, however, they also found four great Babylonian scholars on a mission to raise funds. This, the pirates understood, was far more precious than any treasure, not because of their love of knowledge, but because they understood that these rabbis represented lucrative ransom possibilities.

The rabbis on board were Rabbi Chushiel, son of Chananel; Rabban Moshe, father of Chanoch; Rabbi Shmaryahu, son of Elchonon; and a fourth whose name is lost in time.

First, Rabbi Shmaryahu was sold on the block in Alexandria, where the Jewish community raised the ransom in order to gain his freedom. In gratitude, Rabbi Shmaryahu remained in Alexandria and eventually headed the Jewish community there.

Similarly, Rabbi Chushiel was sold on the North African coast, where tremendous funds were set aside to gain his freedom. In gratitude, he too went on to build the centre in Kairouan.

Along with the pirates, Rabbi Moshe went to Cordovia where he sowed the seeds of the golden era of Spain that lasted more than 400 years and produced unparalleled accomplishments in the realms of Halachah, liturgy, poetry, mathematics and science.

Hence, in this ironic twist of fate, North Africa, Egypt and Spain were established as the new budding centres of the Torah world, centres that eventually surpassed Babylonia itself. Because of their proximity to one another, these new communities no longer felt the need to correspond with, nor to impose their requests on, the old centre in Babylonia. Nor did they see the need to continue supporting its academies. Jewish communities grew and prospered around the new centres until they totally supplanted those in Babylonia.

So, using a band of pirates, God's hand turned the page of history. The next page was turned in 1492 by again using a ship, this time that of Christopher Columbus on his fateful voyage that opened up "a new world" for the next stop in this movement.

The ironies and twists of history can only be understood and appreciated with the passage of much time. As a traveller in the Diaspora, one is resigned to having one's bags perpetually packed and ready to move on. Ever conscious of these geographic movements, at the same time one longs for the time that the next move will be the final and permanent one, led by the Mashiach into Eretz Yisrael.

The Ketubah and the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It's not too often you find a legal document that is also a work of art illustrating love and commitment. The ketubah, the Jewish marriage contract, has for thousands of years detailed a husband's obligations to his wife during marriage and his responsibilities in the case of divorce. Beyond that, the ketubah has become a prized piece of Judaic art.

If it's time to choose the design for your own ketubah, then first of all, let me wish you mazel tov on your engagement! You can see the world's best ketubot right on your computer. And even if you're not getting married, you still can enjoy a tour of one of Judaism's most interesting and beautiful documents.

According to the Ohr Somayach site, "This contract is ordained by Mishnaic law (circa 170 CE) and according to some authorities dates back to biblical times. [It] details the husband's obligations to his wife: food, clothing, dwelling and pleasure. It also creates a lien on all his property to pay her a sum of money and support should he divorce her, or predecease her **[http://www.ohr.org.il/judaism/articles/wedding.htm]**.

The traditional ketubah is written in Aramaic, the language of the Babylonian Jews. You can find an English translation at the Information Page on Jewish Family Law **[http://users.aol.com/agunah/family.htm]**. At the e-judaica Web site, you'll find an explanation of the ketubah variations available **[http://store.yahoo.com/ejudaica/huppaketubah.html]**. For example, the Conservative ketubah includes the "Lieberman Clause," which was added to allow either the man or the woman to initiate a divorce. The Web site points out that Orthodox rabbis do not recognize the Lieberman Clause and that you should check with your rabbi before selecting your text.

Most ketubot in recent centuries have conformed to a standardized text, but as Eliezer Segal points out, some ancient ketubot addressed the termination of the marriage at the initiative of the husband and even the wife. Here's an excerpt from the oldest existing ketubah, dating from the fifth century BCE and originating on the island of Elephantine in the Nile. "If at some time Ananiah should stand up before the assembly and declare, 'I reject my wife Jehoshama. She shall not be my wife!' then he is obligated to pay divorce money… And if Jehoshama should reject her husband Ananiah and declare before him, 'I reject you and will not be your wife!' then she shall be obliged to pay the divorce money" **[http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/950216_Ketubbah.html]**. For more on the history of the ketubah, visit the entry at The Jewish Encyclopedia **[http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=187&letter=K]**.

Although the ketubah is essentially a legal document, adorning this document is a cherished tradition. As Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library eloquently puts it: "These decorations transform the ketubah from a dry legal document into a work of art, and a window into the world and culture of the Jewish communities that produced them" **[http://www.library.yale.edu/exhibition/judaica/brbml.html]**.

To browse or order contemporary ketubot by specific artists, visit the Maven wedding site **[http://www.maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=502&ID =1&T=0]**, or type the word "ketubah" into a search engine such as Google **[http://google.com]**. If you are looking for inspiration for your own ketubah or just love Judaic art, the best site to visit is the Ketubot Digitization Project of the Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem, which has catalogued and made available on the web hundreds of ketubot from around the world **[http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/ketubbot/]**. The oldest ketubah on this site dates back to the year 1023 in Eretz Yisrael between the groom, Natan HaCohen HaTzefati ben Shlomo, and his bride, Rachel. For more about this incredible collection, see the article in *Cultivate Interactive* magazine **[http://www.cultivate-int.org/issue4/ketubbot/]**.

Anita Diamant says you shouldn't just admire your ketubah once in a while after the wedding is over and it's hanging on your wall. Instead, she says, read it regularly: "[O]n every wedding anniversary, Jewish couples should sit down and read the contract they signed with stars in their eyes… Even the most exquisite ketubah is never simply a work of art. A ketubah always signifies the Jewishness of a love story, a marriage, a home, a family, a past and a future" **[http://www.ujafederation.org/content_display.html?articleID =9356]**.

Next time, the beauty of the chupah.

* * * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

The Board and Staff of
Jewish Family & Child Service
mourns the passing of

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The Graduation Ceremony will take place on Monday June 23, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Road, Toronto

Holocaust educator on scholarship in Poland

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Carson Phillips admits that some of the material he studies about the Holocaust gets him down, but he says he draws strength from the Holocaust survivors he knows.

Phillips, the co-ordinator of Holocaust and adult education for the Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO) – a partnership between UIA Federations Canada and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region – left for Poland June 15 on a scholarship awarded to only four people in North America. He is the sole Canadian.

A 39-year-old native of Grand Falls, Nfld. – a town of 10,000 – Phillips was working for Shiseido Canada as a national training manager when he was transferred to Toronto in 1995. He spent four years with the cosmetic company in marketing and public relations before taking on his current position last September.

Phillips, who is active in the First Narayever Congregation, has moved from working with beauty products to working with "incredibly beautiful people," he said. "It enriches my own life."

His duties include researching, developing and implementing province-wide Holocaust teacher training programs in 27 communities, including Ajax, North Bay and Sault Ste. Marie.

"We do a lot of travelling," he said, referring to himself, Michael Soberman (RJCO's director of community development) and the Holocaust survivors who have travelled with them to share their personal stories.

"It's a combination of outreach to non-Jewish organizations and school boards… and helping co-ordinate adult education within the Jewish community."

Phillips, who is completing a graduate diploma program at OISE, said he has always been interested in human rights and anti-racism. His volunteer efforts include work at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and for an annual HIV/AIDS-related fundraiser.

Carson Phillips

His position at the RJCO was created in part because of requests from outside Toronto for pedagogical strategies for Holocaust education, Phillips said.

The scholarship, awarded by the Auschwitz Jewish Center Foundation in New York, will enable him to spend six weeks in Poland at Chevra Lomdei Mishnayot Synagogue and Auschwitz Jewish Centre, the only remaining synagogue in the town. He will work with tour groups as a docent and will be involved in one of the centre's research projects, possibly studying Jewish life in pre-war Poland or researching names of people killed in Auschwitz.

"It's something I've always wanted to do, to see not only the sites and the concentration camps, but to connect with the heritage and what was there before the Holocaust," he said.

The length of the stay was also particularly appealing to him. "You have that opportunity to absorb so much. It's not just in and out, so I think it's that length of time that [affords one] the opportunity to research and get beyond the layers."

When it comes to the Holocaust, "the more you study, the more you realize there is. It's like peeling the layers off an onion," he said, adding he "definitely" plans to incorporate what he learns into RJCO's teacher training program.

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Ajax synagogue gets new Torah

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

AJAX, Ont. — In the eight years that B'nai Shalom V'Tikvah has been open, it hasn't had its own Torah, but after two years of searching, it finally brought one home.

More than 60 people danced, sang and passed the new Torah from one set of arms to another as the small synagogue in Ajax, an hour outside Toronto, celebrated the receiving of its own Torah on Shavuot two weeks ago.

"This was one of our most touching services," said Harvey Saltzman, who was the synagogue's founding president and now serves as its treasurer.

Current synagogue president Linda Zaks-Walker said the Torah sent a message to the community that they are here to stay.

"It's a major step for us," she said. "It's a real mark of permanence."

The quest for the Torah began with the establishment of the Lynne Reiss Sefer Torah fund. Reiss was a founding member and teacher at the synagogue's Sunday school who died in 1995, when the shul was still in its infancy.

Two years ago, the search resumed in earnest, said Saltzman. First the congregation tried to get a Torah through the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ), and then through the World Jewish Congress in New York. They also looked in London and Israel.

Meanwhile, the synagogue had been using a Torah on loan from the CCRJ.

But "it needed repairs," said Saltzman, "so we took it to a scribe." When he told the scribe about their troubles finding a Torah, "lo and behold, he pulled one out."

The new Torah is 25 years old and previously belonged to a congregation in Israel that had fallen on hard times.

B'nai Shalom V'Tikvah got its start in a recreation centre and now uses the facilities at St. Paul's United Church. Saltzman said the shul has a wonderful working relationship with St. Paul's.

"They're very accommodating… they let us set up a bimah in the main sanctuary in the way that we like."

B'nai Shalom V'Tikvah holds services twice a month from September to June, as well as for holidays.

It is the only Reform synagogue in the Durham region. It has a membership of over 50 families, many of which come from as far as Oshawa and Port Perry.

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How to resolve high conflict cases in family law: a case study using Canada, Quebec, America and Iraq

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.
Partner, Beard Winter LLP

The first question many new clients ask me is: Are you tough? Yes, one of my tools is being firm and not "caving" into unreasonable demands of opposing counsel.

However, being tough is often the easy part. It is the art of skillful compromise and brinkmanship that requires a truly experienced family law lawyer.

To demonstrate, by analogy, how an experienced family law lawyer thinks and works when negotiating, I ask you to consider the current internal "family" divisions in Canada created by the Iraqi war.

Shalom Bais (peace in the family home) is a basic premise of Judaism. According to *chazal* (the Jewish sages), it is the reason why the *Mezuza* to be posted on the entrance of every Jewish home must be on an angle — not horizontal or vertical — so as to symbolize the need for compromise in every Jewish home and in every Jewish marriage. This compromise is a great virtue that often requires silent sacrifice.

The need to compromise is posted at your front door

When negotiating difficult separation agreements I am often hampered by people on both sides who cannot understand the need for compromise, the need to think about the long term. There is not a day in my practice or in the world at large that this issue does not rage. For this reason, the family law / foreign policy analogy is apt.

Many Canadians — mostly outside Quebec and especially in Canada's Western Provinces, with a slight majority in Ontario — were sympathetic to the American war against Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and critical of the Jean Chrétien government. They were critical of Canada's refusal — even without a further resolution from the U.N. — to join our American, Australian and Polish allies in that war, which they regarded as a war of liberation. Equally upset by Canada's refusal to turn over fleeing members of Hussein's regime to American forces, they were also outraged by the Prime Minister's silence and apparent refusal to censure certain Liberal MPs, including one Cabinet Minister who sharply criticized Americans ("bastards") and President Bush ("not a statesman.")

Conversely, polls suggested that about 85% of Quebeckers sharply opposed any involvement in the Iraqi war, even if the U.N. clearly authorized such a war. By far the largest street demonstrations against the war took place in Quebec. At the Montreal Forum, in an almost unprecedented display of anti-American sentiment, many fans went so far as to boo the Star Spangled Banner before a hockey game

Let us assume that Canada is a family with completely polarized internal opinions. The federal government was now faced with a potential political shootout between Quebec and a slim majority of English Canadians outside Quebec. This is every Prime Minister's nightmare. In family law jargon, we call this a potential "high conflict scenario." Similar "high noon" situations occurred before the Boer War, World War I, and the conscription crises in World War II (when there were riots in Quebec) that almost tore the country apart. And remember that as recently as 1995, the Quebec referendum for sovereignty won by only a handful of votes (50.56% YES, 49.44% NO).

In this mix we have a Quebec election and an electorate that, according to the pollsters, was far more interested in following the Iraqi war than the Quebec election.

Now pretend you are a "family law" lawyer. You represent someone pro-American in the Court of public opinion, as follows.

YOUR POSITION AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR PRO-AMERICAN CLIENT

For the Prime Minister to involve Canada in the Iraqi war of liberation would greatly satisfy your client and perhaps the majority of Canadians, primarily in English Canada. It would particularly satisfy most (but not all) Jewish Canadians. It would also be morally correct to stand by Canada's American friends and other allies in the same way that they have stood beside Canada throughout the past century. It would be a just war against a genocidal dictator whose mission is to destroy Israel, and who tortures and murders many of his own people, including children. ***This also happens to reflect my very strongly felt personal opinion; in other words, I, John Syrtash, private citizen, am in favour of this position.***

I now invite you to think like an experienced family law lawyer. Welcome to the world where veteran matrimonial counsel are constantly having to mull over intractable decisions. Here is the main point: to do so, you must first realize and understand why your opponent is thinking the way he does. We cannot simply assume that the opponent is "irrational" and "being difficult."

You vs. Chrétien: understanding your opponent's position

THE POSITION OF OPPOSING COUNSEL, I.E. CHRÉTIEN

I personally take exception to this position, but as "opposing counsel", I need to understand it. In the Prime Minister's mind, a decision by Canada to join the war would likely have led to another separatist government in Quebec. Is there any doubt that Premier Landry would have used a decision to join the war to prove to the people of Quebec that Canada does NOT represent their interests when so many of them (85%, and more than likely close to 100% of francophones) were so clearly against participation in it?

The decision would have meant a disaster for the leader of Quebec's Liberal Party Jean Charest. That party is identified by all Quebeckers as the "federalist party" in that province. This is especially true given that Jean Charest needed "extra" support among francophone Quebeckers to win; he could not just "tie" the P.Q. in the popular vote due to the way in which Quebec's ridings are distributed.

Moreover, if the P.Q. could muster such anger over the Iraqi war, then that anger could well have provided the "winning conditions" Landry needed to call a separatist referendum immediately after the election. He could theoretically have been successful, and Canada as we know it would have ceased to exist.

This is hardly how Jean Chrétien would have liked to have been remembered just before he stepped down as the country's leader: that is, as Canada's last Prime Minister. Chrétien's instincts doggedly told him that keeping the country together was even more important than alienating Canada's most important trading partner and dearest friend. *If we have a dismembered Canada,* he probably reasoned, *we may not have a Canada for the United States to be a trading partner with.*

If I am correct, in Mr. Chrétien's thinking a new leader such as Paul Martin was waiting in the wings to pick up the pieces with the United States and to make amends with the Americans after he (Chrétien) retired. Meanwhile, the threat of Quebec separatism was over, for now. Mr. Charest won by a strong majority and the Prime Minister's political strategy was vindicated.

Let us then assume that this is your opponent's thinking. You have now actually achieved something significant by *transcending your own client's bias or hostility and coming to an understanding of why your opponent thinks the way he does.*

How do now negotiate with someone like Mr. Chrétien? At the very least, as much as you oppose his actions you may, for the first time, have some grudging respect for his motives. You certainly do not call him a "coward" or someone "failing in leadership". Perhaps by "keeping quiet" about concerns regarding Quebec's elections, he wished to avoid a backlash in English Canada against Quebec for his decision, which, in turn, could have again doomed Jean Charest's chances once the Quebec press reported how many Anglophones resented the need to molify Quebec as the "official" reason for not assisting our American friends in their hour of need.

Cowardice? I think not; if so, then why did the Chrétien administration respond with military participation in other crises (Bosnia, Kosovo — which also lacked U.N. approval — or Afghanistan)? In any event, name calling in "high conflict cases" never works, even if it appears to be justified: it just alienates your opponent and third parties such as Judges, mediators, custody "assessors" and lawyers. It also wastes money in useless letters. This is called "posturing". Some lawyers send many such letters to impress their clients and to show them how "tough" they are. Meanwhile they rarely have any value, except to drive up legal costs significantly.

Posturing: a waste of time and money

At this stage, two veteran lawyers often sit down face to face and, if they have goodwill and sincere intentions, try to find common ground, always keeping each other's motives in mind and trying, firmly but rationally, to advance their client's position.

Of course, there are other positions and actions taken by Mr. Chrétien unrelated to the Quebec election that critics have justifiably criticized:

- his constant attacks on Mr. Bush after the Quebec election;
- his self-aggrandizement over Mr. Bush's economic policies in the face of Bush's problems with 9/11 (which problems Canada did not have to face);
- his refusal to correct Ministers who personally insulted the United States and its leader.

None of these positions appeared to be necessary or defensible. These fall into the category of "abusive and needless letter writing", in the jargon of family law.

This is not about Jean Chrétien and whether he was right or wrong. It is about the principle of compromise, and how it can be nurtured and achieved. Perhaps meetings behind closed doors between the parties' leaders could have taken place to examine compromises if there was a true understanding of all that was happening to the many stakeholders, including the opposition parties. Perhaps a conference with the Americans could have been quietly convened to explain the political delicacy of the situation, and why the U.S. would not want a dismembered Canada. Perhaps Canada could have diplomatically offered informal assistance to the United States in exchange for a request that the U.S. make no formal demands.

During the Boer War, for example, a creative solution was adopted. The French/English dispute over sending Canadian troops to the British Imperial War in South Africa was resolved by the federal government sending a volunteer army. Nobody really liked this particular solution, but at least there was a sincere attempt at compromise.

Only with mutual understanding can compromise be achieved

There are usually many creative solutions once people of good will truly understand the difficulties their opponent faces.

Instead, we often find clients complaining about each other with some Judge making family law decisions to nobody's satisfaction and at horrendous cost. Fortunately, most matrimonial lawyers work hard to prevent this from happening.

Once again, *only when the family law lawyer thoroughly understands opposing counsel and believes that there has been an honest exchange of information can he hope to strike a deal.* The hard part is to convince your opponent, not the Judge, how you are thinking and to prove it. If you have to go to a Judge it means that you've failed. The reasons for such costly failures are:

- Your opposing counsel or his client are not as interested in an honest exchange of viewpoints and financial disclosure as you are;
- They are simply too suspicious because they have not been given all the information or sufficient good reasons by you or your client to come to the bargaining table in good faith.

To have a productive exchange, you not only need to provide such disclosure and transparent arguments about your motives, but you must also provide convincing reasons that make good common sense. You have to work your way to the stage where the other side finally will grant you grudging respect for your motives – *not necessarily to agree with them but to respect them* — and for you to do the same.

That is the key to success in high conflict negotiations. Abusive letter writing gets you nowhere; it merely invites equally abusive replies. *Shalom.*

John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of ***Beard Winter LLP.*** *Neither B'nai Brith Canada, Beard Winter LLP nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.* *John Syrtash can be reached at 416-306-1733, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@beardwinter.com.*

You can also visit www.beardwinter.com and www.spousalsupport.com.

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SPRING CONCERT: Shaar Shalom Religious School recently held its annual Siyyum and Spring Concert with students from all grades taking part in musical performances. Here Grade 5 students perform a dance to Passover melodies. Seen, from left, are Carly Eidelman, Morgan Fishman, Talia Goldberg, Jordana Rosen, Zoe Berkley and Hayley Eidelman.

Christian-Jewish talks resume

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

National talks between Jews and Christians are back on, more than a year after pointed statements from Christian churches blaming Mideast violence on Israel led the Jewish side to suspend involvement in the dialogue.

Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation, which has brought together leaders from both religions about three times a year since 1977, was scheduled to resume talks at the Roman Catholic diocese in Kingston June 18.

Canadian Jewish Congress suspended its participation in the dialogue last April, after public statements by Anglican and United Church leaders blamed Mideast violence squarely on Israel.

In statements published in a national newspaper, the moderator of the United Church of Canada, Marion Pardy, said the root of the violence and instability is Israel's "illegal occupation of Palestinian territories," adding that Israel "will ultimately have to withdraw from Palestinian territories" if peace is truly desired.

Michael Peers, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, sounded similar sentiments, saying the current violence has deep roots, but that Israel's occupation "is at its heart... When Israel withdraws from its illegal occupation of Palestine, when Palestinians are free to return in peace to their homeland, when civilians are no longer the targets of terror, either for suicide bombers or government tanks, then healing will begin."

Congress called Peers' pastoral letter the last straw, and announced that it was pulling out of the consultation.

Anglican-Jewish relations were already shaky. In 2001, the *Anglican Journal* reported on a five-day visit to the West Bank and Gaza by Canadian church leaders and repeated Palestinian comparisons of the situation "to a second holocaust."

CJC president Keith Landy said Congress pulled out because the churches flouted the dialogue's rules on making public statements without consulting their Jewish partners.

"It was clear there really wasn't dialogue in the sense that a number of members decided they would avoid a protocol that was previously established, namely, that they would express views on the Middle East without following the protocol to table such views," Landy said last week.

He said a "further protocol" was to be debated in Kingston.

The Middle East still weighs heavily on Jewish-Christian relations, said Sister Jean Goulet, director of ecumenical and interfaith relations for the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Everyone wants peace, but the question is, how do we go about it?" she told *The CJN*.

The agenda at the June 18 meeting was to have included approval of a document intended to bring both sides back to the table. Goulet declined to discuss its contents. "It's about co-operation and how to move forward."

The national consultation involves about 20 officials from the Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, United and Anglican churches. The Jewish side is represented by three pulpit rabbis and four community officials.

During the past year, Congress has continued its participation in the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, a local effort.

OMISSION

In the article "Glow necklace is the all-time favourite party giveaway" (*CJN* Party Planner, June 5, page B30), Incredible Novelties Inc. (905-881-9900) was left off the list of other one-stop party shops.

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Longtime JF&CS staffer 'was more than a money person'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Obituary

Four weeks before her death on June 5 from pancreatic cancer, Eva Landa still managed to get to her office at Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS) one or two mornings a week.

"She would have paid to work there," said her husband Arthur, executive director of Associated Hebrew Schools. "Her training was in accounting, but her love of JF&CS was largely with respect to her ability to help people."

Eva Landa, who was the JF&CS director of administration and financial assistance services, was born in Budapest 61 years ago. As a small child in her mother's arms, she was rescued by Raoul Wallenberg when he pulled them off a train, Arthur said.

In 1956, the family moved to Montreal, where she attended Sir George Williams University. She graduated with a bachelor of commerce degree in 1961.

Prior to moving to Toronto in 1980 to set up a branch of her family's business, Landa spent three years as controller of the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association of Montreal.

Among her non-work activities, she participated in the first Yad Beyad program, teaching English to Russian olim in Israel in the early 1990s.

Gordon Wolfe, executive director of JF&CS, who hired Landa 20 years ago as controller, realized right away that she was "more than a money person, more than a number cruncher. She really cared about the Jewish community and she cared about people."

Eva Landa

Her evolution from controller to her most recent position reflected her love of the program she oversaw, which allocated money to JF&CS clients in need, said Wolfe.

Landa's daughter Jacqueline Fabian recalled her in a eulogy as someone with energy, determination, grace, a great sense of humour and a zest for life.

In addition to her husband of 22 years, she is survived by her parents, George and Maria Hegedus, children Jacqueline and David Fabian, grandchildren Matthew and Jillian Fabian, and stepsons Adam, Jeremy and Shaun Landa.

SHAI LACHAYAL CAMPAIGN: Students at Bialik Hebrew Day School raised more than $4,000 through the Shai Lachayal campaign, which provides recreational facilities for Israeli soldiers during their military service. Pictured with Grade 8 students Alanna Tevel (left) and Sara Gurza, are representatives from different units of the Israel Defence Forces.

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*"Journal Of Aerosol Medicine" Volume 8, Number 3, 1995 Fall Issue USA

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Jewish Education...

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Marshall Kesten
Chair,
UJA Federation
Board of Jewish
Education

Dr. Seymour Epstein (Epi)
Vice-President for Jewish Education,
UJA Federation
of Greater Toronto

As we approach the end of the 5763 school year, we reflect on the thousands of hours that Jews have spent over the last year studying the riches of our literary, legal, and moral legacy. Think of the school children learning the shapes of our ancient alphabet (the very source of the English word we use for it), the teachers preparing the next day's class in Torah, the men who rise early to study the day's portion of Talmud at 6:00 AM, the women who gather in evening chugim to pore over a sacred text, the youth workers who read Zionist literature to prepare their next program, families engaged in a program that transcends generations, the tutor drilling a student on the finer details of dikduk...

Someone recently asked us to find a study that illustrates the effectiveness of Jewish schooling in preventing intermarriage and assimilation. Not only do such studies exist, but it's fairly obvious that a Jew who is Jewishly literate, with reinforcement from both a proudly Jewish family and an active Jewish community, will probably continue a lively identification with Jewish customs and values. That, however, misses the point. The reason Jews of all ages study Jewish sources is found in our first document, the Torah. "You shall teach them diligently" is a formula we taught the entire world. It is our strategic plan. We do it for its own sake in the same way that we honour our parents, care for the poor, and practice business ethics. *Talmud Torah*, the act of Jewish learning, is a value in itself as much as it is our assurance of a flourishing future.

We are proud of this community's commitment to Jewish education, but we know that there is still much to do on the road to universal Jewish literacy. As we study the summer text of *Pirkei Avot* (Ethics of the Fathers) we are reminded that while we are not obligated to complete the task, neither do we have the right to ignore it.

Schools Turn to Israel

by Suzanne Wintrob

Enhanced by its extraordinary diversity, Toronto's Jewish school system placed Israel front and centre this academic year. Here's how our numerous day schools and supplementary schools uniquely celebrated the State of Israel.

At **Toronto Jewish Academy Ohr Menachem,** senior kindergarten students held a *Shavua Yisrael* (Israel Week) to connect them with the land of Israel. Led by teacher Rachel Sevy, the 18 children spent the week making flags, maps, and a bird of peace, learning Israeli songs, and tasting Israeli foods such as falafel, couscous, sunflower seeds and hummus. They paraded into the other classrooms proudly displaying their arts and crafts, and then took a "trip" to Israel to visit popular tourist sites including the Dead Sea, where they learned about salt and the effects of flotation.

For *Yom Ha'atzmaut*, the Grade 6 students and teacher Michele Herrmann led a school-wide assembly that began with a tribute to Israel's fallen soldiers, with each student representing a soldier killed in one of Israel's battles. The Grade 2 and 4 students and their teachers Nili Shane and Nechama Drookman concluded the assembly by animating the poem *Israel My Beautiful Blossoming Land* by Datya Ben Dor.

The hall was exquisitely decorated with a *Kotel* full of children's handprints, Midrashic stories on the walls, and dozens of Israeli flags.

The event, which drew more than 200 people, began with a *Yom Ha'atzmaut* service led by Solel Congregation Rabbi Lawrence Englander. The children lit candles to express their hopes for peace.

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For more than a decade, over 300 students in Grades 5 to 8 at **Eitz Chaim Schools** have steeped themselves in *Torah, Talmud and Mishnah* to raise money for Israel. This year's UJA Federation affiliated Learn-a-thon, held just before the holiday of *Shavuot*, was no exception, with close to $10,000 raised for the Jewish State.

"Israel is in a bad situation so the least we can do is learn Torah for Israel and its merits," says Moshe Hillel Lipson, 13. "We just want to try our hardest to support Israel as much as we can."

This year at the boys' campus, 130 students held one-on-one learning sessions and also heard from a number of prominent Rabbis, as well as Peter Ekstein, representing UJA Federation. Students raise money by soliciting sponsors from family and friends, with the class that raises the most money winning a trip to play whirly ball. And over at the girls' campus, some 200 students spent half a day learning in small groups, listening to guest lecturers, and watching a video presentation on the holy sites of Israel.

****

The Toronto Heschel School, which uses the arts to teach everything from *Chumash* to science, celebrated Israel this year in a variety of arts-based ways. As part of the school's *Yom Ha'atzmaut* Israeli Songfest, every class presented a song or dance and an art project based on the theme of peace. During their Ontario curriculum unit on pioneers, the Grade 3 students studied Israeli pioneers and they borrowed a huge interactive floor map of Israel from the BJE in order to explore the country's geography, people and culture.

On *Yom Yerushalayim*, the children again used song, art and movement to discuss Jerusalem in a variety of ways - its history, its literature and poetry, its conflicts, and the contributions of its citizens to Israeli society and to the world at large.

Ulpanat Orot girls participated in the ***birthright Israel*** *program*

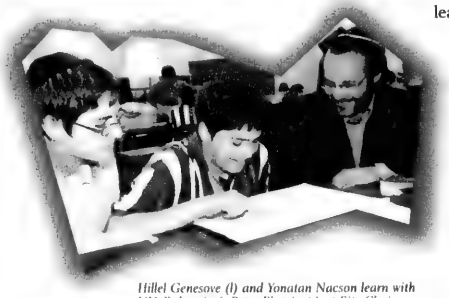
****

With almost all of **Yeshivat Or Chaim**'s graduates heading to Israel for at least one year of Torah study, it's no wonder Israel is the focus of most school activities.

Over the past year, students at the school undertook a number of fundraising efforts to help our beloved state. They raised $1,000 to support Israel's MIAs (soldiers missing in action) by selling blue lapel ribbons, $1,200 to help poor families in Israel through *Od Yosef Chai* by selling *mishloach manot* at Purim, and donated 10 per cent of money raised through school barbeques, Sukkah building and a pre-Pesach car wash to local and Israeli charities.

Special guest speakers also brought students closer to Israel. And that's not all. The entire grade 12 class - both at Or Chaim and at Ulpanat Orot girls school - participated in a *birthright Israel* experience during winter break. A number of boys joined the March of the Living, and two students - Daniel Gutenberg and Yonatan Halpern - came in first and second respectively in this year's National Bible Contest.

"The ideology of our school is fixed upon Israel and we all feel for the Jews there," says Grade 11 student Yoni Grysman, who organized the school's recent family learning program in which 115 boys and their fathers completed a tractate of Talmud in memory of Israel's victims of terror.



Hillel Genesove (l) and Yonatan Nacson learn with UJA Federation's Peter Ekstein (r) at Eitz Chaim

****

Beit Sefer Solel, the only supplementary school in Mississauga, with 230 students from preschool to Grade 10, held an Israel Fair and raised more than $1,900 for 10 Israel-based organizations. The Grade 6 class, under the guidance of teachers Esther Turner, Judy Miller and Judith Tamari, researched various organizations and then created 10 booths with accompanying display boards to describe each one. Visitors to the Israel Fair bought $3 tokens as they entered the hall and dropped as many tokens as they wished into the charity of their choice.

UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education

...On the Move

A Maximum Learning Opportunity

Donald Bennett

As accountant Donald Bennett puts it, mini is maxi."It's interesting, it's exciting, it's provocative, and it has certainly increased the sum total of my Jewish knowledge," says Bennett about the Florence Melton Adult Mini School in Toronto, sponsored by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

Bennett, part of the school's first 20 graduates who earned a certificate in Jewish studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, at a ceremony held earlier this month, spent two hours a week over the past two years learning about Jewish history, lifecycles, concepts and ethics. The text based curriculum, developed at Hebrew U., is completely interactive, with no exams or grades - just learning on a high level. There are currently more than 65 students in the school.

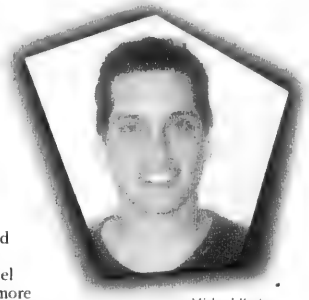
"Some people are making up for lost time because they did not have the opportunity to study as a child or have forgotten what they learned," says school director Loretta Tanenbaum. "Others are anxious to be able to create a Jewish environment for their children or grandchildren, while still others want to be able to answer their friends, neighbours and colleagues when they are asked questions about Judaism."

Graduate Patricia Tolkin Eppel, UJA Federation's Director of Planning for York Region, says some of her most satisfying academic time was as an undergraduate student in philosophy and biblical studies at the University of Dublin in Ireland. That's why she was delighted to happen upon the Florence Melton School which, she says, offers adult education in the context of a well conceived curriculum.

"While text is unchanging, the interpretative process and intensive discussion are what define Jewish study," she says. "It is that process, as much as the content, which has honed great Jewish minds over the generations. The Florence Melton School, led by exceptional teachers with diverse academic backgrounds, gave me an appreciation for the value of that process. I highly recommend this thoughtful, stimulating adult education program. It exceeded my expectations."

Beginning in September, the Florence Melton Adult Mini School will offer both morning and evening classes. For information call (416) 789-7400.

Bible Brings Dreams to Life



Michael Kurin

Michael Kurin couldn't believe the rush he felt as he competed on a Jerusalem stage this past *Yom Ha'atzmaut* as a competitor in the International Bible Contest.

"Past winners told me it was their trip of a lifetime but I just couldn't imagine what could be so special," says the Grade 11 student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), Richmond Hill campus, who placed second in this year's Diaspora competition. "But when I got to Israel, I completely understood what they meant. The experience was unbelievable, especially meeting so many kids from all over the world."

Despite months of preparation that took him away from his friends, Michael admits he was extremely nervous when he and his family first walked into the hall where the competition took place. He then endured a grueling day of oral and written tests and was totally surprised each time they called his name to advance to the next level. The shock stayed with him the entire day, especially when he came in second after a competitor from New York. "It was a great honour to represent Canada," says Michael, 16, who competed in Israel together with other 2002 Canadian contest winners Hillel Nadler, Leah Breslow and Gilad Ben-Shach. "During the Nationals, I was always so impressed to know people who made it to the Israel contest. I truly never thought I'd get there."

Michael, a Bible contest contender since Grade 7, says he couldn't have done it alone. He credits his Judaic studies teachers at both United Synagogue Day School and CHAT-RH for instilling in him a love of *Ivrit* and *Tanach* and a greater love of learning. His proud family kept him on schedule, he says, by overlooking his household chores and encouraging him along the way and he especially thanks his parents, Susan and Jack Kurin for that. His friends took all his studying in stride and even declared his return from Israel as Michael Kurin Day with banners and a huge cake.

"If I were in public school, nobody would understand why I was doing this," he says. "It would just be weird to be always studying and never going out. But my friends were extremely supportive and that meant so much." Michael hopes to see more Canadians win big in future Bible contests and he'll be offering his tutoring services to help them get there. "Students who represent Canada have invested months of heavy-duty studying to get to the competition level," says Silvia Eilath, Judaic Studies Day School Consultant at the Board of Jewish Education and Coordinator of the Bible Contest. "In fact, this year's Nationals in Montreal drew students from a wide variety of schools representing every branch of Judaism. That's the beauty of this contest."

Fund Nurtures Educational Innovation

Jewish family education is family fun at Beth Ezedec Congregation

Lindy and Sheldon Goodman have always believed that Jewish education is essential for the future of the Jewish community. That's why the Toronto couple has focused their volunteer efforts on many aspects of Toronto's Jewish educational world and why it was natural for them to align themselves with *Midrash*, a project backed by UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative that matches the needs of the community with the ideals of passionate donors.

"The goal of the Gross and Goodman Family Fund is to identify new tools to enhance Jewish education throughout the community," explains Lindy.

"Sheldon and I firmly believe that the future of Jewish education will define the future of the Jewish people, so it is vital that new approaches and methods are identified so that our educators can instill a desire for Jewish learning in our children. *Midrash* helps them take these solid steps forward."

Since its launch by the Board of Jewish Education in 2000, *Midrash* - the term referring to the first Rabbinic commentaries on the Bible - has been providing teachers and families with effective new tools for enhancing Jewish education. The program consists of four interconnected "houses":

• **Teacher Training and Staff Development:** The New Teachers' Network offers beginning teachers a forum for professional development and support. The Reflective Practice program gives experienced teachers opportunities for personal and professional growth aimed at extending their abilities to meet the diverse needs of their students.

• **Etgar** (Hebrew for *challenge*), a teacher incentive program, encourages day school and supplementary school teachers to submit proposals for funding to develop innovative educational materials. More than 11 exciting projects are underway, ranging from *Firsts for Jewish Women* to *Psalms, Music and Healing.*

• **Mishpacha** (Hebrew for *family*) provides both funding and professional development in the area of Jewish Family Education. This is an outreach program of sorts, giving families the opportunity to create richer Jewish lives.

• **Research** is also crucial to Midrash, enabling the BJE to learn more about the community and its needs. An econometric model, for example, is examining tuition fees and how schools use their funding. The results will allow the BJE to help individual schools set their fee structures and learn how these decisions impact their parent population.

"Thanks to the partnership between the Gross and Goodman Family Fund and the Board of Jewish Education, huge inroads have been made over the last few years in all areas of professional development and research," says Ruth Rohn, the BJE's Family Education Consultant and Etgar Coordinator. "By working in concert with our valued donors, we can ensure our children grow up with a deep pride in their heritage and a positive look towards the future of the Jewish people."

For more information about day and supplementary school Jewish education in Toronto, visit our website at www.bjetoronto.org, call us at 416.633.7770 or email to bje@ujafed.org

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, June 23, is deadline for July 3 issue and Monday, June 30, is deadline for July 10. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 19

ABBA EBAN FILM SERIES

View Heritage: Civilization and the Jews by **Abba Eban** at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. Introduction and commentary by **David Goldberg**. 8 p.m. at 55 Yeomans Rd. Call 416-633-3988.

Saturday, June 21

FAMILY SHABBAT

Adath Shalom Sisterhood sponsors a family Shabbat with speaker **Avrum Rosensweig** of Ve'ahavta. Services at 9 a.m., followed by a special kiddush.

Sunday, June 22

ZAREINU MOVEATHON

Zareinu Educational Centre, the city's only Jewish day school and treatment centre providing special education to children with physical and developmental challenges, holds its sixth annual Moveathon at Earl Bales Park. Come for a 100K master ride, 50K Challenge Ride, 20K Family Ride, 10K Clergy on the Run, 10K Rollerblade, 2K Fun Loop, or come to the carnival and picnic from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 416-661-1800 or visit www.zareinu.org.

MOUNT SINAI RUN/WALK

Support the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at the Mount Sinai Hospital 5K and 10K run or walk. For details, call 416-586-8203 or visit mtsinai.on.ca/msh_run_walk.

CANOE TRIP

Join the 4th annual Aish20s Georgian Bay canoeing day trip. $35 includes lunch and canoe rental. Meet at Aish HaTorah on Clark Ave. at 8 a.m. Carpools will be arranged. To register call **Michal** at 905-764-1818, ext. 225 or visit www.aish20s.com.

WINGATE MEETING

The General Wingate Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion breakfast meeting, 9:15 a.m., 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024. No meetings in July and August.

GIANT GARAGE SALE

Soleil Chapter of Jewish Women International is selling odds and ends, nearly new clothes, books, toys, kitchenware and more from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Antibes Community Centre parking lot, 140 Antibes Dr. All proceeds to charity.

YIDDISHLAND CAFE

Workmen's Circle presents Our Mother Sings, Yiddish music with **Denise Williams, Michael Mandel, Nina Shapilsky** and **Rodion Boshoer**. 471 Lawrence Ave. W. at 7:30 p.m. $12. Tickets available at Israel's or call 416-787-2081.

ISRAEL: THE MIRACLE

The Entertainment and Cultural Connection presents **Stanley Morais**, general manager of El Al in Canada, discussing Israel: What Is Our Role? 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Members free, guests $2.

HAMILTON CONCERT

Beth Jacob Synagogue in Hamilton presents a gala cantorial concert featuring cantors **Shneur Bielak, Sidney Dworkin, Ben Silverberg** and **David Edwards** singing music from the Golden Age of Cantors to Music of the Modern Age. 7:30 p.m. Tickets $18 in advance, $25 at the door. Call 905-522-1351. For bus service from Toronto, contact Shaar Shalom Synagogue 905-889-4975 or Lodzer Centre 416-636-6665.

Monday, June 23

THE MENUVAL OF MINSK

Enjoy this light-hearted musical comedy by the Medina Theatre Ensemble. 15 Hove St. at 8 p.m. $5. For details call 416-785-0344.

Continued on page 23

ב"ה

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Berger, Liora	ליאורה	Farber, Shale	שמואל	Horvath, Jesse	יהודה	Landy, Rachel	רחל	Popper, Tammy	תמי	Sheps, David	דוד	Winegust, Adira	אדירה
Bitran, Michelle	יעל	Feinberg, Yael	יעל	Hudadatov, Arnon	ארנון	Levinson, Elise	רבקה	Raynai, Ori	אורי	Sherman, Natania	נתניה	Wolfshout, Kim	אילת
Black, Shira	שירה	Finkelstein, Eitan	איתן	Hudes, Alan	חיים	Lichtblau, Shauna	מלכה	Reiter, Hilary	השה	Shiff, Jeremy	ירמיהו	Yolleck, Aaron	שמואל
Blankenstein, Jonathan	יונתן	Fisch, Jordan	משה	Izrailov, Yosef	יוסף	Lipsitz, Avi	אבי	Reshef, Boaz	בועז	Shloush, Aaron	אהרון	Young, Alexander	אלי
Braude, Natalie	אפתר	Fogelman, Brad	ברוך	Kaganovich, Alina	אלינה	Lipson, Jeffrey	יעקב	Rewald, Hayley	עביה	Shuman, Jennifer	גיטה	Zagdanski, Jordan	יונתן
Braunstein, Iris	איריס	Fortinsky, Kevin	עקבא	Kallinikos, Chelsea	חנה	Litwack, Elizabeth	יהודית	Rosenberg, Joshua	יהושע	Singer, Danielle	דניאלה	Zagdanski, Tamar	תמר
Braverman, Samantha	שלומית	Frankel, Maor	מאור	Kamen, Jody	אלנה	Lufi, Reva	ריבה	Rotenberg, Marty	משה	Skurka, Montana	מאיה	Zahavy, Sheera	שירה
Brown, Sarah	שרה	Freitag, Laura	ליאור	Kamen, Leore	ליאור	Maidany, Danielle	דניאל	Rothman, Samuel	שמחה	Slochowski, Nell	ליאל	Zaretsky, Carina	גולדה
Cait, Jonah	יוסף	Friedlander, Daniel	דניאל	Kandel-Lieberman, Danielle	דבורה	March, Evan	אהרון	Rothschild, Joseph	יוסף	Smuskowitz, Lisa	רחל	Zendel, Rebecca	רבקה
Chernyak, Roman	רמי	Friedman, Adam	אדם	Karkheck, Lindsay	פנינה	Marcovich, Jonah	יונה	Rozowsky, Simon	שמעון	Somlo, Jeffrey	אברהם	Zigler, Mara	מרה
Cross, David	דוד	Gafny, Limor	לימור	Karp, Ariela	אריאלה	Margolian, Sheri	שירה	Rubinoff, Robert	ראובן	Stern, Arlee	אריאלה	Zilnik, Ariel	ארי

Continued from page 22

LITERARY EVENING

The Yiddish Culture Council presents **Itzhok Niborski**, a professor at the Sorbonne, discussing the Nearly Forgotten Moishe Nadir. 471 Lawrence Ave. W. at 7:30 p.m. $5.

Tuesday, June 24

COOKING DEMONSTRATION

The Pride of Israel Sisterhood presents a cooking demonstration with **Norene Gilletz**. Sample the menu, refreshments and door prizes. 7:00 p.m. 59 Lissom Cres. Tickets $25 at office 416-226-0111. Wheelchair accessible. Limited tickets.

PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Learning and the National Coalition Building Institute offer an evening with Cherie Brown, executive director of NCBI and vice-president of Brit Tzedek V'Shalom. She will discuss Peace in the Middle East: How We Can Make a Difference Towards a Healing Solution. 7:30 p.m. 151 Eglinton Ave W. $10. 416-485-7007 ext. 0.

MIZRACHI CONCERT

Join Mizrachi of Canada for a concert featuring chazzanim **Chaim Adler** and **Yitzchak Meir Helfgot**. For tickets, call 416-630-9266. Sephardic Kehila Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25

SUPPORT GROUP

Young Jewish adults with eating disorders are invited to a support group that meets every second Wednesday. Tonight, 8 to 9:30 p.m. at 452 Coldstream Ave. For details, contact tamspeisman@hotmail.com.

DEALING WITH TERROR

Rabbi Seth Mandell will give a talk titled "A Jewish Response to Terror: How We Can Make a Difference in the Lives of Fellow Jews in Israel Victimized by Terror," Kehillat Shaarei Torah Synagogue. 8:00 p.m. 2640 Bayview Ave. For details, call **Ali Feldman** 416 223-4847.

GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada holds its monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayin Synagogue. This is the annual "Let's Hear From Members" evening about new research strategies that led to genealogical breakthroughs. $3 non-members.

Other News

TO OUR GOOD HEALTH V

The Association of Jewish Seniors presents To Our Good Health V, Thursday, June 26 at Earl Bales Park Community Centre from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Presentations include, **Al Gorlick** on Seniors' Contribution to Our Community and National Council of Jewish Women discussing Healthy Heart. Bring a brown bag lunch. Drinks and desserts will be served. Advance registration required, paid members free, guests $3. 416-635-2860.

BAYSVILLE SYNAGOGUE

Bnai Isaac Synagogue in Baysville, Muskoka, opens for the 2003 season Friday, June 27. For service times, call **Aaron Jessin** 416-636-2223 or 705-764-3084.

GARDEN TOUR

Kehillat Shaarei Torah Sisterhood Garden Tour fundraising event tours six gardens in Thornhill and six in the Bayview-York Mills area Sunday, June 29, 12 to 5p.m. $10. Call **Rachel** at 416-229-2600 for tickets, brochure and map.

LONDON TOURNAMENT

Temple Israel of London, Ont., holds its annual golf tournament Sunday, July 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For details, call 519-858-4400.

SWING INTO SUMMER

Shaar Shalom Singles hosts an evening of dance with DJ **Dave Jones**, Sunday, July 6, 7:30 p.m. 2 Simonston Blvd. $12, cash bar. For details, call David 416-224-9494.

SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED

Leadership Sinai has rescheduled Shaken, Not Stirred, which was postponed from its original date of April 3 due to SARS. The event will take place Thursday, July 10. The fifth annual fundraiser will support Mount Sinai Hospital's Advanced Surgical Technology Centre and the Leadership Sinai Chair in Surgery. For tickets, contact **Miriam Kumer** 416-586-3192 or www.mtsinai.on.ca/lead ershipsinai.

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch & Learn in Retirement is going to The Sound of Music at Stage West Wednesday, June 25. To reserve call **Shelly** at 416-789-3291 ext. 233.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday a dance, June 22, Saturday dances June 28, July 5, 12; Casino Rama, June 25, July 9; Casino Niagara, July 10; Cruise and casino, August 14. Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 19, picnic, June 26. bingo; June 29, dance. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

The Morris 'Nafty' Naftolin Komedy Kabaret, Thursday, June 19 at 2:30 p.m. Free.

Sunday Afternoon Tea Dance with Tom Weiss and His Esquires. Sunday, June 22, 2:30-4:30 p.m. Members $3, non-members $6.

Canada Day Celebration, Wednesday, June 25, 11 a.m.- 3 p.m. BBQ and entertainment. Free.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. June 24, concert. For information, call **Anna** ext.110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn with Sema Sage on Women in the Bible, Tuesday, June 24, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Reserve at service desk, members $4, non-members $8. For details, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

Strawberry Social, Wednesday, June 25 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Register at service desk, members $3, non-members $6. For details, call **Mara** at ext. 2275.

Music Appreciation Program every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. No fee. Contact **Melissa** at ext. 2297.

Bridge Classes, Mondays 10 a.m. to noon in the common room, members $40, non-members $60. Contact **Mara** ext. 2275.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

A Walk In Old Jewish Toronto, with Cyrel Troster, Sunday, June 22 at 10 a.m. Meet at the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St Andrews St. in Kensington Market. Join a guided walk into the heart of old Jewish Toronto. Bagel brunch follows at the Miles Nadal JCC at noon. $5 suggested donation.

Summer 2003: Summer Camps & Programs for ages 0-7 at the Miles Nadal JCC:

Infant Centre: Summer Babies. 3 to 14 months. Starts: June 16, 9:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Creating Together in The Summer: 14 months to 3 years. Starts: June 16, Monday to Friday 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Now You're Two: 2 to 3 years. A pre-nursery program. Starts: June 16, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30-11 a.m.

Mini Me Day Camp: 3 to 4 years. Starts: June 30, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Everything For Me: A Day Camp for 5-to 7-year-olds. Starts: June 30, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Good Age Club, silent auction, live music and the play *Two For a Loonie*, Thursday, June 26, 5 to 8 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Limited spaces still available for Centre Camp, July 1 to Aug. 22, ages 2½ to 15. For information, call **Andrew**, ext. 265.

Koffler School of Music will be holding auditions for the Nashir Children's Choir, formerly Koffler Renanim, with **Allan Friedman** and **Debra Aronson**, Thursday, June 19 and Monday, June 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Call ext. 228.

Koffler Music registrations open for fall classes in private piano, flute, recorder, violin & guitar, and classes for kids percussion, adult band, adult sing-a-long, & Royal Conservatory Group Classes, age 0-6, and Suzuki piano, violin & cello. Call ext. 228.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts offers summer programs in ceramics, painting and drawing, and stone sculpture. For details, call **Perlie** ext 269.

DIG/DUG @ the Koffler Gallery with the seven exhibiting artists: **Isaac Applebaum, Adam Brickell, Adrian Fish, Simon Glass, Katherine Knight, Arthur Renwick & bh yael**. Moderated by guest curator **Vid Ingelevics**. Admission free.

Register now for fall drama classes at Leah Posluns Theatre School. Call ext. 464 for information.

Coming this fall to the Koffler School of Visual Arts, photography for adults and kids and calligraphy. Call **Perlie** ext 269.

Intermediate bridge, declarer and play defence techniques, 55 Plus summer course. 8-week session begins Tuesday, June 24, 1-3 p.m. Advanced bridge, modern conventions for advancing players, 55 Plus summer course. 8-week session begins Thursday, June 26, 2 to 4 p.m. Call **Teme** at ext. 364.

All-Canadian tour to Atlantic Canada. July 2-11. Co-sponsored by BJCC 55 Plus and Bernard Betel Centre. For details, call **Teme** ext. 364.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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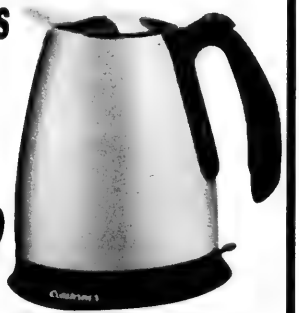

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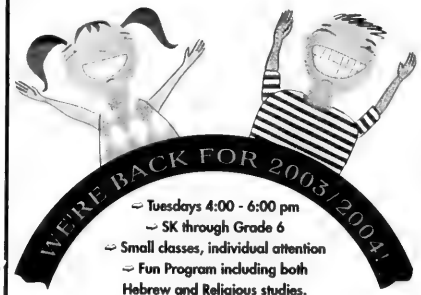

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Coast to Coast

New Holocaust museum opens

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Premier Jean Charest and Liberal MP and prime minister-hopeful Paul Martin joined numerous other political and Jewish leaders June 8 at the Gelber Conference Centre in calling on the recently renovated museum in the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (MHMC) to keep the legacy of the lost six million alive for future generations.

"If we ask one [thing] of our children, it should be that they bring their own children here," Charest told an audience of more than 1,000 at the museum's official inauguration.

The event was a historic one for the Jewish community, the culmination of years of planning to transform the 24-year-old centre into Canada's first Holocaust museum and educational resource. The $5-million cost was underwritten by all levels of government as well as private sources. It opens to the public June 30.

Included in the audience were hundreds of Holocaust survivors, who gathered two hours before the program began for a reception in a specially erected tent in the courtyard behind 1 Cummings Square.

Security was tight as guests, including former Quebec premiers Lucien Bouchard and Bernard Landry, Montreal mayor Gérald Tremblay, Federal Revenue Minister Elinor Caplan, Bloc Québécois leader Gilles Duceppe and many other dignitaries, arrived for the almost three-hour program hosted by master of ceremonies Marvin Tanner, the museum's outgoing president.

All the speakers, who addressed the audience either from the podium or through pre-recorded video messages, such as Elie Wiesel, expressed their admiration for the new museum and talked about the meaning of the Holocaust and the dedication of those who brought the project to fruition.

Charest, who toured the museum with his son, Antoine, 15, said he was struck by how the museum conveyed what he called the utter "indifference" of the world as the Holocaust began to unfold insidiously over time.

"The rest of the world turned its back," he said.

He said the museum tells "a great story of love that accompanied this horror... a story of courage and determination."

Martin ardently defended Israel's right to exist and recollected his childhood in Windsor, Ont., far removed from the Holocaust he had heard nothing about.

He said the Holocaust is a tragedy that "tests the very limits of what I understand about humanity."

To loud applause, Martin assured Israeli ambassador Haim Divon that Israel's right to exist, born out of the "ashes of genocide," should never be called into question.

"What happened will never, never, happen again," Martin vowed.

The museum's archives contain 6,000 items and 3,000 hours of testimony. They include 418 artifacts and 372 photos, almost entirely donated by survivors living in Montreal, the third largest survivor community in the world, and per capita the second largest (Israel is first).

Divon called it "fitting" that the museum be in Montreal, the "cradle of Jewish life in Canada."

Caplan, speaking on behalf of Prime Minster Jean Chrétien, lauded Canada's current policy of tolerance but decried its wartime policy of turning away Jews at its borders and its internment camps. She called the museum a "true and outstanding accomplishment for Canada and the world.

"It will help the story be told for generations to come."

BJE adds $1 million to education budget

Continued from page 1

While he said achieving universal access is one of the BJE's strategic objectives, Epstein acknowledged that "we are far from achieving that goal."

However, he said the funding increase is part of an effort to bring tuition assistance more in line with current middle income salaries.

The current guidelines allow a family earning a gross income between $98,500 and $100,499 to apply for subsidies that would allow them to pay tuition of $9,450 for one child, $12,200 for two, $14,400 for three and $18,950 for four.

The children can be in different schools, as long as they are affiliated with and funded by the BJE, Epstein explained.

Right now, Epstein said, the most effective way to provide relief for tuition expenses is through subsidies.

Since the BJE can only provide $7.85 million towards the $120 million needed to operate Jewish day schools in Toronto, subsidies seem to be the most effective way to provide assistance, Epstein said.

"Subsidies allows the BJE to provide assistance because money can be targeted at those families who need it most," he said.

But, he added, in implementing this policy, the BJE has always had to balance two issues: allocating community resources efficiently while still being sensitive to parents who ask for assistance.

Epstein said the BJE must also take other factors into account when allocating funds. "There are now schools applying for funding that haven't received money before, and some of those schools have a lot of tuition-assisted students."

Rabbi Moshe Stern, spiritual leader of Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue and a past president of the Vaad Harabanim, said that while the increase in federation funding is a step in the right direction, he doesn't believe it will be sufficient to meet the needs of families that are struggling.

"I understand the demands on federation money – both here and in Israel. But Jewish education must be a priority," he said.

Wayne Levin, a spokesperson for a group of day school parents that is advocating for lower tuition fees, said he is "extremely pleased to see that UJA Federation is extending both their support for Jewish day schools and their leadership position among North American communities by substantially increasing their funding for those requiring tuition assistance.

"We hope that this additional support will allow the schools to revise their 2003/04 tuition fees downward and ensure that those parents who planned to remove their children from the day schools will able to reconsider," he said.

The Star *blames Israel for undermining peace*

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The *Toronto Star*'s editorial, "Mideast recklessness" (June 11) captured a widespread western sentiment that Israel's failed attempt on June 10 to kill Abdel Rantisi, a Hamas leader, was a case of bad timing – "atrocious" was the paper's exact term.

The reigning logic at the *Star* and other media outlets seems to be that Hamas is merely a negative force – a "militant Palestinian group" – and not the terrorist organization that even the Canadian government now acknowledges it is. The *Star* feels that Israel's attempt to kill Rantisi while Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas is trying to "broker a ceasefire" with Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah's own Al-Aqsa brigades inflames Hamas and undermines peace efforts.

As appealing as this argument is, it is based on a number of fallacies. Fairly, the *Star* acknowledges that "Hamas has killed hundreds" and that "[Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon was provoked, to be sure" by Hamas' murder of four soldiers "even as Sharon began to uproot" settler outposts.

However, the paper fails to recognize that Israel cannot allow a charade to continue in which it complies with its commitments under the road map while Hamas and other terrorist groups, now explicitly acting in concert, murder Israelis. Seven Israelis were killed in the days just after their government started dismantling outposts and began allowing more Palestinian workers into Israel.

Moreover, contrary to the *Star*'s assertion that Abbas struggled to broker a ceasefire with Hamas, two crucial points must be made: First, the road map demands not merely a ceasefire, but also the disarming and dismantling of the terrorist groups. Second, Abbas is severely constrained by PA President Yasser Arafat who has colluded all along with the terrorists. Abbas is powerless to act effectively against extremists dedicated to Israel's destruction and has openly declared that he has no intention of using force to rein them in.

The PA as presently constituted also cannot act against terrorism and violence. Indeed, Arafat's continuing role as head of five security services is itself a serious violation of the road map's call for true reform of the PA. Israel must act when its civilians and soldiers are being targeted. The *Toronto Sun* cogently defended this position in its editorial, "Israel has the right to fight back" (June 12).

Other leaders in this situation would act exactly the way Sharon did. But since Israel is always judged by impossibly higher standards than any other democracy, it faces international criticism unknown anyplace else.

Returning to the *Star*'s fallacies, let us quickly note the following: Sharon's actions did not stir up Hamas' "fury." Rather it was the effort to initiate the road map, which Rantisi so vehemently opposes, that provoked the organization's wrath. And the *Star*'s claim that most Palestinians "want a state of their own, for peace" is belied by the latest poll results from the Pew Research Center, which indicate that 80 per cent of Palestinians consider their "rights and needs" incompatible with Israel's existence.

The slaughter of 17 Israelis, as of this writing, on a Jerusalem bus on June 11 was just the latest Hamas atrocity. It hearkens back to the murderous campaign of February and March of 1996 when then-Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres accelerated the implementation of the Oslo process – a frightening prospect for groups like Hamas, Islamic Jihad and even major elements of Fatah.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Hamilton's 'Rabbi Z' says goodbye at UJA Walkathon

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Like the Pied Piper, "Rabbi Z" led his eager followers – adults, children and even dogs – on a 5.5 km walk through the streets of Hamilton (Hamlin?) on a balmy Sunday morning.

But unlike the original story, the ending to this one was uplifting.

The sky had threatened rain, but fortunately it held off until the evening. The 2003 UJA Walkathon, held June 8, went off without a hitch.

Walkathon co-chairs Andrea Molot and Jill Gaffe.

Promoted as the farewell walk about town for Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz, spiritual leader of Temple Anshe Sholom, the event provided a chance for 250 community members to socialize with the man known here as Rabbi Z before he leaves next month to become chief rabbi of the Community Synagogue in Port Washington, N.Y.

Hamilton UJA Federation and the Hamilton Jewish Community Centre sponsored this year's walkathon, which was co-chaired by Andrea Molot and Jill Gaffe. The walkathon has raised $17,500 to date, and additional commitments are expected to bring the total to $20,000.

Corporate sponsors are responsible for about half the total, while individuals canvassing donors raised the rest.

Proceeds will help send Israeli child victims of terror or children who have family members who are victims to one of the summer camps run for disadvantaged children by the Jewish Agency for Israel. The cost per child is $500 a week.

The walkathon will provide the Israeli children an opportunity of a lifetime, Gaffe said.

The camp program gives young victims of terror a chance for a positive summer experience, she said. Some of the children have been injured personally, while others have been orphaned or have parents who have been injured and can no longer work.

Volunteers from the Jewish Community Centre's Camp Kadimah and Camp Gadna helped encourage camp spirit at the event, which was titled A Taste of Summer Camp. Activities included face painting, tie-dying and a magic show. Mandell Xtreme of Toronto provided music.

The annual event enables community members to join together in support of a good cause and have a great time, Gaffe said.

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גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

בלחצו של בוש הכיר שרון בזכות הפלשתינים למדינה, ואפילו הבטיח להם רצף טריטוריאלי. הכל תלוי עכשיו במה שיעשו אנשי הטרור. שרון, כמו ברק, זרק את הכדור למגרש הפלשתינאי, ושם יהיו רבים שינסו להבטיח שיזומת בוש לא תצא לפועל. מה שכן- אם יש אדם אחד בישראל שמסוגל להביא שלום-הרי הוא שרון. גם איש ימין, גם אסטרטג, גם מכיר את הימין הקיצוני, גם רוצה להשאיר רישומו על ההיסטוריה. יותר מזה אי אפשר לבקש.

איש ושמו מרטי

בטקס מרגש קיבל מרטי גולדברג, איש טורונטו, תואר דוקטור כבוד של אוניברסיטת תל אביב. מרטי עזר שנים ארוכות לאנשים רבים בקהילה, לארגונים ישראליים ולמוסדות יהודיים. אבל לא תראו את שמו על שלטים. עבודתו אנונימית, כמעט סודית. אני יודע שגם המילים שאני כותב עכשיו הן בניגוד למה שהוא רוצה לראות, אבל יש רגעים שבהן קהילה חייבת להכיר תודה לאלה שעושים כל כך הרבה בשקט. עבודתו למען אוניברסיטת תל אביב באה מתוך אמונה עמוקה שחוקן ישראלי יבוא רק דרך חינוך ומחקר. מרטי גורם לרבים להוציא את הטוב ביותר שיש בהם, ואני מעיד ממקור ראשון. יישר כוח, מרטי!

ישראל בת חמישים וחמש

יום הולדת הוא תמיד זמן לחשבון נפש. אז היכן כמה נתונים מאלפים שפורסמו בעיתונות העברית לרגל החג:

"לכבוד חגיגות ה- 55 שברה ישראל את כל שיאי העבר בקבלת סיוע מארה"ב: כל משפחה ישראלית תקבל בממוצע לא פחות מ 14 אלף שקל מהאמריקנים" (שחר גינוסר, ידיעות אחרונות).

בישראל חיים 6.7 מיליון תושבים, מתוכם 5.1 מיליון יהודים. תוחלת החיים בישראל היא מן הגבוהות בעולם גם לגברים(76.7 שנים) וגם לנשים (80.9 שנים). רוב של תושבים ישראלים (3.25 מיליון) נולדו בישראל. מאיפה עלו הכי הרבה יהודים לארץ? מרוסיה 1.1 מיליון, מרוקו 500 אלף ומעיראק 250 אלף.

מהי צפיפות האוכלוסיה בישראל? 320 אנשים לכל קילומטר מרובע. וכמה בקנדה? ניחשתם-3 לכל קמ"ר.

קצת מפתיע: רק לרבע מהמשפחות בארץ יש אינטרנט, בעוד של-66 אחוז יש טלפון סלולארי.

ונתון די אכזרי לסוף: בשנה שעברה התחתנו בישראל 33 אלף זוגות, אך כ 10,000 זוגות התגרשו.

אבל היכן כמה דברים להיות גאים בהם:

ישראל מובילה בעולם במספר המדענים והטכנאים לנולגולת: 145 ל-10,000 תושבים, לעומת 85 בארה"ב, 70 ביפן, 60 בגרמניה. לישראל יש את מספר הפרסומים המדעיים הכי גבוה לנולגולת בהפרש ניכר, וכך גם מספר הפטנטים ומספר חברות הסטארט אפ. נכון שלא ידעתם?

משפטים שיש רק בעברית

שמחה מצליח להצחיק אותי גם ברגעים קשים. אז חינה משפטים שיש רק בעברית:

-בוקר טוב אליהו.
-מאיפה אתה בארץ.
-מי לימד אותך לנחוג.
-איפה שָׂרַתְתָּ?
-למה מי מת...
-עוד שנתיים ו-11 חודש יא מָאאיק.
-את יכולה לחלוש לי שתי ביצים?
-אני לא בָּתור, אני רק רוצה לשאול שאלה.
-חברים יש רק באָאָר.

משפטים שיכולים להרוס לך את היום

-משמתים, האי?
-כמה שילמתָ בשביל הסמרטוט הזה?
-תזכירי לי איך קוראים לך....
-מרחוק את נראית הרבה יותר צעירה...
-אין לנו שום דבר בַּמידה שלך...

On Campus

Outspoken anti-Zionist speaks at U of Waterloo

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Controversial political science professor Norman Finkelstein gave a talk about the Middle East crisis at the University of Waterloo last Tuesday after the Jewish Students Association tried to prevent him from speaking.

Finkelstein, an outspoken critic of Israel and Zionism and author of the book *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering*, is seen by many, including B'nai Brith and Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), as having anti-Semitic views. The lecture was part of "Palestine Week" at the university, organized by the group Students for Palestinian Rights.

Norman Finkelstein

In the speech, titled "Roots of Conflicts: Prospects for Peace," the son of Holocaust survivors drew comparisons between Israel and South African apartheid, the European conquest of North America and even Nazi Germany during the Second World II.

Waterloo's Federation of Students (FEDS) put up $500 for the event and an additional $1,000 came from the Waterloo Public Interest Research Group (WPIRG), a group that supports various environmental and human rights groups.

FEDS president Chris Edey said, "Anytime someone speaks on a passionate and divisive issue, there are going to be two camps: one that thinks it's inappropriate and one that thinks it offers valuable insights."

Tomer Chervinsky, who was on the executive of the JSA last year, said, "I find it very difficult to swallow that they'd fund someone who's appeared on Holocaust denier Web sites... When Ernst Zundel quotes him, you think twice before funding him."

With only about a day to plan, about a dozen members of Toronto's Jewish community took a bus to Waterloo late Tuesday afternoon to support the JSA.

David Horowitz, a University of Toronto student, said, "Our goal is not to get to the fine points of Finkelstein's speech... We're here to stand for the Jewish Students at Waterloo."

At the talk, many in the audience wore keffiyahs, which were being sold outside the auditorium. People with Israeli flags were asked to leave them outside.

Finkelstein's speech was met with both applause and angry interjections.

When he said the Israeli army tortures Palestinian detainees, one member of the audience yelled out, "This is a lie." Another woman added, "This is anti-Semitism."

Finkelstein replied, "I think we just heard from some of the torturers." The majority of the crowd applauded and cheered the remark.

The Brooklyn-born Finkelstein, who teaches at DePaul University in Chicago, said he was to have appeared on the CTS show *Michael Coren Live* the same night of his speech, but due to pressure of panelists from the B'nai Brith and CJC, his appearance was cancelled

He attributed this to "Dirty, underhanded... Nazi-like tactics" on the part of the two Jewish groups.

(Coren told *The CJN* he cancelled Finkelstein's appearance on his own after representatives of the two groups refused to appear with him.)

He directed similar sentiments toward students who tried to prevent him from speaking at the university, saying they used "hoodlum, thuggish tactics" to censor him.

When an audience member yelled out, "You're a Nazi," he said it was she who was the Nazi.

"Nazis never like to hear that they're Nazis," he said. To this, many audience members gave him a standing ovation.

One young woman, of German descent who went to hear the speech out of interest, was brought to tears by Finkelstein's reference to members of the audience as Nazis. She stood before the microphone during the question-and-answer period and expressed her hurt.

Finkelstein said he resented her "crocodile tears" and accused her of "playing the Holocaust card."

Then he spoke for the first time about his late parents, who were both Holocaust survivors. He said the lessons he learned from them pushed him to fight for the Palestinian cause.

Finkelstein's face became flushed and in a cracking voice he yelled, "If you had any heart in you, you'd be crying for the Palestinians."

Many in the crowd applauded, while the young woman collapsed on the auditorium stairs, shaking with sobs.

Many JSA members believed the speech would be dangerous, but "an exchange of ideas is always constructive." Edey said.

"[Waterloo students] have a history of demonstrating a great ability to listen to widely differing points of view and make their own judgements."

But JSA president, Sabrina Bowman said the talk "should have been shut down right away because this speaker says things that are generalizations against Jews... For us to have someone like this speak on campus is hurtful and it's isolating the Jewish population."

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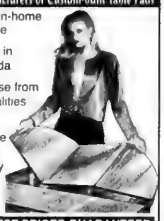

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Teens named Bronfman Fellows

Two Grade 11 students from Toronto, Leah Breslow and Nathan Stall, are among 26 North American teenagers who have received 2003 Bronfman Youth Fellowships for a program designed to develop future community leaders committed to the concept of Jewish unity.

This summer, they will spend five weeks in Israel with the Youth Fellowships program. The 26 Fellows – 13 girls and 13 boys – were chosen from 197 applicants.

Leah, daughter of Mark and Helen Breslow, is a student at Ulpanat Orot High School in Toronto. She is actively involved in the Jewish community, holding positions on both the regional National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) board and the board of Bnei Akiva.

Nathan, son of Lisa Berger and Richard Stall, is a student at the University of Toronto Schools. He attended Beth Tzedec Congregation, where he studied in both the congregational school and the bar mitzvah program.

While in Israel, the Fellows will participate in seminars, and dialogue with members of the educational staff of the program, as well as with political, intellectual and literary figures.

Another central feature of the program is the commitment each Fellow makes to do at least 40 hours of community service after returning home at the end of the summer.

Over the past few years, Fellows have been involved in a wide variety of projects, including the creation of inter-denominational study groups for teens in Toronto and Washington D.C.

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Increasing outrage over violence in Iran

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEHRAN — Police Sunday arrested scores of pro-clergy militants who smashed their way into a Tehran university dormitory and bashed sleeping students in a wave of violence aimed at putting down protests against Iran's Islamic government.

The crackdown came amid increasing outrage over the severity of attacks by vigilantes during four nights of wild clashes against pro-reform advocates calling for an end to the country's conservative Islamic establishment.

The judiciary, which is controlled by hard-line clerics and usually sides with them against Iran's reform movement, ordered the vigilante arrests, a rare move in Iran, where the militants have long enjoyed a virtual free hand in attacking those opposed to supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini's establishment.

"Scores of people who suspiciously attacked a dormitory and inflicted damages have been identified and arrested," Tehran Radio quoted a judiciary statement as saying Sunday.

Student Mojtaba Najafi said about 200 students were in their rooms in the Hemmat dormitory of Allameh Tabatabai University when the attacks began.

He said more than 50 students were injured and taken to the hospital and about two dozen had disappeared after the attack.

There were also attacks at Tehran University's Chamran dormitory before dawn Sunday, other students said.

Unlike previous nights, no anti-clergy demonstrations were seen before the violence erupted Friday night, when security forces fired machine guns in the air and used tear gas and batons to put down any public opposition to Khomeini's regime.

The Islamic regime is worried about alienating a restive public at a time when the United States is stepping up pressure against Tehran's nuclear program and alleged links to the Al Qaeda terror network.

In related news, the chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Russian parliament's upper house, Mikhail Margelov, came out strongly against allowing Iran to develop nuclear capability during a three-day official visit to Israel earlier this week.

Russia questioning nuclear program

"There is no need for another Muslim country to have nuclear weapons. It is enough that Pakistan already has them. Iran should not be allowed to achieve this capability. Nuclear weapons in another Muslim country would be too much," the up-and-coming parliamentarian and close ally of President Vladimir Putin said.

While in Israel, Margelov met with Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, Justice Minister Yosef Lapid, Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, ministers Avigdor Lieberman and Natan Sharansky, MK Shimon Peres and the chair of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, MK Yuval Steinitz.

Margelov said recent findings by the International Atomic Energy Association that Iran had built an installation for the enrichment of uranium using centrifuges have led the Russian government to formulate a clearer stance regarding Iran. Russia is currently helping Iran build a nuclear reactor in Tehran.

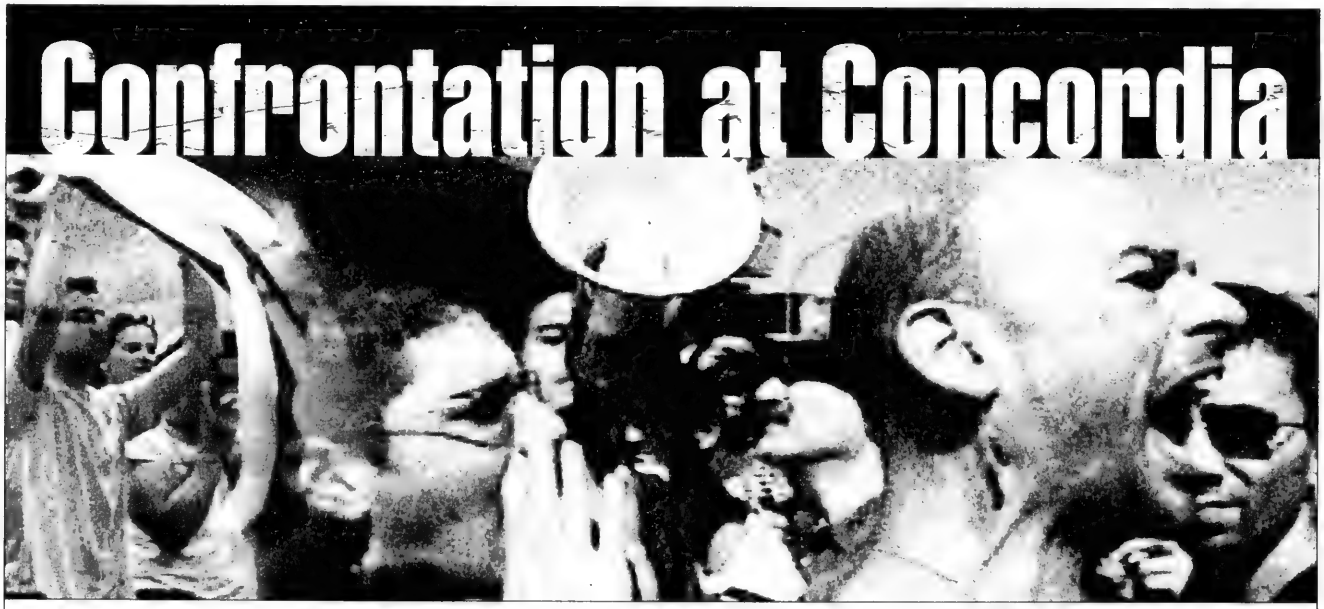
Margelov said he blames Russian intelligence services for not being aware of this development. "Unfortunately, our intelligence services did not know about this," Margelov said in an interview with *Ha'aretz*.

"Our intelligence proved itself when it discovered that Iran had a program for developing ballistic missiles with assistance from North Korea and other countries, but where was it on the issue of the centrifuges?"

Now, Margelov said, "We are seeking clear answers from them. We want to know what they intend to do with the centrifuges and what the real purpose of their nuclear program is. For many years the Iranians told us that the purpose of the nuclear reactor in Bushehr was to produce electricity.

"Iran is expected to face a serious energy crisis as their oil reserves dwindle and their efforts to produce electricity using natural gas failed. This we knew and we believed them. But now we demand clear answers from them."

Russia is demanding that Iran return the spent uranium fuel rods from the reactors, which can then be used to produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. If Iran does not agree, the Putin government says it will not provide Iran with the uranium necessary to power the nuclear reactor currently being constructed for Tehran.



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On September 9, 2002, Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to speak at Montreal's Concordia University. Student union activists staged a demonstration that culminated with the calling in of the police and the cancelling of Netanyahu's speech.
Confrontation at Concordia examines the issues and circumstances that fueled the bitter clash that made national headlines.

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June 9

• Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom called for closer scrutiny of Iran's nuclear program. "This is not just a threat for Israel, this is a threat for the whole world," Shalom said after meeting with his Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov. *(The following day, Russian President Vladmir Putin told visiting U.S. Jewish leaders that Russia would suspend delivery of nuclear materials to Iran until there is more transparency in Tehran's use of the sensitive technology.)*

June 10

• Israel is expanding its registry of property claims by Jews who immigrated to Israel from Arab countries in the 1950s. The Justice Ministry will electronically archive thousands of forms filed by the immigrants to shed light on the property they left behind.

• Senior Hamas leader Abdel Aziz Rantissi was wounded in a helicopter strike against the car in which he was travelling. Two bystanders died.

June 11

• Seventeen people were killed and some 100 injured by a suicide bomber on a bus in Jerusalem. Hamas claimed responsibility.

June 12

• Three Kassam rockets were fired at Sderot in the Negev. No injuries were reported.

• Five Palestinians, including two Hamas operatives, were killed in an Israel air strike in Gaza. Some 25 people were reported wounded.

June 13

• Nineteen people remained in hospital from the more than 100 injured in Wednesday's bombing in Jerusalem. Three of the 19 were in serious condition.

• Nine people were killed in traffic accidents this week; 186 people have been killed in car accidents since the start of the year.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Solidarity group 'a front' for attacks

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Days before a British suicide bomber detonated an explosives belt in Mike's Place, a bar in suburban Tel Aviv, the bomber and an associate took tea with members of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a pro-Palestinian group that promotes "non-violent resistance to Israeli occupation."

ISM immediately disassociated itself from the bombers (one escaped), saying the pair merely tagged along with a group of new arrivals to the region, but Israeli security services quickly began to clamp down on foreign supporters of the Palestinian cause.

One Israeli journalist who has studied foreign supporters of the Palestinian cause says Israeli security is "panicking," coming to realize rather late in the game "how serious [these groups] can be."

David Bedein, bureau chief of the Israel Resource News Agency, said ISM's denials of links to Palestinian violence are hypocritical, since they have explicitly endorsed the Palestinian right to "armed struggle" and actively assist in Palestinian violence.

"They have crossed all red lines by openly embracing and endorsing the armed struggle," he said.

Speaking in a telephone interview from Israel, Bedein said that while ISM says its goal is to mitigate Israeli violence, in reality it serves as "a front to support the [Palestinian] armed struggle" – like the unarmed support units in an army whose efforts make the military wing effective.

Last month, Israeli security forces raided ISM offices in Beit Sahour and the foreign affairs ministry issued a statement that said: "ISM members take an active part in illegal and violent actions against Israel Defence Force [IDF] soldiers. At times, their activity in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip is under the auspices of Palestinian terrorist organizations."

Bedein, who has interviewed several ISM activists in the region, said the group's North American operations ought to be investigated by local law enforcement, since ISM spokespeople openly call for the overthrow of Israel, a country with which Canada and the United States have friendly relations.

Canada is home to an active, if tiny, ISM branch in British Columbia that is pushing to indict Israeli Prime Minster Ariel Sharon for war crimes, he said.

The ISM-Canada Web site claims other support groups can be found in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg. (Calls to the ISM's Vancouver office and e-mail to its national office were not returned.)

Later this month, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition (PRRC) will present the ISM with the 2003 Rachel Corrie Award, named after an ISM volunteer who was killed earlier this year in what the Israeli army has described as an accident, at the PRRC's annual convention at the University of Toronto June 20-22.

Though the ISM's orientation is left-wing, "its rank and file tend be be naive follower type people, like in a cult," Bedein said.

"They are not evil, not lefties, just hangers on who want to do a good thing for the world. Then you have a few people at the top manipulating it."

ISM Canada's Web site (www.ismcanada.org) states the ISM is "Palestinian-led" and "trains observers from around the world and co-ordinates their activities within the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Its principal activities revolve around human rights observation and documentation of abuses, direct intervention to mitigate the brutality of Israel's illegal 35-year occupation, as well as practical everyday actions and work in Palestinian urban and rural communities."

Bedein, however, said ISM spokesperson Raphael Cohen, a British Jew, told him the ISM opposes "the Zionist presence in Palestine." Group members have also reported Israeli troop movements to armed Palestinian units, Bedein said, and they intervene at checkpoints to facilitate the transit of Palestinians who may be terrorists. As well, they have prevented Israel from monitoring and closing tunnels used to smuggle arms into Gaza from Egypt.

That's where Corrie was killed. The ISM Web site said Corrie was in clear view, trying to prevent a bulldozer from destroying a doctor's home, but Bedein said he spoke to the doctor, who told him the bulldozer did not threaten his residence. Bedein said his investigation indicate Corrie was seated on a mound of earth, out of view of the bulldozer operator, when she was killed, contrary to the ISM's assertions.

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Abella to address OSCE conference on anti-Semitism

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For the first time, a conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will focus on the issue of anti-Semitism as a distinct phenomenon, while a Canadian delegate will participate in one of the key discussions on how to tackle the problem.

Ontario Court of Appeal Judge Rosalie Abella will join a panel discussing legislative and institutional mechanisms, including law enforcement, as tools to address violent anti-Semitic incidents.

Abella will lead a Canadian delegation that will include Senator Jerry Grafstein, treasurer of the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly, as well as MP and human rights advocate Irwin Cotler. The conference will be held in Vienna from June 19 to 20.

In the past, the OSCE has discussed anti-Semitism as part of a broader anti-racist agenda. The Vienna conference will look specifically at manifestations of anti-Semitism in Europe, Central Asia and North America, as well as the role governments and civil society can play in promoting wider tolerance, the OSCE said in a statement.

Abella's husband, Prof. Irving Abella of York University, said the OSCE's focus on anti-Semitism is "an earthquake."

"For Canada to ask a judge, rather than a diplomat, to lead [the Canadian delegation] is significant… They've chosen a person who is Jewish, who is a refugee, born in a displaced persons camp, [the daughter] of Holocaust survivors," he said.

The OSCE addressed the recent growth of anti-Semitism at the 11th annual session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly last summer. At the time, Sen. Grafstein urged his colleagues to endorse an American-drafted resolution that called on member states to issue strong denunciations of anti-Semitism.

The 55-member OSCE adopted the resolution unanimously, but Grafstein said he has had trouble mobilizing interest in debating the issue in the Canadian Senate.

More than 150 delegates from participating OSCE states, as well as at least 100 NGOs, are expected to participate in the Vienna conference. The U.S. delegation will include diplomats and congressmen and will be led by former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Egypt trying to mediate Hamas ceasefire

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Under intense pressure from Egypt and the United States, Hamas gave approval in principle Sunday to the Egyptian mediator, deputy intelligence chief Mustafa Albuhaeiry, for an end to terror attacks and military activities as part of a general ceasefire.

Albuhaeiry arrived in Gaza Sunday for a series of meetings with Palestinian factions, starting with Fatah leaders in Gaza, who agreed to a ceasefire based on the Palestinian Authority's acceptance of the road map.

He then went to Sheikh Ahmed Yassin's home to meet with the entire Hamas leadership, including Abdel Aziz Rantisi, who survived an Israeli attempt on his life last week.

Palestinian sources said that in the previous 48 hours, Hamas gave the Egyptians position papers accepting a ceasefire and a cessation of military activity. Talks were still underway for conditions that would include a guarantee of Hamas' future as a political movement, a timetable for the ceasefire, and a guarantee PA security would not arrest Hamas members in the future.

Albuhaeiry, who is tipped to become Egypt's next chief of intelligence and was once responsible for handling Islamic extremists in Egypt, also invited Hamas leaders in Damascus for meetings in Cairo on the ceasefire.

The meetings in Gaza are part of a U.S. push for a ceasefire, with pressure on Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian factions, including Fatah's Tanzim. Palestinian sources said Hamas was warned if it did not accept a ceasefire, it would face combined Israeli-Palestinian pressure to eliminating it.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom warned Israel would reject a temporary truce even if Hamas agreed, saying terrorists would exploit a ceasefire to gear up for fresh attacks. He said a truce to last a few months was no substitute for disarming and dismantling terror groups inside PA territory.

At the meeting in Yassin's house, the spiritual leader of Hamas said his movement accepts the security principles worked out by the PA for accepting security responsibility for Gaza and Bethlehem. Yassin said Hamas went into the meeting with the intention of conducting serious discussions.

PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and Security Minister Mohammed Dahlan were to meet Albuhaeiry in Gaza earlier this week.

Handling the U.S. side of the pressure is State Department official David Satterfield, who arrived Sunday with John Wolf, in charge of the American monitoring of the road map. The U.S. effort to keep the road map on track was to continue in Amman this week when the four leaders of the "quartet," which drew up the road map, were to convene for an economic conference.

The PA cabinet convened Sunday to approve the security deals reached between Israel and the PA over handing over control of northern Gaza.

At the conclusion, the PA issued a statement saying "there is no such thing as one-sided implementation of commitments. The move to the political track and the implementation of the road map requires an end of the assassinations and Israeli incursions into Palestinian territories, as well as a lifting of the internal closures in PA areas and the siege of [PA President] Yasser Arafat."

The process of preparing a handover of northern Gaza to Palestinian security services was to continue this week, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz told the cabinet Sunday. The Israel Defence Forces was preparing to transfer the Beit Hanoun area to the PA during the week. At the same time, Israel is considering a Palestinian request to expand the "pilot project" to include Bethlehem.

Saturday night, Maj.-Gen. Amos Gilad, the government co-ordinator in the territories, met at U.S. Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer's Herzliyah residence with PA Security Minster Mohammed Dahlan to discuss the arrangement. Israeli sources said the meeting was relatively positive and constructive.

Another meeting between Gilad and Dahlan, this time with Shin Bet officials and PA counterparts, was expected shortly. Israel expects the Palestinians to present a detailed plan for taking security responsibility for northern Gaza, with a particular emphasis on stopping rocket fire on Israel from the area.

IDF sources said there is no reason for the Palestinians not to also get security control in the Bethlehem area, since there have been relatively few terror alerts there lately.

Mofaz said the Palestinians would be judged by the extent to which they prevent terror. He added the process will be "long, complicated and crisis-ridden."

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told cabinet that "Israel will continue acting against 'ticking bombs' in PA territories, after the United States approved it." He explained there has been a change in the U.S. position on the issue since last week's condemnation of the attempted killing of Rantisi.

He said there are two reasons for this: the Americans understand terror can foil the political process and the dimensions of the Israeli activity against terror.

According to Sharon, "if there's no fire on us, we won't open fire, except for necessary operations for self-defence." He said the PA must accept responsibility for areas under its control.

Mofaz also said "if the PA does not take action against terror, we will."

Sharon's bureau chief Dov Weisglass was in Washington, D.C., Monday to meet with U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, who was expected to tell him Washington wants Israel to hand over security responsibilities as quickly as possible. U.S. sources said she would demand that Israel renew its unqualified backing of the road map.

U.S. President George W. Bush said Sunday he has not lost hope for peace in the Middle East, but insisted the world must deal harshly with terrorists. Bush said he wants to help the Palestinians rein in terrorists, but stopped short of pledging money or arms to the PA to aid it in combating groups such as Hamas.

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Plans set for JWI's conference on domestic abuse

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Plans are set for Jewish Women International's (JWI) first-ever conference on domestic abuse in the Jewish community, to be held July 20 to 22 in Baltimore, Md.

The conference, titled Pursuing Truth, Justice and Righteousness: A Call to Action, is geared toward professionals, lay people and volunteers, including community leaders, Jewish and secular domestic violence service providers, survivors of abuse, advocates, rabbis, therapists, social workers and physicians.

Penny Krowitz, executive director of JWI Canada and a member of the conference planning committee, said they are expecting delegates from across North America, including 10 from Toronto, as well as from Israel, the former Soviet Union, Australia, England and Nigeria.

"We are hoping to bring together people who will share ideas, present important information, and essentially try to break the cycle of abuse," said Krowitz, who is presenting at, and co-ordinating, one of the workshops.

JWI has been confronting domestic violence in the Jewish community since the 1980s, when it realized the subject was not being discussed publicly, Krowitz said.

"People denied that it existed in our community, but we went out to shelters and obtained anecdotal evidence that there were Jewish women there."

JWI members in Quebec launched a public awareness campaign and the organization designed and published awareness brochures in four languages, she said.

"To this day, we've given away hundreds of thousands of pamphlets that inform women how to protect themselves, and what to do if they are planning to leave their home."

U.S. members have also published a guide for rabbis, said Krowitz, "because domestic abuse is a complicated issue, and rabbis often do not get that training.

"Eventually, Jewish Family & Child Service [of Toronto] began identifying people in the situation, and they also identified the need for culture-sensitive housing, because it is important for many women to be in an anonymous, Jewish facility."

Jointly, JWI and JF&CS established alternative short-term emergency housing for women, "and we have helped women in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver," Krowitz said.

The idea behind the conference, said a brochure, "is to help articulate a global voice that will shape a movement that is Jewish in perspective and practice, a voice to be used as a model for other religious and ethnic communities, and a voice to end violence against women."

At the end of the three days, Krowitz said, the group hopes to come up with a call to action, "and be able to collaborate and co-ordinate all our efforts.

"We all have limited resources, but if we work together we can make a change. People from around the world are going to share their experiences. The networking should be amazing."

In her workshop, Krowitz said, she plans to talk about the models JWI has used in dealing with domestic violence, and about the roadblocks it has faced.

"How do we involve the community in our work, and how do we build a collaborative movement? If we believe passionately about this issue, we need to work together.

"This conference is an incredible opportunity to build that movement and to look at the issue of domestic violence right in the face," Krowitz said.

What people need to understand, she said, is that domestic violence is not always physical. "If there is an imbalance of power and control, then it is an abusive situation.

"People tend not to see abuse that is not physical, but there is emotional, sexual and financial abuse as well. If he is in control, then there are issues."

The conference will include workshops about youth, because "we have to build a society that teaches children that abuse in any form is not acceptable. If we allow it to continue, what role model are we showing our children?" Krowitz asked.

For information on the conference, call 1-800-343-2823 or visit www.jwicalltoaction.org.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. My three-year-old is very constipated. What foods should I give him to help his regularity?

A. It is important that you not only consider which foods are necessary to give to your child, but also which foods might need to be reduced as they may worsen constipation. These foods include bananas and dairy and white rice products.

Which foods you add depends on your child's likes and dislikes and the severity of the constipation. First check with your child's doctor, who may prescribe a laxative, particularly if your child is uncomfortable or has gone for a prolonged period of time without having a bowel movement.

The most important thing to add is fluids – anything from water to prune juice. Also try high-fibre foods such as oatmeal, bran cereals, breads or muffins, dried fruit, fresh fruit and vegetables, legumes (beans), whole wheat pasta, corn and whole grain crackers. When buying whole wheat foods, make sure the ingredients actually list whole wheat flour. Good luck.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN..

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Celebrating Jewish subjects from Biblical times to the present

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

The 15th annual Canadian Jewish Book Awards ceremony opened last week with an eerie commemoration as historical footage was screened of German citizens hurling "undesirable" books onto a huge bonfire in a Berlin public square 70 years ago.

Works by authors as diverse as Sigmund Freud, Helen Keller and Thomas Mann were burned on pyres in about 40 German cities in May of 1933, according to Elly Gotz, a Holocaust survivor and member of the committee that stages the awards ceremony each June at the Leah Posluns Theatre in Toronto.

It was with astonishing prescience, Gotz said, that German-Jewish writer Heinrich Heine observed in 1834: "Where books are burned, in the end people will be burned."

Pictured at the awards are [from left]: Pierre Anctil; Elly Gotz, committee member; Evan Solomon, celebrity reader; and Bernard Katz, the evening's MC..

Although the rest of the evening was devoted to praising books and not to burning or burying them, the sombre remembrance of the Nazi book-burnings seemed particularly fitting since almost half of the 11 titles honoured featured Holocaust themes.

They ranged from Karen Levine's much-praised children's book *Hana's Suitcase* (Second Story Press) to Vivian J. Kaplan's account — in *Ten Green Bottles* (Robin Brass Studio) — of a group of Jews who escaped the Nazis by going from Vienna to Shanghai.

Kaplan's mother, 87-year-old Gerda "Nini" Kosiner, who is the heroine of the book, was in the audience watching proudly as her daughter received the award for biography/memoir.

The evening's celebrity reader, Evan Solomon, host of CBC Newsworld's *Hot Type*, read from Vancouver writer Nancy Richler's award-winning novel *Your Mouth Is Lovely* (Harper Flamingo), which deals with a slightly earlier era of Jewish history — Russia between the pogroms and the revolution.

Solomon told the audience that as he was leaving the CBC — "you know that organization that is such a great friend to Israel?" he quipped — someone asked him for a definition of a Jewish book, and he said it is a book on a Jewish subject.

"The subjects that Nancy Richler covers in *Your Mouth Is Lovely* are specifically Jewish subjects," he said. "Jews can write about anything, but they have to specifically write about Jews because that is their own story."

Miriam Webb, co-chair of the book awards committee, told *The CJN* that other contenders for the fiction prize included *Children of Paper* by Martha Blum, *Misplaced Place* by Maggie Dwyer, *Lennie Bruce Is Dead* by Jonathan Goldstein, *Rogues and Vagabonds* by Marilyn Lightstone, and *Not Quite Mainstream*, a short-story anthology edited by Norman Ravvin.

In terms of history, other award-winners stretched from Biblical times to the present. As an example of the former, Montreal writer Henry T. Aubin captured the history prize for *The Rescue of Jerusalem: the Alliance Between Hebrews and Africans in 701 BC* (Anchor Canada), which tells how a Kushite army from Africa repelled the invading Assyrians from ancient Israel.

"The story had been forgotten for over a century," Aubin said. "There had been a kind of collective amnesia by scholars on this point."

Representing medieval times, James Diamond won the prize for biblical/rabbinic scholarship for *Maimonides and the Hermeneutics of Concealment* (State University of New York Press), while Pierre Anctil was one of several award-winners whose work reflects the contemporary era.

Anctil received the Yiddish translation prize for rendering from Yiddish into French Israel Medresh's book, *Le Montreal Juif Entre les Deux Guerres* (Septentrion). The award was given by Medresh's granddaughter Vivian Felsen, herself a former recipient of the same award.

According to committee members, Anctil was the first award winner to give an acceptance speech in both Yiddish and French. Judging by the appreciative response, there seemed little need for him to repeat it in English. Many people were amazed to learn that Anctil, who is not Jewish, learned Yiddish as an adult to further his investigations into Montreal's Jewish community and related Jewish studies.

This year the 16-person awards committee chose the winners from more than 50 submissions, but in future they may submit a list of semi-finalists to a jury, according to the founding chairperson of the awards, Adam Fuerstenberg.

"When a person is 15, he or she is entering adolescence, but when an institution reaches 15, it's entering its maturity," he said. "By now, there's a special pleasure in realizing that thousands of people have attended at least one of our awards evenings. Our regulars expect it and look forward to it each June."

"We've broken through," said Webb, noting that the book awards has become a major event in Toronto's Jewish calendar. "We need just a little bit more publicity and we'll be there."

Other winners: Ron Charach won the poetry prize for *Dungenessque* (Signature Editions); Adrienne Kertzer won in scholarship on a Jewish subject for *My Mother's Voice: Children, Literature and the Holocaust* (Broadview Press); Theresa and Albert Moritz won in Canadian Jewish history for *The World's Most Dangerous Woman: A New Biography of Emma Goldman* (Subway); Joil Alpern won in Holocaust memoir for *No One Awaiting Me: Two Brothers Defy Death During the Holocaust in Romania* (U. of Calgary Press); and N. N. Shneidman won in Holocaust history for *The Three Tragic Heroes of the Vilnius Ghetto: Witenberg, Sheinbaum, Gens* (Mosaic).

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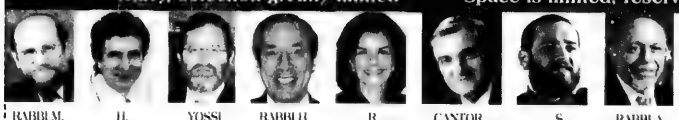

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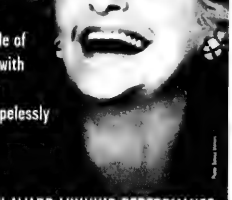

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Jewish Canada

Toronto and Montreal - home to 75% of Canadian Jewry

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

In 1841 there were approximately 200 Jews living in Canada – the majority of whom had settled in Toronto and Montreal. Today, according to a national Jewish demographic study prepared by Charles Shahar, based on 2001 census data, the numbers are much higher, but the situation is still the same. With Toronto's Jewish community growing close to 180,000 and Montreal's Jewish population at more than 92,000, the two cities are home to almost seventy-five percent of Canadian Jewry.

Of course, today, with Canada's total Jewish population standing at over 370,000, compared to roughly 356,000 in 1991 the nation's Jews are calling Canada home from coast-to-coast.

Canada's largest Jewish centre is Toronto, with a Jewish population that has doubled in one generation. Next is Montreal at 92,970, followed by Vancouver, which boasts 22,585 Jews.

"While this census showed a slight reduction in our numbers, the psychological strength and attitude of Montreal's Jewish community reflects a resurgence, making it a stronger community than we were in 1991," says Danyael Cantor, Executive Vice-President, FEDERATION CJA. "Quebec's Jewish community, while quite diversified, is more cohesive than ever. A community concerned about its future does not invest as much in its infrastructure as we have."

Some of the fastest growing Jewish communities in Canada may be surprising. The Ottawa-Gatineau region, for example, has gained almost 2,000 new Jewish citizens since 1991. That increase of 16.4 percent is the second largest in the nation, slightly behind Vancouver's 16.6 percent increase. "I believe that by the time of the next census – actually, probably by mid-decade – Ottawa will have surpassed Winnipeg as the Canadian city with the fourth largest Jewish population," says Shahar, Chief Researcher, National Demographic Study for UIA Federations Canada, who has combined census statistics for those identifying themselves as Jewish by both religion and ethnicity.

Thousands of Toronto's Jews marched to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut.

"Taking only the ethnicity numbers, or the religion numbers on their own, does not give a complete picture of the Jewish community," says Shahar. "It must be a combination of ethnicity and religion numbers together, not one or the other."

The 1942 groundbreaking for a new extension to the Jewish Peretz School on Duluth St. in Montreal. The Jewish Peoples and Peretz Schools (now merged) still teach Yiddish in their curriculum. (Photo courtesy of Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives).

The other cities leading the way in Jewish growth over the past decade are Halifax, with a 13 percent increase since 1991, Calgary at 11.1 percent, and Toronto at just over 10 percent.

In terms of the Jewish populace relative to a city's overall population, Toronto weighed in number one overall with almost four percent of the city's 4 million residents being Jewish. Montreal was a close second at 2.8 percent, followed by Winnipeg at 2.2 percent, and Ottawa registering 1.3 percent.

To be even more specific, Shahar says that according to census tracks – a small geographic area used by census-takers - the country's three most densely populated Jewish areas are all in the Greater Toronto Area. "The area with the highest density of Jews in all of Canada is in Toronto between Finch and Steeles, and Bathurst and Dufferin," says Shahar.

Jewish Toronto

Total Toronto population: 4,647,955

1991 Jewish population: 162,605
2001 Jewish population: 179,100

During the past two decades, Greater Toronto and its Jewish community have undergone a profound transformation. Almost half of all Jews in Canada live in Toronto, and approximately one out of every two Jews who live in Toronto today either did not live in the city 20 years ago, or had not yet been born.

Since the 1981 census, Toronto's Jewish community has grown by over 25%, or nearly 34,000 people. In that same year, Toronto surpassed Montreal for the first time as the "Jewish population capital" of Canada, and has not looked back since.

Jewish immigration to Toronto sped up after World War I. Partly as a result of restrictive quotas instituted in the U.S. in 1924, and of great population movements from Europe, the overall population of Toronto grew from roughly 611,000 to 818,000 during the 1920s. The Jewish community of Toronto also increased in significant proportions, and by 1931, close to 47,000 Jews resided in Toronto.

Over the past 10 years, Toronto's Jewish population has continued to flourish largely because of immigration from the former Soviet Union, South Africa, and other Canadian cities.

On May 25, 2003 an estimated 20,000 members of Toronto's Jewish community participated in the UJA Federation Walk with Israel.

Jewish Montreal

Total Montreal population: 3,380,640

1991 Jewish population: 101,210
2001 Jewish population: 92,970

For well over two hundred years, Montreal has been an important cultural and population centre of Jewish life in Canada, home to national, social, religious, and political Jewish organizations. Built on succeeding waves of Jewish immigration, Montreal developed as a cosmopolitan centre rich in tradition with a distinct Montreal "Jewish" flavour.

A recent pro-Israel rally held in Montreal attracted close to 20,000 supporters. Pictured, a rally participant holds a sign that reads, "Quebecers standing with Israel."

Photo by: Ryan Blau

Montreal is one of the oldest Jewish communities in North America, with established, continuous institutions dating back to 1768.

The distinctiveness of Montreal's Jewish communal identity has much to do with its diversity, and its unique capacity to fashion unity and solidarity among its many elements. The diversity of Jewish life in Montreal is broad and complex, yet it rates high on the cohesion scale.

Almost 4,500 Jewish persons moved to Montreal between 1986 and 1991. Eighty-five percent immigrated from countries outside of Canada. Even with its decrease in Jewish residents, Montreal continues to attract a significant number of Jewish immigrants, and its ability to create, develop and solidify, bodes well for the future of Jewish Montreal.

Jewish Vancouver

Total Vancouver population: 1,967,475

1991 Jewish population: 19,375
2001 Jewish population: 22,585

The Jewish community of Greater Vancouver has undergone an unparalleled rate of growth in the last two decades. Numbering under 8,000 persons up to 1961, Vancouver's Jewish population jumped over 130% in 20 years and almost 100% in the decade from 1971 to 1981. In 1991, Vancouver's Jewish community, standing at over 19,000, surpassed the Jewish community of Winnipeg to become the third largest urban concentration of Jews in Canada, behind only Toronto and Montreal.

By 1911, the census counted 973 Jews in Vancouver and 139 in Victoria. Much of Vancouver's Jewry was part of a massive immigration of Eastern European Jews between 1880 and 1920.

In the years between 1945 and 1952 a rapid expansion of communal organizations and institutions reflected the doubling of Vancouver's Jewish population.

One symbol of Jewish Vancouver's growth was the opening of the Richmond Jewish Day School in 1922 with over 120 students. By 1994, organized Jewish communities existed in White Rock and Surrey, as well as in the Burnaby area. With the continuing attraction of Vancouver's Jewish community, even more communal and institutional expansion can be anticipated for the 21st century.

JEWISH CANADA IS A PUBLICATION OF UIA FEDERATIONS CANADA.

Jewish Canada: the old and the new

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

The 15 to 24 age group represents Canada's future leaders.

Approximately one-third of Canada's Jewish population is under the age of 25. That figure, from a National Jewish Demographic Study undertaken by Charles Shahar for UIA Federations Canada, mirrors the proportion of under-25 Canadians in the general community-at-large.

"The children of baby boomers in the 15-24 age group represent an extremely important group," says Shahar. "They represent the future leaders of our communities. They are the young adults who will some day take over from their parents down the road. As long as we continue to have good numbers in the 15-24 age cohort, the future looks bright."

The proportion of very young Jews in Toronto and Montreal is close to the Canadian Jewish average. The youngest Canadian cities are Calgary, London, Toronto, Vancouver, and Halifax.

"Halifax actually surprised me the most," says Shahar. "They have a wonderful and very young Jewish community there, as does Calgary. Ottawa has the highest percentage of children under 15, while Halifax has the highest percentage of people between 15 and 25. Those are very important age groups and it says a lot about these communities, and bodes well for their futures."

Jewish Toronto is home to more than 35,000 youngsters aged 14 and under.

More than 100,000 Jewish Canadians are between the ages of 15 and 24.

According to the study, Windsor weighed in as the oldest city in the nation with almost 51 percent of its citizens aged 45 and up, with Winnipeg second at just under 50 percent.

For Shahar, the baby boomer segment (45-64), representing 26.5 percent of Canadian Jewry, is perhaps the most telling reflection of a community.

"In Jewish Canada as a whole, the baby boomer presence is felt very strongly as a significant age group," he says. "They are so important because that age has implications on our service industry. We will need to have the services in place that speak to their needs. When the next census comes out, so many of them will have become senior citizens and the Canadian community will have to gear up to help them. The baby boomers represent a large wave in demographic age distribution because they are at a peak."

Jewish Ottawa

Total Ottawa population: 1,050,755

1991 Jewish population: 11,555
2001 Jewish population: 13,450

The Jewish Community in Ottawa has experienced consistent growth since the early 1900's. Numbering 398 Jews in 1901, the Canadian census counted 11,555 Ottawa Jews in 1991. The Ottawa Jewish Community has ranked as Canadian Jewry's fifth largest community since the early 1950s.

Unlike other large Canadian Jewish centres, Ottawa's Jewish community has fewer foreign-born community members. From 1961 to 1971, Ottawa's Jewish population grew by 26.8 percent. From 1971 to 1981, it grew by 43% and from 1981 to 1991 it grew an additional 26.6%. All together, in 30 years, the Jewish population of Ottawa has more than doubled in size.

Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Lithwick in front of their Ottawa grocery store in the early 1930s. (Hugo Levendel, photographer. Ottawa Jewish Archives)

Jewish Calgary

Total Calgary population: 943,310

1991 Jewish population: 7,155
2001 Jewish population: 7,950

The period between 1960 and 1986 has proven to be the most productive in Calgary's Jewish history. During this period, Jewish Calgary experienced tremendous growth starting with the establishment of two new synagogues, Beth Israel, and Shaarey Tzedec.

The influx of many eastern Canadian Jews to Calgary has had a tremendous impact on the community. They integrated well and have made a valuable contribution. During the 1970s, Calgary welcomed almost 1,000 Russian Jewish immigrants.

Increases in Calgary's Jewish population were part of a general population boom in the city which came about as a result of Alberta's growing oil industry.

One of the most important factors which accounts for the dramatic growth of Calgary's Jewish community over the last 20 years is the increase in the number of Jewish children.

Jewish Halifax

Total Halifax population: 355,945

1991 Jewish population: 1,755
2001 Jewish population: 1,985

The Halifax Jewish community has experienced moderate population growth over the last several decades. In the twenty years between 1971 and 1991, the Jewish population grew by 33.5%, from 1,315 persons to 1,755.

Halifax Jewry grew most rapidly between 1981 and 1991, at a rate of 20.6%, representing 300 people.

The Jewish community of Halifax grew by 20% between 1960 and 1980, numbering close to 1,500 people.

Halifax has always acted as the centre of Jewish life in the Atlantic Provinces and, as in earlier years, synagogue membership is still the most common way of expressing community cohesion. In addition to the two synagogues already present, Halifax is the centre of the Atlantic Jewish Council providing services on behalf of many national Jewish organizations meeting the needs of the 3,000 Jews throughout the region.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

ALEX POCH-GOLDIN WINS PLAYWRITING CONTEST

Toronto actor, director and playwright **Alex Poch-Goldin** has won the Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto's Canadian Jewish Playwriting Contest for 2003.

Chosen from a dozen entries, Poch-Goldin's play *Yahrzeit* tells the story of a crusty Jewish businessman whose testy relationship with his wayward son and daughter threatens to derail his plans for a memorial to his late wife.

"I was encouraged to write a play inspired by my own experience of life, and this is what popped out," said Poch-Goldin, 38, who has become a major figure on the Toronto theatre and TV scene since arriving here from his native Montreal 15 years ago.

He has previously authored five plays that have been staged by theatre companies across Canada, including *This Hotel*, which was produced by Theatre Passe Muraille and was nominated for six Dora Awards. *Yahrzeit* is his first play with a specifically Jewish theme.

"The writing is confident," said Toronto playwright **Dave Carley**, a committee jury member. "The author is clearly unafraid of political niceties and willing to show all sides of the coins he unearths."

The winning play receives a professionally directed staged public reading, tentatively scheduled for mid-November in the Miles Nadal JCC.

Two of the the committee's previous prize winners have hit the commercial stage this year. *Einstein's Gift* by **Vern Thiessen** was produced by The Theatre Company in Kitchener in April, and *This Night* (*the Kapo*) by **Robert Mejzels** is being staged this month at the Hamilton Fringe Festival. Last year's winning play, *Sara's Cave* by **Don Molnar**, is also scheduled to have a staged reading this fall.

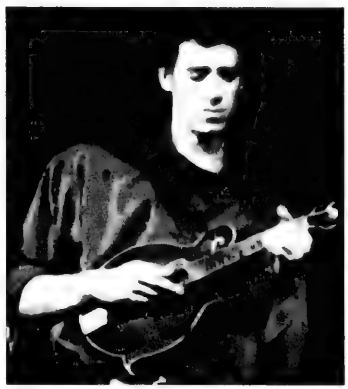
As an actor, Poch-Goldin performed in the original cast of **Jason Sherman's** *League of Nathans*, as well as in **Tony Kushner's** *Angels in America* and *Wit* for Canadian Stage. He received a Dora nomination for best actor this year for his performance in *Bully*.

Even before *Yahrzeit's* public reading, a producer has already signed a contract to tour it throughout Germany, Austria and Switzerland in 2005.

* * *

Evita Returns to Toronto: Up-and-coming theatre entrepreneur **Michael Rubinoff** directs a production of *Evita*, the acclaimed **Andrew Lloyd Webber** and **Tim Rice** musical that focuses on Argentina's controversial first lady, **Eva Peron**. "Told through a compelling score that fuses haunting chorales with exuberant Latin, pop and jazz influences, *Evita* creates an arresting theatrical portrait as complex as the woman herself."

Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. E. $25 to $40. Previews ($5 and $10) begin Aug. 8 for a limited run. 416-366-7723 or 1-800-708-6754. Group sales, 416-597-0965.



Eric Stein of Beyond The Pale.

* * *

Mount Sinai Benefit: Shaken, Not Stirred, the Leadership Sinai annual fundraising event that was cancelled in April due to SARS, has been rescheduled for Thursday, July 10, 8 p.m. The evening features gourmet cuisine, fine wines and martinis, live entertainment and a silent auction and raffle in support of Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital. Courthouse Chamber Lounge, 57 Adelaide St. E. $100 per person. Miriam Kumer, 416-586-3192 or mkumer@mtsinai.on.ca. Web site, www.mtsinai.on.ca/leadershipsinai.

* * *

Names in the News

• **Nicholas Goldschmidt**, Canada's leading advocate of choral music and festivals, has announced a musical festival to honour composer **Benjamin Britten** on his 90th birthday. The festival will present 17 performances at multiple venues throughout southern Ontario in November.

• Following a three-month stay in Brazil, Toronto percussionist **Rick Shadrach Lazar** has revitalized the *Samba Squad*, his award-winning Brazilian-influenced percussion group, with many hot new tunes and rhythms. Hear the band at various venues around town this summer. Web site, www.sambasquad.com

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Author **Suzan E. Hagstrom** reads from *Sara's Children: The Destruction of Chmielnik*. Refreshments, free admission. Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Thursday, June 19, 8 p.m.

• Klezmer band **Beyond the Pale** and guest artist **Josh Dolgin** perform an evening of klezmer, Yiddish, east European folk and original music. Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St. $15. June 21, 8 p.m. 416-408-1146. www.beyondthepale.net

• The New Fraternal Jewish Association and the Yiddish Culture Council present Sorbonne Prof. **Itzkhok Niborski** speaking on The Nearly Forgotten **Moishe Nadir**. Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $5. Monday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Summer Workshops

• The Erin Gilmour Arts Workshops at Toronto's Bishop Strachan School help fast-track gifted students into a career in the arts. Between July 2 and Aug. 15, the non-profit workshops of one to four weeks offer intensive, hands-on summer instruction in performing and visual arts for students aged 7 to 17. Brochures from www.bss.on.ca or 416-483-4325.

• Theatre designer **Jerrard Smith** conducts an intensive week-long workshop on Design of Sets and Props for Theatre. Fee $215.65. Haliburton School of the Arts, July 14 to 18. 705-457-1680 or www.haliburtonschoolofarts.ca.

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Spacious renovated exec. 5 bdrm. home at Saguenay, tree-lined street close to park, updated kitchen, new baths, hardwood floors, 2002 roof. For the most discriminating buyer! **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $699,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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FEATURE HOME OF THE WEEK

BATHURST-VIEWMOUNT. Magnificent custom-built home! Approx. 4,700 sq. ft + finished basement, quality upgrades throughout. 5 + 2 bdrms., family room, library, dream kitchen, marble counters, cornice mouldings, 2 heating / A/C zones, heated kitchen & bathroom floors. Offered at $1,349,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY! Modern plaza with gas bar in high-traffic area, **RARE OFFERING** at $2.49 million. Call our commercial real estate specialist Joel Snitman at (905) 764-0869.

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FINE PROPERTIES

FOREST HILL - $1,625,000.
Tastefully updated residence. Classic Georgian w/family room that overlooks landscaped garden & inground pool. 5 bdrms. Finished lower level. Perfect for entertaining. ***Linda Rose.**

FOREST HILL - $1,589,000.
Just place your furniture in this newly updated 5 bdrm. Lower Village home with large family rm., spacious eat-in kitchen & 2nd floor library. ***Edith Weiss /*Judy Nathan.**

LOWER VILLAGE - $1,470,000.
Elegant 4 bdrm. Georgian residence on deep lot in the heart of Forest Hill. Library on 2nd level. Finished lower level. CAC. Private drive. Double garage. For details & viewings call ***Edie Winberg.**

LAWRENCE PARK - $1,475,000.
Stunning reno. 3-4 bdrms. Main fl. family rm., laundry & powder rm. Marble fireplace. Central air. South lot. Private drive & Built-in garage. ****Veronica Key.**

STRATHEARN RD. -- $1,298,000.
Architectural gem features main fl. family rm., gourmet kitchen, separate dining rm. Inground pool w/hot tub, cabana w/bar. ****Don Wagman.** SOLD

FOREST HILL INCOME PROPERTY - $1,065,000.
Multi-family dwelling. Updated kitchens & baths. Fully rented. Private drive. 3 car pkg. Income & expenses available. ****Don Wagman.**

CASTLE HILL TOWNHOME - $799,000.
Unique layout. Approx. 3,400 sq. ft. 2nd floor master w/loft & private patio. Oversize eat-in kitchen. Stunning atrium. Elevator. 2 car parking. ***Kathie Wood/**Richard Sherman.** SOLD

UPPER VILLAGE - ASKING $799,000.
Stunning, centre hall. Main floor family rm. 4 bdrms. Master suite w/separate sitting rm. Professionally landscaped. Private drive & garage. Shows to perfection. ***Linda Rose.** SOLD

YORK MILLS / LESLIE - $729,000.
Outstanding value. Exceptional 4 bdrm., 4 bath home. Main fl. family rm., powder rm. & laundry. Fireplace. CAC. Finished lower level. Dble. garage. ***Kathie Wood.**

AVENUE RD. / LAWRENCE - $699,000.
Just listed. Beautifully reno'd 4 bdrm., 4 bath family home, exudes both charm & character. Main fl. den & powder rm. Finished l/vl. Private drive. ****Richard Sherman.**

MOORE PARK DUPLEX - $599,000.
Great price for this spacious 2 family home. Live in the beautiful upper suite & collect rent from the other. Fireplaces. Laundry facilities. Walk to Yonge & St. Clair. ***Carol Cotton.**

NEW OFFERING - PRIME LEASIDE
$419,000. Charming bungalow with finished lower level. Central air conditioning. Private drive. Call ***Marlene Federman.**

YONGE / EGLINTON - $244,900.
Condo suite. Excellent location. 1 bdrm. + bright solarium. Walk-out to balcony. Locker. Parking. 24 hr. security. Walk to subway. ****Richard Sherman /*Christina Paisley.**

2 NEPTUNE DRIVE - OPEN HOUSE SUN. 2-4 P.M.
Priced from $185,000. Now available. 2 upgraded, luxury 1 bdrm. suites in fine Seniors Residence, built by Baycrest Properties. Locker. Parking. ***Betty Cohen / *Donna Taylor.**

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Carhartt, 3 bdrm. 2 bath 60x120 lot, newer windows, gas furnace, central air, double garage. 329k.

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FINCH/BATHURST
3 bdrm, 2 baths, good size living and dining rm, fin bsmnt, garage.

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
Ideal for professional use, 6 room bungalow, now used as doctors office, fin bsmnt, lots of parking.

AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE
6-plex, 2-3 bdrm, 2-2 bdrm, 1-1 bdrm, 1-bachelor, balconies, garages + parking, good income, fully rented, well maintained.

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1389 MAPLE ROAD
50'x 220', 4 bedrooms, garage, bunkie, boat house, perm dock.

1123 ALFRED STREET
50'x290', 4 bedrooms, bungalow, good boating!

1179 ALFRED STREET
Fabulous lot! 50' x 542'. Great potential!

SANDRA ROTH (BOTNICK)
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HILDA/STEELES
Super deal for 1st time buyers. Great 3 bedroom condo, 2 baths, asking $199K.

JUST LISTED

BATHURST/CHABAD GATE
Real dollhouse, 3 bedroom, 4 baths, finished basement, with jacuzzi, completely updated. See it - love it.

FRASERWOOD/LAWRENCE
6-plex, 5 x 3 bedrooms, 1 x 1 bedroom, retrofit.

BROWNRIDGE - NEW WESTMINSTER
Elegant 4 bedroom home, 2,500 sq. ft. See it -- love it.

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BATH-CLARK. Bright, spacious det 4 bedroom, 4 baths, fin bsmnt, 2 car gar, $359,000. MUST SEE. S. MAGED, NEXT REALTY 905-709-9797

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BAYVIEW - YORK MILLS PERFECTION!
$769,900. This is the one you have been waiting for. Totally renovated, exquisite décor, custom built 4+1 bdrms, mn flr fam rm, fin'd lower level w/nanny's qtrs, magnificent inground pool, gorgeous landscaping, truly a 10+++. Elaine Chelin* ext. 269

REDUCED! $195,000 - 80 ANTIBES
Bathurst/Drewry best value. 2 bdrms, 1½ bath, ensuite laundry, hrdwd flrs, eat-in kit, west expos. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

CASA LOMA HOME - FURN. RENTAL
Steps to St. Clair subway, ravine property, 5 bdrms, 5 baths, fully furnished rental, 1 yr term in fabulous Casa Loma home. Reno'd kit, beautifully appointed. Hannah Math Slan* ext. 504

CEDARVALE CO-OP APT.
$179,000. Opp. to own in Cedarvale, bright, approx 850 sf, 2 bdrm, 1 bath, hrdwd, CAC, rare ensuite laundry, eat-in kit, sep LR/DR, 2 car prkg, across from park/shul. H. M. Slan* ext. 504

NEW LISTING ON FARNHAM AVENUE!
Don't miss this contemporary detached townhome with a private drive & garage. Gorgeous garden & pool. 4+ bedroom filled with light & architectural details. Michele Rosen* ext. 294

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10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Townhouse in exclusive New Westminster area. 2100 sq. ft., 3 bed, 3 bth. Fin. bsmnt. + many upgrades. $385,000. 905-771-9416.

PRIVATE SALE - 82 Palm Dr. Open House 12 noon-4 pm, Sun., June 22. Beautiful 6 room bung., dble. drive, bsmt. apt. + rec. rm., near Clanton Park shul. Call 416-633-2524.

Campbell/Arnold, custom 4500' 50'x150' lot, 6 bdrms., 7 bths. 905-669-0157, 905-882-6792.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Steeles/Bathurst, Luxury 1 bdrm. penthouse, south view, private balcony, parking, locker. Professionally painted and decorated. $189,000. Lisa Searchfield, Norman Hill Realty Inc. 416-226-5515.

Bathurst/Wilson, large 2 bdrm., 2 full bath, new kitch., new flr. 416-365-8003 days, 905-771-9727 evenings.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

NORTH YORK. 1-2-3 bedroom condos avail. Appls. **416-661-1041 G. BARON RLTR.**

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate. 1550 sq. ft., 2 bed., 2 bth. 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371, 416-224-2837.

55 SKYMARK
Don Mills & Finch. 3 bedroom + solarium. $2,150/month. **SANTEE LEUNG,** Santee Realty Inc., **416-441-2003.**

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

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62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Quiet, responsible editor seeks shared accommodation in quiet house. Please call David at 416-733-9333.

2 families to share 3 bdrm. townhouse, near Promenade. 416-707-0523.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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55 Skymark Zenith: Beautiful penthouse, 2 b.r. + sol., w/skylights, price reduced. For my updated inventory, colour brochures & 360° virtual tour, call:
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75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Bloor/Ossington, 1 bdrm., close to all ammens., steps to subway $700/mo. Jul. 905-796-2808.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Harbourfront, n/smkr, female, beautifully decorated condo, w/lake view, loc. at 10 Queen's Quay W., avail. Aug. 1. $875/mo. Call Anna, 416-366-1898.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

AT LAST! Perfect exec. lux. Lake Simcoe, 55 mins. Toronto. 3 stories, vaulted ceilings, boats, decks, docks, gardens - everything! Style & flair. Aug. 6-27. $5,000. 416-493-4800.

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115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE

BELLE EWART, lakefront co-op, 3 bdrm, equipped, perfect for young family. 905-889-8687.

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memorial Service for Anita Mayer, mother of Ruth Shapiro and Margie Daly at Beth David Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Rd., June 24th, at 7:30 p.m.

305 ARTICLES WANTED

Antiques wanted: Furniture, china, silver, fine art. Call 905-764-1112.

330 OBITUARIES

KALMANOWICZ, Natan – on May 30, 2003.
UROWITZ, Rae (Ray) – on June 2, 2003, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
ROZENBERG, Ninel – on June 2, 2003, late of 90 Fisherville Rd.
MUIR, Allan – on June 3, 2003, late of 1624 Bloor St. E.
BERWALD, Elizabeth – on June 4, 2003, late of 213 Brighton Ave.
KORMAN, Max – on June 5, 2003, late of 30 Cavotti Cres.
KRAKOWITZ, Ernest – on June 6, 2003, late of 595 Old Orchard Grove.
GOLDSTEIN, Laura – on June 6, 2003, late of 15 Torresdale Ave.
WISE, Frances – on June 6, 2003, late of 25 Canyon Ave.
KERMAN, Seymour – on June 7, 2003, late of 21 Charnwood Place.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

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SMITH, Alan – on May 20, 2003, late of 1287 Watersedge Rd.
STEINBERG, Robert – on May 20, 2003, late of 131 Torresdale Ave.
WORTZMAN, Gordon – on May 20, 2003, late of 850 Steeles Ave. W.
COHEN, Walter – on May 22, 2003, late of 428 Glencairn Ave.

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332 MONUMENTS

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORRIS ALSPECTOR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 22nd at 11:00 a.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
3169 St. Clair Avenue East(2 blocks East of Victoria Park)
Lubliner Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SHIRLEY MOLDAVER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 22nd at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community EEE Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
POLA BAICHMAN (BAJCZMAN) ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 22nd, 3:00 p.m..
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
YALE PILZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 22nd, 12:00 p.m.
Pardes Shalom
Zaglembier Section
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Coast to Coast

Chabad honours Winnipeg rabbi

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Chabad movement is holding a dinner to honour Rabbi Avraham Altein on his 30th anniversary in Manitoba's capital.

"He actually came here in July, 1972," said Rabbi Yacov Simmonds, a dinner organizer and one of Rabbi Altein's associated. "We are getting this dinner in just before the end of his 31st year here."

The event will be held June 26 at the Fort Garry Hotel, one of the city's oldest and classiest. Its banquet facilities will be under the personal supervision of Rabbi Altein for the evening. Organizers expect close to 300 people to attend.

"Rabbi Altein's commitment to the city has been incredible," Rabbi Simmonds said. "He has stayed here through good times and bad, and he is still an effective leader."

His success is not measured in money raised or the members he has recruited, as Chabad has no official membership or dues, Rabbi Simmonds said, but rather by the impact he has had on the city and the institutions he has built.

Rabbi Altein's official role is rabbi of the Ashkenazi Synagogue, the last of the old Orthodox shuls in Winnipeg's North End. He divides his time between the Ashkenazi and Chabad House, the second institution he built here.

The first major institution he built here, in 1978, was a new mikvah to replace the old one in a run-down former steam bath cum apartment block.

Chabad House – the Lubavitch Centre – was built in 1980 in a new subdivision in north Winnipeg. Prior to that, Rabbi Altein operated out of his home. Chabad House was expanded in 1985.

Rabbi Altein started Gan Israel day camp in 1973 and a sleepover camp in the resort town of Gimli, about an hour's drive north of Winnipeg, in 1974. Both are still going strong.

Educating children has always been one of Rabbi Altein's priorities. Chabad operates its own elementary school out of its building.

Over the years, Rabbi Altein has established close relationships with Winnipeg's other Jewish school programs, both public and private. Before or during each Jewish holiday, hundreds of Jewish school children come to Chabad for special programs.

Six years ago, Rabbi Altein opened a second Lubavitch Centre in a storefront in south Winnipeg to serve the growing Jewish population there.

With two younger associates over the past few years, Rabbi Altein has been able to cut back a bit on his activities. "Rabbi Altein used to do the work of 20 people. Now he only does the work of 10 to 15," Rabbi Simmonds said.

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Trampoline athlete wins gold at meet

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

If you've seen youngsters on a trampoline bouncing 15 or 20 feet in the air, you might not be surprised that researchers have pronounced the sport more dangerous than riding a bike.

Two doctors at Winnipeg Children's Hospital have reported that in 1996 and 1997, backyard trampolines caused 1.6 per cent of all traumatic injuries treated at the hospital. Bicycle accidents were responsible for only 1.4 per cent of such injuries.

It was a finding that would hardly have surprised Nevin Sendel, who knows only too well the dangers posed by these seemingly innocent children's activities. He has, unfortunately, seen some serious accidents, including broken bones and in one sad case, the paralysis of a young Danish athlete.

Of course, when Sendel sees kids bouncing on trampoline mats, they're usually performing back flips, twists and other contortions that are far removed from simple backyard horsing around.

Sendel's 11-year-old daughter, Samantha, is one of a select group of elite athletes who has mastered the sport and vaulted to national prominence.

Little Samantha, all five feet and 80 lbs. of her, recently captured first place in trampoline at the national Age Group Championship in Saskatoon. She added another gold in the double mini event, a sort of combination vault and trampoline activity while in yet another event, the synchro, in which two athletes perform side by side concurrently, Samantha and partner Amy Stroud blew away the competition, winning by seven points in an event where victory is often measure by tenths of a point.

Altogether, Samantha won five medals in Saskatoon, including a gold as part of team Ontario and a bronze while competing against other age groups.

Her performance earned Samantha a spot on the Canadian national team, which she'll join for the World Age Group Championships in Hanover, Germany, in October.

As Nevin explains it, competitive trampoline athletes are judged by a panel of five experts, who take into account the degree of difficulty in a particular routine as well as the quality of the performance. A white box is painted in the centre of the trampoline, marking the location where competitive athletes must stay to get the most points.

Inside the box, athletes go through their routines, performing flips and twists that closely resemble the sort of contortions divers perform as they soar through the air.

Samantha says she enjoys doing the back flips, but is particularly fond of a double front flip with a half twist during the first flip and a full twist in the second flip. All of that is performed in a heart-stopping two-second span.

One of Samantha's coaches, Angelo Despotas, described her as an "awesome" athlete who has "unbelievable air sense. She knows where she is in the air, she's very co-ordinated." That's a skill that's not too common with kids her age.

Samantha has been competing in the sport for a few years now. In October 1997, when her family moved to Toronto from Montreal, her parents enrolled Samantha and her three brothers in trampoline at Skyriders.

Samantha readily took to the sport. After seeing her perform, one of Skyriders' coaches, David Ross, a two-time Olympic bronze medalist, offered to groom Samantha for the entry level of the provincial championships. Her first year, she won a bronze and within a year Samantha had skipped from entry level to level three. At 10, she was the youngest trampoline athlete at the 2001 Ontario Winter Games, helping Ontario win a team gold medal.

Despotas believes Samantha has a bright future in the sport, with a shot at making the Canadian Olympic team when she's old enough. "She's definitely a competitor," he said. "She loves to compete and she loves to come first. She doesn't give an inch."

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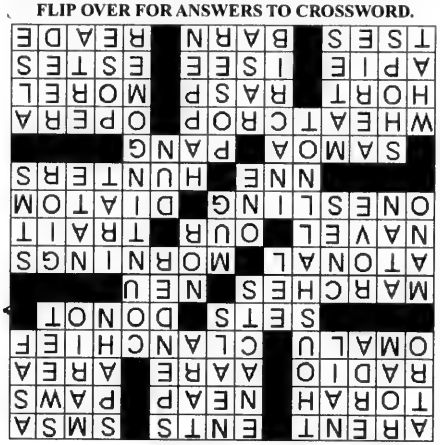

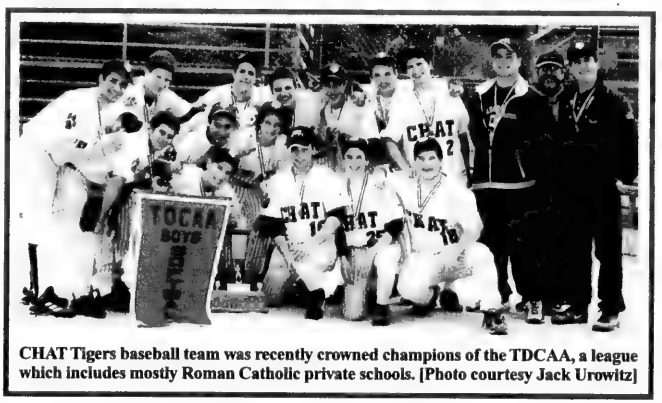

CHAT Tigers baseball team was recently crowned champions of the TDCAA, a league which includes mostly Roman Catholic private schools. [Photo courtesy Jack Urowitz]

Teens named Manitoba Jewish athletes of year

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — A 19-year-old all-star hockey player and a 15-year-old squash star ended up tied for Manitoba Jewish athlete of the year.

The Idy and Max Nusgart Memorial was presented jointly to David Glass and Jacob Micflikier at the 31st annual "Y" Sports Dinner on June 3. Each also received a one-year membership to the Rady Jewish Community centre and $250 from the estate of the late Fred Glazerman, a longtime member of the dinner's organizing committee.

Micflikier plays left wing and centre for the Sioux Falls Stampede of the United States Hockey League and led the team in scoring for the second year in a row. Last year, he was voted to the league all-star team. In the fall, he will be playing for the University of New Hampshire Wildcats.

Glass is one of Manitoba's top squash players and a member of the junior provincial team. He is ranked fourth in the national boys under-15 category. This year, he lost only one match at the Canada Winter Games and helped Manitoba capture the bronze medal in team competition.

The other nominees were 16-year-old swimmer Naomi Casiro and two other young hockey players, 15-year-old goalie Ben Shiffman and 18-year-old forward Adam Corrin.

The dinner generally attracts close to 1,000 people and raises funds for programs at the Rady JCC.

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ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

לכבות את האהבה מאת: יוכי ברנדס, ידיעות אחרונות - ספרי חמד

יוכי ברנדס, סופרת מאוד מוכרת בישראל, הגר, ספרה הידוע, היה אחד מרבי-המכר הבולטים של השנים האחרונות (ספר הזוהב וספר הפלטינה לשנת 1999.) הרומנים של ברנדס מכילים שפע של רמיזות מקראיות, תכנים לאומיים ואתגרים ספרותיים. המימד ההסטורי מאוד חשוב לברנדס. גרעינים לבנים, רומן אחר, היה סיפור על תקופת העלייה הראשונה ותנאי הקיום בזמן הקמת המושבות הראשונות. אופייני ליוכי ברנדס שהיא דוחסת לנארטיב הספורי סוגיות פוליטיות רבות, מתחים בין-עדתיים, שאלות דת, בטחון וכלכלה וכן פרשנות אישית, פסיכולוגית.

כך גם ברומן לכבות את האהבה. הסיפור מספר על בחורה בשם נעמה ואמה, מיכל. סביבן מתנהלים תמהונים שמניעיהם הפוליטיים הרבה פחות חשובים מהחיפוש אחר פשטות החיים בטבע. הרומן נכתב כסיפור בתוך סיפור; המעגל הסיפורי הפנימי הוא המעגל המקראי.

נעמה, סטודנטית בחוג ללימודי ארץ-ישראל משוועמת ואינה רוצה להמשיך בלימודיה באוניברסיטה בירושלים. "...החלטתי לקנות אטמי אוזניים ולנסות להעביר את תקופת לימודי באוניברסיטה בחירשות זמנית." רק קורט אחד מדליק את דמיונה נטול הרסן: "הרפתקה היסטורית - סודן של המגילות הגנוזות". במקום לרבוץ בשעורים, נעמה מבלה זמנה בספרייה באיסוף מידע וכתיבת רומן היסטורי על כת ים-המלח, שוכני המדבר, נחבאי המערות.

המעניין הוא שעל אף שנעמה היא זו הכותבת את הרומן ההיסטורי, הסיפור הופך לגולם בעל יישות עצמאית. בניגוד לרצון הכותבת, הדמות הנגברת הופכת לאלימה ואכזרית. דחף בלתי-רצוני זה, מאלץ את נעמה להתחקות אחר מקורות ההשראה החבויים באישיותה שגורמים לה לדמיין ולכתוב בספרה את אשר היא כותבת.

החיפוש העצמי של נעמה שהולך ומסתבך ככל שהסיפור שהיא כותבת מתעצם מוביל בין היתר לחשיפת הכאב שאמה ידעה בחייה. האם, מיכל חוותה בנעוריה אהבה גדולה ואפלה לגבר הרסני; "כמה תובענית היא אהבתם של הנאשים, לוהטת ויוקדת מכל האהבות שבעולם."

סיפורה של האם מורכב ומתחיל בעובדה שאחותה התאומה, מרים, ושבתה בקסמי מתנחל לוחמני בעל כוח משיכה פראי בשם גלעד בן צרויה. לאותו גלעד היו תאוות כיבוש בלתי מרוסנות הן לאדמות והן לנשים. בתחילה הוא צד את מרים אך לאחר מכן מחליף אחות באחות ונוטש את מרים לטובת אחותה, הלא היא מיכל אם נעמה. ברבות הימים הוא נוטש גם את מיכל ונמלט לאמריקה, וזו הפצועה מקימה לה משפחה חדשה על הריסות אהבתה הנכזבת. נעמה מבקשת "לתקן" את העבר; "יולדתי לאמי מיכל בת שאול רובין ולאבי אלישע פלטו שנה וחצי לאחר שנבלע בעלה הראשון בבטן המטוס... דודתי מרים ודודי ברק חיים עם חמשת ילדיהם בקריית-ארבע... סבא התמנה לנשיא האונברסיטה. אמא מוסיפה לגנוח בשנתה... בכאב שאין לו סוף וגם תקווה אין בו. ואני בתה היחידה, עומדת להינשא ליאיר ולתקן את חייה. זהו הסיפור של הגולם. זהו סיפור חיי."

כאמור פיתולי העלילה בספר סבוכים. מעלי הסיפורים שזורים זה בזה והן בעבר של מיכל והן בהווה של נעמה שולטים דחפים רבי-עוצמה ותשוקות אסורות. הספר גדוש באסוציאציות מקראיות, ורמיזות פוליטיות-לאומיות של עכשיו מלווה בסטריאוטיפים של שמאל וימין, דתיים וחילוניים.

את לכבות את האהבה חייבים לקרוא עד הסוף (גם אם פה ושם יש רגעים שבהם הספר עולה על העצבים.) רק העמודים האחרונים בספר יבהירו את כוונתה האמיתית של יוכי ברנדס. חצד החזק ביותר בספר הוא פיענוח סוד היצירה לאור האירוניה המשעשעת והמשחררת שבעשרת העמודים האחרונים. רק עם קריאת סוף הספר מבין הקורא את הלעג שברנדס לועגת לכל סוג של הקצנה וכל סוג של קשקוש דמגוגי.

גם אני נפלתי בפח ולקחתי את הספר ברצינות גמורה עד שלבסוף הבנתי. אין לי ספק שכוונת המחברת הייתה להעניק לנו שיעור פשוט: אל לנו לקחת את הגולם שבכל אחד מאתנו ברצינות רבה מדי.

MINI GOAT CHEESE & PISTACHIO CHEESECAKES

1 cup bread crumbs
1 cup finely ground unsalted pistachios
2 tblsp. melted butter
1/2-3/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground black pepper
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
10 oz. soft goat cheese
2 eggs, beaten
2 tblsp. chopped fresh chives

Preheat oven to 350°F.; grease 36 mini muffin tins.
In large bowl combine bread crumbs, pistachios, melted butter, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. pepper; stir until thoroughly combined. Spoon 1 tsp. of pistachio mixture into each tin; press down into bottoms of the tin.
Beat cream cheese until creamy. Add goat cheese and mix well. Add eggs; beat until well combined. Add chives and remaining 1/4 tsp. salt and pepper.
Spoon goat cheese mixture evenly into crusts in the muffin tins. Bake until puffed, about 15 mins. Let cheesecakes cool for 5 mins., then unmold. Serve warm. Great for a brunch!

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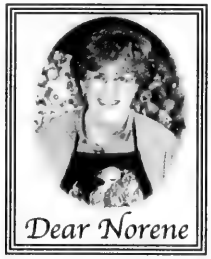
About Food



Welcome to summer! Why spend all day cooking over a hot stove when you can prepare delicious meals for family and friends on the barbecue grill? If you have grilling questions, call the experts on the Weber Grill-Line at 1-800-474-5568. They are also offering a free 40-page booklet, *Entertaining in the Outdoor Room*, and free CD, *Light It Up! Music to Grill By*.

The tips below and the delicious planked salmon recipe come from www.weber.com. Enjoy the joy of grilling!

Q: How long should I cook shish kabobs?

A: Cooking times depend somewhat on the type of meat and vegetables you are using. You can easily cook individual foods to their desired temperatures by putting vegetables, fruit and meat on separate skewers. Just place the skewers that require longer cooking time on the cooking grate first. If you want kabobs with different ingredients on them, you may want to blanch vegetables that require longer cooking times so they will be done at the same time as the meat. For perfectly grilled kabobs, trim excess fat from meat to prevent flare-ups-and if you're brushing kabobs with a marinade or sauce that contains sugar, brush it on only during the last 5 to 8 minutes so that it doesn't burn.

Tip: When threading ingredients on skewers, leave spaces between the pieces to ensure even grilling.

Q: Sometimes food sticks to the cooking grate. What can I do?

A: Using a marinade or lightly brushing the food with cooking oil just before you place it on the cooking grate will help keep it from sticking. Sometimes food sticks if you turn it too soon after putting it on the cooking grate. Wait a few minutes before turning so it will have time to properly sear.

CEDAR-PLANKED SALMON ON THE GRILL

Cooking Method – Charcoal: Indirect. Gas: Indirect/Medium.)

1 whole salmon fillet, 18 inches long (about 2½ pounds)
1 tbsp. lemon zest (zest of 1 lemon)
3 sprigs fresh dill, snipped
salt and pepper
lemon wedges

Immerse an untreated, 20-inch cedar plank suitable for cooking use in water; soak at least 1 hour or up to 1 day. (Note: Make sure the plank you choose is virgin cedar. Buy one specially made for food preparation, usually sold in cookware stores.) Place salmon fillet, skin side down, on soaked plank. Sprinkle with lemon zest, dill, salt and pepper.

Place planked salmon in centre of cooking grate. Grill 25 to 30 minutes or until salmon is opaque in centre and flesh flakes easily with a fork. Garnish with lemon wedges. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Norene Gillett is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeanYummy! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

The Canadian Jewish news

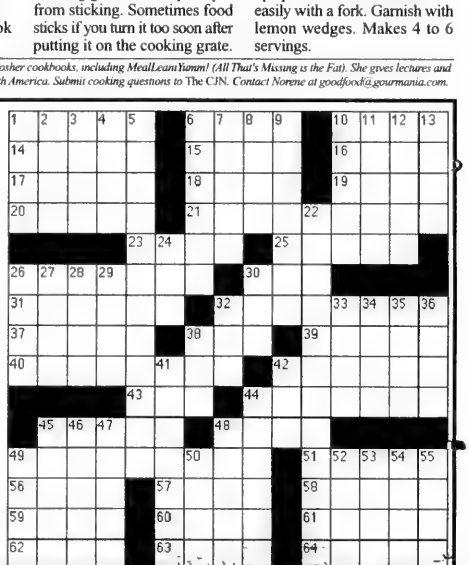
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 42.)

A Feast of Weeks
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Verbal contraction
6. Noun and adjectival suffixes
10. Conurbation statist. region
14. The five books of Moses
15. Tide type
16. Canine's or feline's 'hands'
17. Broadcast medium
18. Berne's river
19. District
20. They labored, in Hebrew (emphatic verb form)
21. Kinship group leader, beneath the tribal head among Israelites, others
23. Match parts
25. Moses to Israelites: "___ go up, lest you be routed" Exodus 14:42
26. The Israelites went on many of these in the Sinai
30. Rosurgeon starter
31. Disregardful of musical key
32. Daytimes when Dew and Manna were found in Sinai
37. Orange variety
38. Possessive pronoun
39. Characteristic
40. All David needed to hurl a stone at Goliath (2 words)
42. Microscopic alga with silceous remains
43. Direction from tip of the Sinai to Etzion Geber
44. Nimrod and Esau
45. Pacific island nation
48. Twinge, sharp sensation
49. Grain yield from which sheaves figured in the ritual of 22 down
51. Carmen or Aida
56. Science of plant growing, for short
57. Tool
58. Morchella mushroom
59. " ... blackbirds baked in ____"
60. Got it!
61. Kefauver
62. Mao and Lao
63. Owl
64. Walter ____ Hospital

Down
1. ___-purpurea (plant descriptor)
2. Israelites did this 40 years
3. Utah city south of Salt Lake
4. Hammer takes to it
5. Three words used 11 times in 10 commandments
6. Legislates
7. Shaquille O' and Tatum O'
8. Skater Lipinski
9. 'Hey, big ____!'
10. Pitching great Warren
11. Cuomo
12. How some like coffee
13. Hebrew name meaning "gathered"
22. Ancient daily ritual from Pesach to Shavuout
24. Some swans love this grass
26. Hand, in Florence
27. Bit of sun gives you this (2 words)
28. Wandered, or Karl
29. Toronto's fairgrounds, namesakes
30. Neither's partner
32. Holds your coffee
33. If you see just this many leaving a ship, you might worry
34. NBA's ___ Archibald
35. A leader of the Jewish Revolt v. Rome, 69-70, Simon bar ___ (abbr.)
36. Devices for imaging surfaces at microsc. scale
38. "The Lord is ___"
41. Where corn is stored (3 words)
42. Demand payment
44. Occur
45. Goes out to buy
46. Eagle's abode
47. Ship's officers
48. Baffling question
49. Question beginner
50. Tabula ____
52. Sit for a photo or painting
53. ___ 'Ale, Ethiopian volcano
54. Plant that gave name to sea the Israelites crossed
55. Add this to 'f' and it's just not true



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The Canadian Jewish news

Section B

Tribute to ISRAEL

EXTRAORDINARY ACHIEVEMENTS

McGill University historian Gil Troy once said of Israel that it is the only country on earth that is incessantly "on probation." By that he meant, of course, that Israel is always having to justify its social, foreign and military policies to an unremittingly, even superciliously, critical and hostile world.

Israel is the only country that is perennially in the dock at the United Nations and its ancillary councils, assemblies, committees and commissions, accused, hypocritically and unfairly, by an automatic majority of Islamic bloc countries and their fellow travellers of all manner of "crimes."

The constant challenge to Israel's behaviour, the constant state of emotional and political siege under which Israel has had to live for all of its 55 years, have fostered, unfortunately, even among well-intentioned individuals in our community, a reflex of head-bowed, eyes-to-the-ground, self-conscience defence.

Though, like all countries, Israel is an imperfect one, there are no head-bowed articles in the following tribute to the Jewish state. Led by Troy, the following pages call our hearts, minds and consciences to the extraordinary nature and some of the extraordinary achievements of this tiny, precious country that was established only 55 years ago last month.

—The editor

An IDF soldier distributing flags on Yom Ha'atzmaut [Isranet photo]

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Tribute to Israel

Jerusalem and Israel: inspiring studies in renewal and redemption

By GIL TROY

The death toll is devastating. Each casualty represents a family shattered, a world destroyed: Yardena Shoshani, 10 years old; Esther Ben Shimon, nine years old; Benjamin Yehezkel, eight years old – all shot just outside Jerusalem, the Jewish people's venerable capital. These three innocents are part of a broader tapestry of pain that includes 77 Jewish nurses, doctors and administrators who were slaughtered in one bloody ambush – out of a total of 1,256 Jews murdered in five months for the simple crime of wanting to live free Jewish lives in the Jewish homeland.

These names and numbers, which echo today's tragic headlines, are in fact from the bad old days – the five months that preceded the British withdrawal from Palestine in May 1948. Then as now, the Jews had accepted a painful, internationally brokered compromise, in that case the 1947 United Nations plan to partition Palestine. Then as now, the Arabs rejected the compromise and unleashed a brutal war of terror against Jewish children and Jewish parents, Jewish doctors and Jewish nurses, Jewish civilians and Jewish soldiers. Then, as now, Jerusalem was at the centre of the battle.

One hundred years ago, the ancient capital of the Jewish people was a dump.

Contemplating the bloody history of this most beautiful of cities, the capital of a country that dominates the Western imagination for better and for worse, is both depressing and exhilarating. The pain of yesteryear stings, even half a century later, especially because new tears are falling for new innocents, on both sides. And the fact that the fight continues between the same peoples over the same turf, is numbing. It is hard not to wonder, especially from the fleshpots of North America, why these people can't just get along.

But Jerusalem's story, like Israel's story, is inspiring as well. For starters, yesterday's march of misery ended, it has not been an unrelenting tale of woe. Even today, mired as we are in the conflict, tending as we do to impute to Palestinians a superhuman kind of willpower, we see that their bloodlust has subsided before – and will do so again. Yes, the Muslim cry of "kill the Jews: there is no punishment for killing Jews," provoked rioting in 1920 and 1929, in 1936 and 1947, and random acts of violence have repeatedly pockmarked Jerusalem's golden facade. But again and again, when faced with Jewish willpower, unity and strength, the Arabs retreated and the violence ended. And sometimes, what came in its wake was not simply a state of non-war, but true acts of neighbourliness.

Although too often stricken by war, Jerusalem remains a city of peace. In fact, the story of Jerusalem in the 20th century is a microcosm of the story of Israel, an inspiring case study of renewal, rebirth and redemption.

One hundred years ago, the ancient capital of the Jewish people was a dump. A town of 70,000 people – 45,000 largely destitute Jews and 25,000 largely destitute Arabs.

Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern Zionism, was delusive enough to envision a Jewish state 50 years down the line – but Jerusalem exhausted even his powers of imagination. "Shouts, smells, tawdry colours," he recorded in his diary in 1898, "people in rags crowding the narrow, airless streets, beggars, cripples, starveling children, screaming women, bellowing shopkeepers. The once-royal city had indeed sunk to the lowest depths."

Yet, the Zionist revival of Jerusalem mocked Herzl's words. A mere 20 years later, the city was progressing. British census reports would show that in Jerusalem, as happened elsewhere in Palestine, the Zionist boom attracted both Arab and Jewish immigrants. Between 1921 and 1933, 20,000 Jews immigrated to Jerusalem, as did more than 21,000 Arabs from as far away as Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Yemen.

Over the decades, Jerusalem would thrive economically, culturally, politically and architecturally. The little people of Jerusalem, the shopkeepers and the teachers, the artists and the bureaucrats, the businessmen and the charwomen, both Arab and Jewish, would be the true stars of the show.

But Jerusalem would also be blessed with remarkable leaders, such as Bernard Dov Joseph, who led the city through the 1948 siege; David Ben-Gurion, who made the city Israel's functional capital; and Yitzhak Rabin and Moshe Dayan, who helped reunite the city in 1967; and, most notably, Teddy Kollek.

Kollek is the mayor of the century. He polished the stones of Jerusalem while working to unite its people. As Martin Gilbert reports in his sweeping volume, *Jerusalem in the Twentieth Century*, during Kollek's tenure from 1965 to 1993, "facilities were provided for the Arab population of East Jerusalem beyond anything introduced under Jordanian rule [which lasted between 1948 and 1967], including sewage, a piped water system, clinics, parks and gardens. Access to Israeli hospitals was unrestricted." Moreover, the Western part of the city, and the Old City itself, sparkled, enhanced by steady economic development, as well as stirring acts of generosity from donors throughout the world. By 1994, there were 420,000 Jews living in this modern gleaming metropolis, in relative harmony with 155,000 Arabs.

Continued on page B3

We extend our congratulations to the State of Israel on the occasion of its 55th Anniversary of Independence
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Tribute to Israel

'More than the story of the Arab-Israeli conflict'

Continued from page B2

The story of Jerusalem of Gold, *Yerushalayim shel zahav*, then, is the story of the Jewish state. It teaches us to hope for peace, to pray for good times, and to work to achieve a new and better reality. Even amid the frustrations of 2003, the Jewish people's 3,000-year-old capital retains its magic, just as even amid the tragedies of today, the Jewish people's 55-year-old state retains its allure. It is remarkable how the city thrived in the 20th century, despite being a flashpoint between Arab and Jew. In fact, it suggests that there were other forces shaping the Jewish state, and that there are other themes we can find when seeking to understand Israel.

Just as the story of Canada is more than the story of the French-English conflict and just as the story of the United States is more than the story of the white-black conflict, so, too, the story of Israel is more than the story of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In contemplating the history of Israel beyond the conflict, Israel emerges as not just a great success story but a fascinating litmus test, an experiment illustrating some central lessons of 20th-century Western history. Israel's story teaches us that culture matters, democracy works, nationalism counts, immigration fuels growth and capitalism remains both a great social blessing and something of a curse, a facilitator of individual and national greatness as well as a social solvent.

One offshoot to the debate surrounding Harvard professor Samuel Huntington's provocative paradigm of a "clash of civilizations" is a debate about the relevance of culture to social strength and general progress.

In the 1960s and 1970s, academics succeeded in convincing many that it was all about politics, that countries needed effective leadership to prosper, and that, as Daniel Patrick Moynihan summarized the position – with which he disagreed – "politics can change a society and save it from itself." In contrast, Moynihan, Huntington and others began to argue that culture – meaning the values, attitudes, beliefs, orientations and underlying assumptions prevalent among people in a society – is the real key.

Certain cultures were indeed more likely than others to foster "human progress," which Huntington defines as "movement toward economic development and material well-being, social-economic equity, and political democracy."

In introducing a collection of articles he co-edited in 2000 called "Culture Matters," Huntington compared Ghana and South Korea. The two countries had similar-sized economies in the 1960s, but 30 years later, Ghana's economic output was a mere fraction of that of South Korea, which had become an industrial colossus. The difference, Huntington argued, lay in the fact South Koreans "valued thrift, investment, hard work, education, organization and discipline."

Even with Israel's current economic crisis, its trajectory from the austere 1950s to the sophistication and luxuries of today is remarkable. It is especially impressive considering Israel's limited natural resources, its relatively small population, and its hostile and underdeveloped neighbours.

Israelis have wisely built a society more oriented toward the West than the East. They developed a culture that prizes education, hard work, ambition, vision, creative problem-solving and an entrepreneurial spirit. As a result, the days of "*tsena*," when it was eggplant for breakfast, more eggplant for lunch, and eggplant leftovers for dinner, are long gone. Israel is not only an impressive high technology centre – even after the most recent economic crash – it is a leading source of all kinds of scientific and medical innovations, the result of its many universities churning out a smart and sophisticated workforce.

Democracy – in all its splendour, and all its complexity – has helped facilitate the country's economic and social progress. At first blush, this statement is difficult to believe. For starters, in the 1970s leading thinkers were predicting the demise of democracy and warning about how ineffectual and weak a democratic system could be. Moreover, Israel has developed a fractious, polarized democracy, with too many parties and too many shrill and unreasonable politicians. The yelling and backbiting that occurs in the Knesset is an embarrassment to the Jewish state and the Jewish people.

Democracy – thank goodness – is not just a question of what goes on in a country's parliament.

Yet democracy – thank goodness – is not just a question of what goes on in a country's parliament. The whole democratic package – the commitment to liberty and equality, the respect for individuals, the reverence for the rule of law, the right to dissent and to debate, and the freedoms of press, religion, and speech – enhances social and political strength and has helped Israel advance.

Yes, the arguments among politicians are often hysterical. Yes, the challenges often seem overwhelming. But the way Israel has sustained its half-century of democracy, especially under unprecedented outside pressure, should make it the toast of the Western world and a model for humanity. In Israel, we can see how culture matters and politics helps – that Israeli democracy has thrived in a cultural soil that welcomes democracy, and that democratic institutions and ideals have reinforced that cultural orientation.

The success of Israel, the realization of the Zionist dream, is also a tribute to the positive power of nationalism. In our cynical, post-modernist world, it is easy to caricature nationalism as fanatical and narrow-minded and to dismiss patriotism as provincialism. But for all the examples of nationalist excess in the 20th century, the era also offered many examples of nationalist success. Nationalism is not only about one group of people feeling superior to others. It's also about a country being able to give individuals a feeling of community and being able to mobilize that community to accomplish together what people could not accomplish on their own.

Continued on page B4

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'To appreciate Israel's role, is to look at a fuller picture'

Continued from page B3

Surprisingly – or perhaps not so surprisingly considering human nature and our need for communal identity – many of the great scientific breakthroughs in the 20th century, from the cure for polio to the fight against AIDS, had a nationalist component. In the United States, nationalism does not just entail Fourth of July rhetoric and huge military budgets. It has also led to the Marshall Plan for Europe, the fight against poverty at home, an entrepreneurial dynamism that mixes the zeal to make a buck with the desire to build America, and a spirit of giving and concern for others that buttresses altruistic instincts with national pride. The nation may not be the only form of communal organization, nor necessarily the best, but it is the central organizing principle in the modern world and can produce a lot of good.

Contrary to the many libels and smears surrounding it, the saga of Zionism has also marked a proud chapter in the history of nationalism. Medinat Yisrael, the state of Israel, is a remarkable experiment in national rejuvenation – of building Eretz Yisrael, the land of Israel, and reorienting and energizing Am Yisrael, the nation of Israel.

The early Zionists dreamed of a new Jewish commonwealth that would be a boon to humanity, not just to the Jewish people. Considering its small size and relative youth, the State of Israel has a pretty impressive track record so far.

In the 1950s, the kibbutz ideal offered a model of humane and freedom-loving socialism that contrasted with oppressive, Soviet-style Communism. By the 1960s the representatives of this young, fledgling state were working with developing African societies less fortunate than their own. In the energy-stretched 1970s, Israeli solar power offered alternative visions of how to live and consume. By the 1980s, Tzahal, the Israel Defence Forces, was already positioning itself as a world leader in search-and-rescue and in pioneering mobile medical units so that when there were earthquakes in Turkey, atrocities in Rwanda, bombings in Tanzania and Kenya, IDF soldiers were mobilized to save lives. In the 1990s, Israeli technological, medical and pharmacological miracles helped transform the world, shrinking the world through innovations such as "ICQ," an online chat technology, and saving lives with cutting-edge brain research at Tel Aviv University, innovative emergency room techniques at Hadassah Hospital and amazing cures developed in private labs.

The early Zionists dreamed of a new Jewish commonwealth that would be a boon to humanity, not just to the Jewish people.

Israeli innovations and Israeli success also prove that immigration can be a positive and creative force that fuels growth. It is noteworthy that in a country such as the United States, the first time an immigrant ascends to a particular position, people cheer. But Israel is such a melting pot that when Yitzhak Rabin became the first native-born prime minister, it was cause for celebration. Israel has welcomed the surviving remnants of Hitler's Holocaust, 800,000 refugees from various Muslim countries, 20,000 Ethiopians and one million Russians. Each time, it's been a win-win story, as Israel has offered desperate individuals refuge but also benefited from their skills, culture and ambition.

Israel has been able to absorb so many immigrants because, as a capitalist country, it has, overall, enjoyed remarkable growth in the last half-century. As in the United States, Israeli society demonstrates how capitalism can harness individual skill for the good of the collective, as people enticed by the rewards at the end of the rainbow have helped build the modern, industrial, sophisticated society that Israel is today.

Alas, as in the United States, that capitalist culture emerges as a social solvent, often undermining a sense of intimate community in the zeal to empower and energize individuals. Israel's story proves that free enterprise is good, but it is not without its costs. The challenge of the 21st century will be to continue to build on the good while managing the costs.

These days, especially in Canada and Europe, it is far too fashionable to dismiss Western, American-style values, without really thinking about the alternatives. We live in a Manichean upside-down world that is hypercritical of Western mistakes and often blind to the drawbacks of other societies. We need to remind ourselves again and again that just because many people criticize us, just because we are in the embattled minority, does not mean that we are wrong.

To appreciate Israel's role as a western, democratic, capitalist country helping to build the world, even as it absorbs and enlists both immigrants and native Israelis, is to look at a fuller picture of Israel than we normally see. This is not to say we should view Israel through rose-coloured glasses. Rather, we should use a wide-angle lens.

As we toast Israel in its 55th year, we cannot just make it about Arabs or Palestinians. We toast the builders of Israel, the dreamers of Israel, and the unsung heroes of Israel, the everyday men and women who have made this miracle of a country, strong, proud, humane and free.

Gil Troy is professor of history at McGill University and the author of Why I Am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today.

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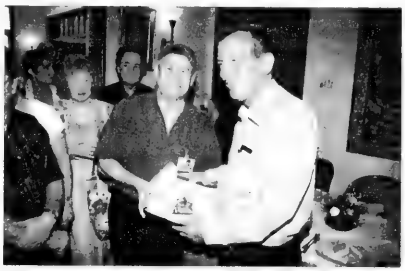
Tribute to Israel

Israel: You have to visit to understand

By KEN BOSHCOFF

Like most Canadians, the Middle East has had very little direct effect on my life. I certainly hadn't given it as much thought as other issues I must deal with as mayor of Thunder Bay. But no longer. As a result of an invitation I received from the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), Ontario region, to join a recent mayors' mission to Israel, I now understand the Middle East in a different way.



Mayor Boshcoff meets Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Hulda'i

In Israel, history is measured in thousands of years. How could we not be touched when visiting Capernaum, the northern Israeli town that was once the Ministry of Jesus? We were in awe as our guide pointed out the window of our bus and said, "You see that field? That is where David slew Goliath." And even if you are not religious, walking into the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Stations of the Cross along the Via Dolorosa – following in the path of Jesus – all this has an incredible impact.

And the contrast! It was not uncommon to see young men and women on leave from their army units, carrying their M-16s. How young these soldiers were – teenagers fighting for the very survival of their land.

The terrorist suicide bombing campaign has left Israel scarred but unbowed. The resiliency of its economy and its people proved to us that terrorism is no solution to the problems of the Middle East. In meetings with Israel's Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Industry Minister Ehud Olmert and mayors from cities both small and large, the need for peace was a constant in each and every conversation.

When you are in Israel, you begin to understand the situation in ways that our media does not convey. Canada is a big country. Borders with other countries or even provinces (or municipalities!) can be far away. Here, everything is close. When we visited the Canada Centre in the northern Israeli town of Metulla, we stood on one side of the road gazing across the street at the border with Lebanon. We clearly saw the yellow flags of Hezbollah. One of our participants indicated that without too much effort, he could throw a rock from Metulla into Lebanese territory. While walking through the streets of West Jerusalem, we needed only look a few yards ahead to the Old City, which is part of the West Bank.

As we drove along Israeli roads and highways, we had an opportunity to see the controversial fence that is being erected by Israeli authorities to help stop Palestinian terrorist attacks. We were moved by the murals painted along the fences. They were of the scenery on the other side – a clear hope that these fences will be torn down one day.

And Israel is a land of hope. One day we were taken to the town of Rehovot, where we attended a kindergarten class that has absorbed dozens of young Ethiopian Jews. Israel helped bring their families from Ethiopia, accepting them as full citizens. Israel works hard to ensure that the large number of Jews coming from all over the world, be it Ethiopia or the former Soviet Union, find a comfortable place in their religious homeland.

On another day, we attended a Jewish-Palestinian Co-existence Centre in the heart of Jaffa. There we saw Israeli and Palestinian children participating in music classes, drama and educational events. May this hope be realized in our day.

We ended our week with a visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust Museum and Memorial. Particularly striking was the children's memorial. In the darkness, candlelight is refracted by mirrors thousands of times. You hear the intonation of the names of 1.5 million Jewish children murdered by the Nazis. You move through this memorial with tears in your eyes, but as you exit, you face a vibrant Jerusalem, where Jews need no longer fear extermination. This is the existential reason for the state of Israel.

Boshcoff thanking Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for speaking to the Canadian visitors. [CJC photos]

We all came away with a deep understanding of the importance of Israel to the Jewish people, its desire for peace and its hopes for the future. These are lessons worth learning and messages worth sharing.

Ken Boshcoff is the mayor of Thunder Bay, Ontario, and the president of the Association of Ontario Municipalities. He joined 20 other Ontario mayors and municipal officials on a trip to Israel in mid-May sponsored by Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Mazel Tov to the State of Israel on its 55th Anniversary

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The right of return, from Israel's viewpoint

The following is a statement issued by Israel's Foreign Ministry about the disputed Palestinian right of return.

Due to the fact that the Palestinians have claimed a "right of return" for Palestinian refugees to within Israel's borders, it is vital that we remind the international community of the facts in this complex matter and of the serious implications for Israel if it accepts responsibility or recognizes this Palestinian claim.

The Palestinian refugee problem did not spring from a vacuum. The immediate cause of the problem was the refusal of the Arabs to accept UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (the Partition Plan) in 1947 and, consequently, their initiation of the war that led to Israel's independence. During that war, many Arabs living in the battle zones abandoned their homes, whether they were following calls from the Arab leaders, afraid of the fighting or apprehensive over their fate under a Jewish regime. If the war had not been forced upon Israel by the various Arab countries and the local Arab population, the refugee problem would not exist.

The Arab states, excluding Jordan, made sure to perpetuate the refugee problem in order to attempt to destroy Israel. The refugees were placed in crowded camps, where they lived in poverty and despair, and no attempt was made to absorb them into society or to provide for their welfare.

Resolution 194 was adopted in 1948 by the UN General Assembly and by its nature is not obligatory. In addition, the following points about this resolution should be noted:

• A "right" of return is nowhere mentioned in the document. Quite the opposite: the resolution makes the return of refugees conditional on the existence of certain prerequisites – that these refugees are interested in living in peace with their neighbours, and that the return of the refugees will take place "at the earliest practicable date." Experience has shown that this population is *not* interested in living peacefully with its Jewish neighbours and that, given the current demographic and geographic conditions, it is not practicable for such a large number of refugees to return to the area.

• Resolution 194 uses the general term "refugees" and does not relate specifically to Arab refugees. This differs from earlier drafts of the resolution that were not accepted.

• The resolution states that compensation (for refugees who choose not to return, or whose property has been destroyed or damaged) will be provided by "the governments or authorities responsible." The requirement to provide compensation does not specifically make mention of Israel. Furthermore, the wording referring in the plural to governments and authorities alike is inconsistent with the Palestinian claim that the burden of compensation falls solely upon Israel.

• Article 11, which deals with the subject of return and compensation, is but one of 15 articles that make up Resolution 194, which refers more generally to the subject of the Conciliation Committee. The Palestinians selectively demand implementation of only those clauses that are consistent with their interests.

• Resolution 194 uses the general term "refugees" and does not relate specifically to Arab refugees.

Since Israel is neither responsible for the creation of the refugee problem nor for its perpetuation, it cannot declare, even as a gesture, its responsibility for this problem, since such a declaration would have far-reaching implications:

• It would encourage the Palestinian right of return to areas that are part of the State of Israel. The arrival of millions of Arabs in Israel would effectively end its independent existence as the Jewish state.

• It would be used by the refugees as a basis for their claims against Israel for compensation for lost property, as well as the suffering they have undergone for the last 55 years.

• It would facilitate claims by the refugees' "host countries" for compensation from Israel for the cost of "hosting the refugees, when these same countries are in fact responsible for creating the problem to begin with.

It should be stressed that many Jews were forced out of Arab countries, leaving behind vast property and wealth for which they were never compensated. Israel took them in and integrated them into Israeli society. Furthermore, Israel never renounced its right to submit claims regarding these Jewish refugees from Arab countries.

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Tribute to Israel

A Jewish-Arab coexistence project grows

By ANNETTE YOUNG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Nesreen Basheer says that for her and her nine-year-old daughter Mona, participating in the program was a small but defiant gesture.

"It is not logical being here, I know, but we had to keep coming," said the soft-spoken, east Jerusalem Arab mother of five, explaining why she had joined some 30 Arab and Jewish parents and 130 children at a coexistence workshop organized by the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem.

On one particular day, the same week as the Haifa suicide bombing this spring, it had been particularly difficult for Nesreen to bring Mona along. "She wanted to come. All I kept on saying... is, 'How can I look them in the eye?'

Arab and Israeli children at the Museum

"They want to live here in peace" she said gesturing to the Israeli parents, "and we want to live in peace. And we have to get on together. This is the road we have to keep walking on, no matter what happens."

Called The Image of Abraham, the program, which began in 1998, encourages schoolchildren aged nine and 10 to explore their shared religious heritage through a series of games, guided tours and creative workshops.

Following its success, the museum decided this year to extend the annual eight-week program to include parents. The turnout was much higher than expected, with 30 to 40 parents showing up for each session.

"There was just as much enthusiasm and curiosity among the parents as there was among the children," said Yehuda Kaplan, the head of the museum's education department.

"We don't expect a major breakthrough; we're not that naive, but it's a start," he said cautiously.

In another first, two Jerusalem schools also took part this year. Security fears had prevented such participation in the past.

Along with their own teachers, and museum volunteers who speak both Hebrew and Arabic, children from Paula Ben-Gurion school in Rehavia and the El-Tzal'a school in Jabel Mukaber in east Jerusalem researched their family tree to find the name "Abraham" or "Ibrahim."

They also studied the cultures of the ancient Near East, and traced common elements in the Arab and Jewish heritage, including scripts, language, customs and faiths.

The nine- to 10-year-old age group was chosen, museum program director Amanda Weiss explained, because the children would be old enough to grasp the historical perspective of learning the Bible, but "young enough to be open and eager to take on a challenge like this."

Following the success of previous years, the museum decided to create a similar series of accompanying workshops and tours for the parents.

As their children enthusiastically played tag in the museum's courtyard, yelling out cries of encouragement in Arabic and Hebrew, exchanges between the parents seemed to be limited to polite inquiries about each other's offspring, especially at first.

"Language is more of a problem for us than for the children," admitted 36-year-old Michal Tannenbaum whose daughter Shira attends Paula Ben-Gurion school and signed up for the workshop. "But it is a really nice atmosphere for the children, and it is important for them to be here and break the equation that the Arabs are enemies.

"I grew up being frightened but nothing compared to Shira's childhood," she said.

Parents spoke of children who were nervous and terrified at the first session – to the point of crying in some cases – and were now exchanging phone numbers and hugging each other as each session ended.

One Israeli mother spoke of the joy she felt when she was greeted by a kiss from an Arab mother at the beginning of the day's session.

As for Shira and Mona, both just simply enjoyed the opportunity to make new friends. "It's great," Shira said with a grin, while Mona shyly agreed.

"This project is about building communication and trust where none exists," Weiss said. "It is a very delicate project, trying not to tread on anybody's pain and suffering."

The museum has worked hard to convince schools, teachers and parents that the program's aim is not to proselytize, and that cultural identity on either side will be respected.

Now the only complaints the museum faces are that the program is not long enough, that just as the ice is broken, especially between the parents, the sessions come to an end and there is no follow-up.

"We don't have the funding to carry out a long-term study on the connections that have been made," Weiss said, adding that the museum is aware of friendships that have resulted and continued.

The project, whose annual budget is about $42,000 (US), is supported by the Abraham Fund, private donations and by the Jerusalem Foundation. But like many Israeli programs that rely heavily on charity, it is under threat from a worsening world economy and the ongoing intifadah.

"The museum is the perfect place for this kind of project because it is about our shared history and heritage," said Weiss, who is desperately seeking donations for the year ahead, with the intention of extending its adult program.

"But it is getting harder and harder. Unfortunately, it is not seen as a project of primary need. Yet if we don't learn to live together in peaceful coexistence then we don't have a chance for peace in this region at this point in time."

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A desert flower

By EDGAR ASHER
CJN Israel Bureau

A wind of change is blowing across the Negev as Israel's Bedouin community of 120,000, which represents 25 per cent of the population of the southern region of the country, begins to successfully integrate into the Israeli educational system.

In less than a year, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev will graduate Israel's first Bedouin woman doctor, Rania Al-Oqbi, 23, who says she will dedicate her expertise to helping improve the health of Bedouin women.

Al-Oqbi's achievement over the past six years mirrors the overall change in statistics in the university. In the current academic year, 423 Bedouin students of both sexes are involved in some aspect of university life. Eight years ago, there were no Bedouin students in the university. Today 27 Bedouin women students are studying for either a first or a second degree, and another Bedouin woman, Heba Abu-Kaf, has also started studying medicine.

The revolution that enabled Al-Oqbi to enter the university was made possible by a soft-spoken Israeli Arab, Dr. Riad Agbaria, who was born in Um Al-Fahm in the centre of Israel. Agbaria heads the university's department of clinical pharmacology and it was his vision to encourage young Bedouins to improve their own standard of education and, in turn, be instrumental in helping raise living, health and educational standards in this depressed sector of the Israeli Arab community.

Agbaria describes his mission to educate young Bedouins as a seed turning into a flower. When he switches on his computer the first thing visible on his screen is the adage, "Sow a seed and the earth will yield you a flower."

"Rania is a by-product of my connection with the Bedouin community," Agbaria said. "In 1994, I returned from the United States after completing my post-doctorate degree. I was told by the university's genetic institute that the highest rate of growth and [baby] deliveries was being seen in the Bedouin community. Number of [Bedouin] nurses – zero. Number of physiotherapists – zero. Number of female physicians – zero. Number of lab workers – zero.

"When I started teaching at the university, I would look around and see that none of the students were Bedouin. I asked myself why. I received my PhD at this university, so I know the teachers weren't discriminating between Jews and Arabs and neither was the university.

"There was nothing wrong with the university. [The problem] was beyond the university, so I concluded that it must come from the Bedouin side. There was a bad educational system in the Bedouin sector… This meant that there was no chance of Bedouin youngsters going into the professions – like medicine. The other problem was that the Bedouin community did not want to send their girls to study in any university other than Ben-Gurion."

Agbaria spoke to the university's president, Prof. Avishay Braverman, and its dean, Shrager Segal, to tell them there was something wrong.

"Braverman said, 'What are the numbers? How many in the nursing school?'

"I said, zero.

"'I don't believe you Riad,' Braverman said. 'Let me check these numbers.'"

The university president came back and said that the next year, it would be possible to have five Bedouin students each in medicine, nursing and physiotherapy.

Agbaria felt this was not affirmative action because there were no qualified students to choose from. He decided to start a new program to prepare the students for university. Within 24 hours, he delivered a comprehensive program to Braverman with a price tag of $50,000 to start. By the next day, the president had raised the necessary funds and Agbaria could start his project, called the Negev Medical Cadets. It is a health science enrichment program offered at some Bedouin high schools.

Continued on page B9

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Tribute to Israel

'Most educated Bedouin women are beginning to distance themselves from the more severe Bedouin traditions'

Continued from B8

The program would include regular visits to the Soroka Medical Centre, so that students could help in the hospitals' various departments. Not only would this prepare potential students for university, Agbaria also thought that once the students were involved in a program, their parents would not strongly object to their carrying on up the medical education ladder. This was particularly important for girls, because Bedouin culture is in favour of girls staying close to home, marrying within their clan and bringing up a family.

The funding provided by the program would enable the Bedouin students to attend university for free. The community's poverty would otherwise be an almost complete bar to further education.

It was through this program that Rania Al-Oqbi met Agbaria. Al-Oqbi's mother believed education is essential for all Bedouin girls. Furthermore, for most of her life Al-Oqbi had lived in a single-parent family because her mother was separated from Al-Oqbi's father, an unusual situation for Bedouins.

"My sister gained her BA degree at Ben-Gurion University. Then she started to teach in a high school in [the Bedouin town of] Rahat," Al-Oqbi said. "The girls in the school started to talk to her about their problems. How some of them were beaten and sometimes raped at home. When she heard these stories, she decided to stop being a teacher and study social work because she felt that this way she could more positively help these girls."

Al-Oqbi was doing well in Agbaria's project and he felt she had the potential to study medicine. Her university entrance results were a little below the figures needed to study medicine, but Agbaria realized that this was because of the poor high school education in the Bedouin towns rather than a reflection of Al-Oqbi's ability. He persuaded the university to accept her as a medical student.

"When I look back at my first year, I realize I was very nervous all the time because I was afraid not to succeed. I thought that if I failed, they would not accept anyone else. I had a big responsibility to justify Agbaria's faith in me," said Al-Oqbi.

She need not have worried because after her first year, her marks were always better than average.

Is Al-Oqbi now optimistic that there will be a change in entrenched Bedouin attitudes to education, especially education for girls?

"The minute a Bedouin daughter says to her father, 'I am now studying, working, independent. I want to choose the man that I will marry,' the father will say no. He will say, 'It is my job to say who you will marry.' If a woman goes against her father's wishes, she really stands the risk of being killed. Generally she can only marry within her own tribe. We go out and we study and we are very influenced by the Jewish community. Some will say it is a positive influence and some will say it is negative.

"I will be a doctor soon and I want to be responsible for my own life. I want to decide where to live and who I will marry. It's a conflict and very frustrating. Nobody has done this before. My mother thought when she was my age that this tradition might die out, but it hasn't. Most educated Bedouin men agree that this attitude to women is outdated, but when you ask them if it would be all right for their sisters to marry outside their tribe you receive a firm no."

Most educated Bedouin women are beginning to distance themselves from the more severe Bedouin traditions. "On one hand the university is a big matchmaker," Al-Oqbi said. "It's the only place you can meet people. We don't go out to the cinema or restaurants or any other place."

Al-Oqbi does not have a life outside medicine. Because of strict Bedouin taboos on the activities permitted to women, she is in a sense confined to the university. She cannot go to an outside restaurant or to a movie.

"I spend my free time volunteering in the labour room, because I don't have anything else to do. I cannot go against these traditions, because as a doctor-to-be, I want people to respect me. If I do what I want, they won't respect me. Unfortunately, I am the sort of person who wants to change things; however, I have to think very carefully about the consequences of my actions. I have to behave as people will expect me to."

Al-Oqbi wants to be the first Bedouin gynecologist in the Negev and improve the health of Bedouin women. Her understanding of the Bedouin culture and language may be the catalyst needed to bring the Bedouin women into the 21st century. She is realizes that she is paving the way for other Bedouin girls to take up medicine. As she completes her sixth and final year, a second Bedouin woman student has just been accepted to study medicine at Ben-Gurion University Medical School.

When asked if she would like to go abroad after qualifying to study further and work, Al-Oqbi replied, "My mother is not very happy to think that I might study abroad after I qualify. If I did, and it's a big 'if,' I would always come back."

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Our holiday in Israel – tears of sadness and joy

By MENDEL GREEN

After having coffee with Etty Lothan, chair of the Tel Aviv Foundation and assistant to the mayor of Tel Aviv, Ron Huldai, my wife Helen came home excited and announced that we had put off our trip to Israel too long. Over the years, Helen and I had taken many holidays in Israel, but we had not gone for a while because of the present circumstances.

We flew to Israel last November. and what happened during our 10-day holiday there changed our lives. There wasn't one hour that went by when we didn't cry and then immediately see something that made us happy.

We left Air Canada from Toronto at midnight and arrived about 5:30 p.m. Israeli time the next day. We went straight to our hotel and checked in. We were hungry and decided to go to a fish restaurant where we had eaten the last time we were in Israel. The restaurant was so good that we ate there three times during our last trip, and the chef even took us into the kitchen and taught us how to make great fish.

It was still in business. After being seated, I told the waiter about our cooking experience during our last visit. When he heard we were on a holiday, he left the table and returned with the entire staff, who hugged us and said thanks for visiting the country. Helen and I started to cry. We had a great dinner and went back to our hotel to sleep.

The next day, as it is our routine when we're on holiday, we wanted to go for a long walk. We were assured by the hotel staff everything was safe and we walked all the way to Jaffa. On the way, we stopped at the sight of a bombed-out disco that had been hit by a suicide bomber. Fresh flowers surrounded a stone monument with the names, in both Hebrew and Russian, of the 22 young men and women who were killed. Obviously, someone is bringing flowers every morning.

The monument's engraving, "We will keep on dancing," shook us. Once again, Helen and I started to cry. The statement made us understand the strength of our Israeli brothers and sisters. We left the monument with pride and great respect for Israelis.

We then entered Jaffa, a beautiful ancient seaport and an Israeli Arab town. The last time we were there, thousands of people were on the streets, its shops were flourishing and everything was beautiful. That day, we saw no one. Most of the shops were closed and we were the only tourists. We went to a little coffee shop and were welcomed by the Arab owner, who thanked us for coming. He said he had not seen a tourist in a long time.

'We saw three beautiful parks sponsored by Torontonians'

The next day, Etty Lothan picked us up and showed us the real Tel Aviv. We saw Jewish neighbourhoods that were shantytowns. She showed us shelters for abused women and took us to day-care centres where the only hot meal children got was at the centre. We also returned to Jaffa to visit a beautiful day-care centre that caters to both Jewish and Arab children. The principal is Arab, the teachers are both Jews and Arabs, and the children play together. Arab and Israeli mothers sit and drink tea together, and they watch their beautiful children. Helen commented how sad it was that Jews and Arabs can't learn from the peace and harmony at this centre.

During our stay in Tel Aviv, Helen and I were both surprised at how many prominent Toronto Jews have made donations to these day-care centres, shelters and parks. We saw three beautiful parks sponsored by Torontonians. We were so proud. Our community has truly made a difference in Tel Aviv.

The next day, we went to visit a Cobra helicopter base. It was amazing. The helicopters were lined up in a row, armed to the teeth. Each carried four missiles and 600 machine gun shells. It was an awesome sight on the runway. We felt so proud of Israel. We were taken inside the command centre, where we met distinguished young pilots, both male and female, who live on the base and are on duty 24 hours a day in case they are needed. We witnessed some highly sophisticated electronics and technology of war.

We were then shown a video of the killing of two Israeli soldiers by an Arab mob in Ramallah in October 2000. We saw the police officer who beat them up and threw them out a window of the police station to the mob below. We saw the officer show the mob the blood on his hands. The mob cheered as they beat and stabbed the two young men. We wept silently. A short time later, a Cobra helicopter flew to Ramallah and fired a missile that went through the small window where the police officer had stood, and it blew the whole building up. I couldn't believe how the missile changed direction three times, yet somehow found its way into the building through the small window. Helen and I were so sad, and at the same time so proud of the Israeli helicopter pilots who carried out this mission with such precision.

The next day, we went to Yad Vashem, where we were shown a new exhibit about children of the Holocaust. It had colouring books, toys, etc. It was quite moving. The director of the museum told us a story about a doll that we noticed hanging on a wall. It had belonged to a little girl in a concentration camp. Throughout her time in the camp, she carried the doll with her all the time. When the camp was liberated, she carried it with her out of the camp and had slept with the doll every night since. (She believed the doll saved her.)

Continued on page B11

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Tribute to Israel

'On Shabbat, the beach was packed with thousands of Israelis'

Continued from page B10

When Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Yad Vashem a few years ago, this woman was asked to place her doll in the museum, but she refused. She just could not see herself without the doll, since it had been with her every day of her life since she left the camp. She relented after a few weeks and loaned the doll to Yad Vashem for Clinton's visit. After the visit, she went to Yad Vashem to get the doll back, as she could not be without it. The museum again asked her to leave the doll, but she refused. After a few months, she decided that maybe it was a good thing to donate it to the exhibit. She wrote the doll a letter to say good bye and tell it how she felt.

When we heard the story, Helen and I started weeping. We have been blessed with eight grandchildren and each of them slept with a little doll. Somehow, we understood how this woman felt. It made us understand the importance of never forgetting the Holocaust and the importance of Yad Vashem to Israel, the Jewish people and the world.

'Helen broke down one day and cried, wondering what Israel will do without tourists'

Each afternoon, we would go out on the promenade beside the beach and have coffee. The restaurants were full of Israelis. We felt upset because we didn't see any tourists. Helen broke down one day and cried, wondering what Israel will do without tourists. This happened on a Friday afternoon before Shabbat. Just at that moment, a truck loaded with chairs and tables pulled up near us. We were told it was all part of getting ready for Shabbat. We didn't understand, but the next day, it became clear what was meant.

On Shabbat, the beach was packed with thousands of Israelis. The restaurants were full and you had to wait for a table. The Israelis were so proud, dressed – and undressed – so beautifully on the beach. I have never seen such confidence. Helen and I just sat in awe of their beauty. In Canada, we had read of concerns about terrorism, but the situation in Israel has made these great people resolved not to let the suicide bombers change their lives. We felt very at ease seated with them in their coffee shops and felt no fear whatsoever.

Strangers, cab drivers and friends made us understand how courageous Israelis are. Despite the intifadah, they have lives to live and children to raise. They are brave, tough and smile in spite of their situation. We learned, however, that they feel abandoned by the Jews of the Diaspora who don't come to visit anymore. We should not forsake them. You would not believe how much our visit meant to everyone, friend and stranger alike. I urge all of you to visit Israel. They need us, and, frankly, we need them.

On our last day in Israel, Mayor Huldai asked us to attend a birthday celebration for the 75th birthday of former Tel Aviv mayor Shlomo Lahat. When we went to city hall and took our seats, a polite gentleman approached us and said we were sitting in the wrong place. It was former prime minister Ehud Barak and his wife. Helen and I couldn't stop smiling. In that room were many heroes who had led Israel over the years. We were participating in a truly historic event and felt immensely proud to be with these great people.

We have decided to go back to Israel for a holiday as soon as possible and recognize we must continue to support Israel – now more than ever before. We are full of love and pride when it comes to Israel. Without Israel, we Jews in Canada will never be able to walk with pride.

"Next Year in Jerusalem!"

Mendel Green is a lawyer in Toronto.

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THE MANY FACES (AND BACKS) OF THE IDF: From left, an Air Force pilot, Golani soldiers, the Alpine unit.

[Israel and Israel Sun photos]

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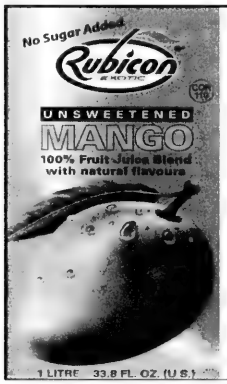

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The IDF's code of conduct needs wider publicity

By CARL ALPERT

A hostile press and foes of Israel frequently describe Israeli soldiers as cruel and bloodthirsty, venting their animosity on helpless Arab civilians. Scant mention is made, of course, of Palestinian suicide bombers who deliberately seek out the maximum number of Israeli civilians they can kill.

It is time that official Israel policy regarding actions by its men in uniform is made more widely known. A code of ethics is posted in military barracks, and by way of emphasis and reminder, a special brochure has recently been distributed internally among all the members of the Israel Defence Forces.

In one special section, soldiers are reminded that their operations must be carried out with full regard for human values, something that has always been the IDF's policy. In their relations with the Palestinians, soldiers are told to bear in mind that every individual is entitled to respect, regardless of origin, religion, nationality or sex.

Soldiers who serve in the West Bank and Gaza are reminded that they represent the State of Israel, and as such they bear the responsibility of behaving in a manner befitting the spirit of the IDF and its values.

There are specific guidelines governing their behaviour at all times. With respect to the dignity of the civilians, three points are made:

A lighter moment at an officer induction ceremony. [Israpet]

- Contact with the local population shall be in the line of duty only.
- Care should be taken to avoid any utterances or behaviour that might cause offence to the local population. Consideration should be given to the feelings and traditions of the inhabitants.
- Wild behaviour toward, or humiliation of, the population is to be strictly avoided. Special care should be taken to prevent harm to women, the aged, the ill and children.

It is true that scattered instances of violent behaviour by Israeli soldiers have been reported, but the press seldom follows up these reports with the news that such soldiers are punished, and some are even sent to prison.

A spokesperson for the army has observed that no one has ever seen Chechnyan children approach a Russian tank, because they know they would be killed on the spot. Yet TV reports constantly show Palestinian youth, unafraid, hurling rocks at Israeli tanks, because they know the Israelis will not shoot them.

The code of ethics also says that no damage shall be caused to any property of the population in the West Bank and Gaza unless operational activities require it. In such cases, care should be taken to minimize the damage. Pillage or theft of Palestinian property is forbidden and constitute serious criminal offences for which the offender will receive severe punishment. It must be noted that the destruction of specific homes is part of a necessary policy to prevent the smuggling of arms and to serve as a deterrent to terrorist activity.

The regulations insist that examination of individuals must respect their dignity. Women are to be physically searched only by women soldiers.

Overall, the basic principle behind the IDF guidelines is that the normal existence of the population shall not be unnecessarily interrupted. Obviously, when the Palestinians declare war against Israel and take actions that require a military response, they are, in effect, undermining their own normalcy.

The regulations also state that properly identified medical personnel and ambulances bearing patients in critical condition shall be permitted to pass checkpoints without unnecessary delay. It is no secret that terrorists have sought to exploit this policy.

Journalists, Israeli soldiers are warned, must be treated with respect and patience, and permitted to fulfill their journalistic functions, except when areas have been proclaimed as off-limits for military reasons. Further, soldiers may not enter delicate installations such as holy places, schools and hospitals, except where there is suspicion that they are being used for hostile purposes. Entrance to such places shall be only with polite and respectful behaviour.

Other regulations deal with care and treatment of wounded civilians and prisoners. It is forbidden to utilize civilians as human shields. Representatives of the Red Cross and the United Nations shall be permitted passage, except where there may be suspicion that these are being used as cover by hostile elements.

Israel soldiers are for the most part not professional men of war. They are the youth and the citizens of the country, decent men and women.

The code of ethics is to remind them of how they must behave, even in times of stress.

Carl Alpert, a syndicated columnist in Haifa, has been commenting on Israeli affairs for more than half a century.

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Tribute to Israel

A Jerusalem Primer

By ROUHAMA DANTO

Zion was created first. Around it clung the earth until the very borders of the world. – Rashi on Yoma 54

In the Jewish tradition, the rock of the foundation (Even Hashtiyah) on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem is the point of origin of creation.

With a recorded history of some 4,000 years, Jerusalem has been more familiar to more people for a longer period of time than any other place on earth.

It is a fascinating, charming city sitting high amid the Judean Hills in the centre of Israel.

This is the city of David, who unified the country in the 10th century BCE and proclaimed it its capital.

This is the city of King Solomon's Temple.

This is the city where the giant prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah uttered thoughts that influenced the morals and religious attitudes of half the human race.

This was the scene of Jesus' last ministry, and it was here that he was crucified.

Muslims, too, consider Jerusalem holy, believing it to be the site from which Mohammed ascended to heaven.

The history of Jerusalem from earliest times is the history of man: a history of war and peace, of greatness and misery, of lofty wisdom and of blood flowing in the gutters.

But the golden thread, the consistent theme running through that history, is its unshakable association with the Jewish people.

The story of this association was repeatedly interrupted by a succession of conquerors: Egyptians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks, Romans, Muslim Arabs, Crusaders, Mamelukes, Ottomans, British and Jordanians (who ruled a part of the city between 1948 and 1967).

Yet throughout the 3,000 years since King David made Jerusalem the seat of Israeli sovereignty, the spiritual attachment of the Jews to the city has remained unbroken.

Despite the many rulers Jerusalem has known, only for the Jews has it been the capital of an independent nation living in this land. It has been a capital three times in its history: from 1000 BCE until the destruction of the First Temple in 587 BCE, from 515 BCE until the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE and from the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948. At all other times, Jerusalem was ruled by foreigners. It has never been the capital of any other nation.

The story of the Jewish attachment to Jerusalem does not have a parallel in any other city in the world. As the former mayor of Jerusalem Teddy Kollek said: "No other city has played such a dominant role in the history, culture, religion and consciousness of a people as has Jerusalem in the life of Jewry and Judaism."

The following are some examples of Jerusalem's importance to the Jews:

• When the land was divided among the tribes, Jerusalem was not assigned to any tribe. It belonged to the entire nation and its holiness was continuous and eternal (Yoma 12:a).

• On Tisha B'av, Jews fast and mourn to commemorate the destruction of the First and Second Temples. They also read the Scroll of Eichah, a lamentation for the destroyed city of Jerusalem.

• Jews conclude the Yom Kippur service and the Passover seder with the words, "Next year in Jerusalem."

• Wherever in the world they are built, synagogues are oriented toward Jerusalem.

• When they build their houses, some Jews keep part of one wall unfinished as a sign of mourning for the destruction of the Temples and to symbolize the temporary nature of the dwelling.

• At the end of the Jewish wedding ceremony, the groom breaks a glass to indicate that even in our greatest joy, we mourn and commemorate the destruction of the two Temples. The breaking of the glass is accompanied by the recitation of part of Psalm 137: "If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget its cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I do not set Jerusalem above my highest joy."

• After the wedding, at the Sheva Brachot, we express hope that the sound of joy, love, happiness and peace will be heard in the streets of Jerusalem.

• When we comfort a mourner, we say, "May God console and sustain you with all the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

• Throughout the centuries of their dispersion, in whatever corner of the earth they found themselves for close to 2,000 years, Jews prayed three times a day for the return to Zion, the biblical synonym of Jerusalem.

• In our daily prayers today, we mention Jerusalem numerous times. We pray for its peace, requesting God to return to Jerusalem and dwell in it again. During the *Amidah*, we face east toward Israel. In Israel, we face toward Jerusalem, and in Jerusalem, we face toward the Temple Mount. And when we say *Birkat Hamazon*, "Grace After Meals," we ask God to rebuild Jerusalem speedily in our days.

• Even the word "Zionism," the movement to gather the Jews to their ancient homeland, is inspired by the hilltop in Jerusalem, Mount Zion.

• Israel's national anthem, which expresses hope for peace and freedom in our ancient homeland, refers to it as "the land of Zion and Jerusalem" rather than "Israel."

In order to better understand the unique connection between Jews and Jerusalem, we need to look at Jewish liturgy, poetry, literature and the Hebrew Bible.

In liturgy, poetry and literature, Jerusalem has more than 70 names, all expressing love, yearning, commitment, hope, dedication and attachment to this city:

• The first mention of Jerusalem is in the Egyptian texts of the 19th-18th centuries BCE and was probably pronounced "rushalimum."

• In the Tel el-Amarna letters of the 14th century BCE, it is called "Urusalim."

• In the Assyrian's Sancheriv inscription, it is called "Urssalimmu."

• The Greek name "Hierosolyma" reflects the holiness of the city (*hieros* means "holy").

• In the Bible, it is usually spelled "Yerushalem," but sometimes "Yerushalayim."

• The "city of Salem" that is mentioned in Genesis 14:18 and in Psalm 76:3 is a reference to Jerusalem.

• The Hebrew meaning of the name "Yerushalem" is "foundation of peace" (*yeru* means "found," Shalem/ shalom means peace).

• Prior to its conquest by King David, the city was called "Yevus," in reference to the Yevusites who lived in Jerusalem at the time. King David called it *Ir David*, the city of David.

• The ancient name "Zion" was used even before King David conquered this place, as it says in Samuel 2, 5:7: "David took the stronghold of Zion, the same is the city of David." Zion at first signified the King's fortress, but later became synonymous with the entire city (as we learn from Psalm 76:3, Zion also means Shalem).

Continued on page B16

JERUSALEM THROUGH THE AGES

BCE	3000	Earliest settlement in Jerusalem (different ancient texts)
	2000- 1800	Abraham visits Shalem (Genesis 14:18)
		The binding of Isaac on Mount Moriah (Genesis 22:2)
	1200	Joshua's conquest of the Land
	1000	King David captures Jerusalem and converts it into the political and spiritual capital of the Jewish people (Samuel 2, 5)
	950	King Solomon builds the First Temple and brings in the Ark of the Covenant (Kings 1, 8:1, Chronicles 2, 3)
	701	Hezekiah fortifies Jerusalem and builds a tunnel to bring in water to the city (Kings 2, 20:20, Chronicles 2, 32)
		Assyrian king, Sancheriv invades, siege fails
	586	Babylonians capture Jerusalem
		The destruction of the First Temple
		Exile to Babylonia (Kings 2, 25:3-10)
	516	Return from Babylonia (Ezra 1:2-3)
		Second Temple rebuilt, the city walls are restored
		Persia rule (Nehemia 4)
	333	Alexander the Great conquers the land, Greek rule
	167	Maccabean revolt
		Hashmonaim purify the Temple and rededicate it
	37	King Herod rebuilds the ruins of the Second Temple, builds the Citadel (Tower of David), rules in Jerusalem
CE	70	Jerusalem and the Second Temple destroyed by the Romans
		Exile to Rome
	131	Jerusalem renamed *Aelia Capitolina* by Hadrian, the Roman emperor
	135	Bar Kochba revolt, further expulsions from the land
	326	Constantine legalizes Christianity and builds churches in Eretz Yisrael
		Byzantine period (326-614)
	638	Caliph Omar captures Jerusalem
		Muslims in Jerusalem
	691	The Dome of the Rock built on Temple site
		Jerusalem becomes sacred to Muslims
	1099	Jerusalem conquered by Crusaders
		Jews and Muslims massacred
	1187	Saladin recaptures the city
		Second Muslim period
		Jews are allowed to dwell in the city
	1247-1517	Mamelukes rule in Jerusalem
		(Ramban writes a letter from Jerusalem seeing it in ruins and abandoned houses...)
	1517	Ottoman Turk conquest
	1540	Suleiman rebuilds the city walls
	1860	First Jewish settlement outside the walls of the Old City
		New city of Jerusalem begins
	1917	British forces capture the city
	1925	Hebrew University inaugurated on Mount Scopus
	1948	Old City captured by Transjordan, Jordanians destroy part of Jewish quarter
		The State of Israel proclaimed with Jerusalem as its capital
		Jerusalem divided between Jordan and Israel
	1967	Six Day War, Israel returns to the Old City
		Jerusalem reunited under Israeli rule
	1968	Jewish quarter rebuilding begins

[Prepared by Rouhama Danto]

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Tribute to Israel

A Jerusalem primer

Continued from page B14

• The name "Mount Moriah," today known as the Temple Mount, is mentioned in the Torah, and from the Jewish perspective, is an area of special holiness. It is located beneath the platform on which the Muslim shrine of the Dome of the Rock stands.

• The Hebrew prophets and subsequent poets gave the city many names of admiration and reverence, including "The City," "God's City," the "Holy City," the "City Of Justice," the "Faithful City," the "City Of Peace" and the "Beautiful City."

In the Hebrew Bible, Jerusalem is mentioned 350 times, by the name Zion, 108 times, and by other names, about 150 times (the city is not referred to even once in the Qu'ran).

Interestingly, within the five books of the Torah themselves, Jerusalem is referred to only once, by the name of Shalem (Gen. 14; 18). It is mentioned in connection with Malchitzedek, who was a king and priest, at the end of the story of Abraham's battle against the four kings who invaded from the north.

The Midrash also contains a reference to Jerusalem. In Genesis Rabba, God himself names the city: "Said the Almighty: 'I will name it Jerusalem'" (Gen. Rabba 56).

The binding of Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19) takes place "in the land of Moriah" on the site of the present-day Temple Mount.

The first specific mention of Jerusalem by its modern name is found in Joshua 10:1-5, when king Adoni-Tzedek of Jerusalem wages a war on Joshua and loses.

Three thousand years ago, King David made what was then a village into his capital. He brought the Ark of the Covenant, the religious symbol of the Jewish nation, into the city and defined the site as both the political and spiritual centre of Israel. Since then, it has been the central focus of the Jewish world, both in Eretz Israel and in the Diaspora.

When King Solomon built the First Temple, the Torah commandment for Jews to visit the holy site three times a year for the Shalosh Regalim (Sukkot, Pesach and Shavuot) could only be fulfilled in that city.

In his grand dedication speech, King Solomon pointed out that one of the Temple's functions is to act as a mediator between the person who prays and his God: "…and they will pray unto the Lord towards the city which thou hast chosen, and towards the house which I have built for thy name…" (Kings 1, 8:44) Kind of a "gate to heaven."

Although the Temple has been destroyed for almost 2,000 years, and Jews have been dispersed to the four corners of the world, Jerusalem remains the focus of the Jewish world.

One of the world's most ancient cities, Jerusalem is mentioned in many documents of antiquity. From all the great cities that existed at the time of King David, it is the only one that is still here, alive and vibrant, and is certainly the most beautiful, fascinating, inspiring and interesting one.

For a city built on a hill, with no access to a body of water and no natural resources, it is quite extraordinary.

There have been periods when Jews were not permitted to live in Jerusalem, but there was never a moment when Jerusalem did not live within the Jews, as individuals and as a people.

In the Jewish consciousness Jerusalem has always been irreplaceable. Long before Christians and Muslims, the Jews would persist in their refusal to replace Jerusalem, though it was only ruins and dust. That persistence was expressed with strength and pain on the banks of the rivers of Babylon and is still expressed even today.

With the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, we have indeed become the privileged generation of Jews who have seen with our own eyes the return to Zion. We are those spoken of by the Psalmist: "When the Lord will return the captivity of Zion, we will be like dreamers" (Psalms 126:1).

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem, May they who love you be serene. Peace be within your walls, serenity within your palaces, For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say: 'Peace be in your midst.' – Psalm 122

Rouhama Danto was born in Jerusalem and lives in Toronto.

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BoN · LiEu™
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2651 Yonge St. 416-322-6067
Bayview Village 416-225-3238

Together We're Stronger!

UJA Federation

A Salute to Our Community and Its Volunteers

"Do not separate yourself from the community" — *Pirke Avot 2:5*

"אַל תִּפְרוֹשׁ מִן הַצִּבּוּר" – פרקי אבות ב:ה

UJA FEDERATION CAMPAIGN 2004
FOR ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH WORLD

Allan Silber

Richard Venn

On behalf of UJA Federation Campaign 2004, we salute so many selfless volunteers featured in this exceptional supplement. Your remarkable dedication has created a quality of Jewish life, which has catapulted Toronto to the top of worldwide Jewish communities.

Over the last few years, we have all witnessed dramatic changes in our Jewish world. We know that terrorism can strike anywhere at any time. We know that Israel is suffering from its worst recession since 1948, and we are horrified by despicable anti-Israel and anti-Semitic acts around the world.

Last year, Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, so superbly led by Ronnie Appleby and Howard Sokolowski, raised a remarkable $65 million. This year's campaign 2004 is a special campaign to continue the critical work we began last year.

Powered by the volunteer vision that our community has demonstrated to the world for nearly a century, we will, once again, we're sure, confront these difficult challenges with confidence, generosity and determination.

Allan Silber *Richard Venn*
Chairs, UJA Federation Campaign 2004

UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO

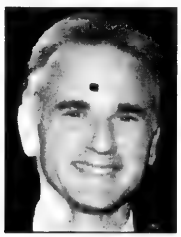
We live in an extraordinary Jewish community. Toronto is the focus of communities around the Jewish world which seek to learn from the success that we have achieved in creating a network of day schools and community services, and a strong UJA Federation to support them.

Our achievement rests largely on the shoulders of our past and current volunteer leadership. The vision, commitment and ability that volunteers bring to the communal enterprise provide the human and financial resources that are at the heart of our efforts. We honour our leadership each year in order to recognize their contribution and to reflect on how we are truly stronger together.

With best wishes.

Ralph Shedletsky
Chair of the Board
UJA Federation

Leslie Gales
Incoming Chair of the Board
UJA Federation



הפדרציה היהודית של טורונטו רבתי יידישע פעדעראציע פון גרויס טאראנטא
4600 Bathurst Street Toronto, Ontario M2R 3V2
Telephone 416 635 2883 Toll Free 1 888 635 2424 www.jewishtoronto.net Fax 416 631 5715
Jewish Toronto Tomorrow

Volunteering and Beyond

Over the past ten years, our community's focus on a thriving Jewish future has led to a growing interest in Jewish spirituality. This has not been limited to a desire for more intensity and passion in synagogue services, but a quest for the transcendent in all areas of life. Could there be more to giving and community involvement than the emergence of our "inner *mentsch*"?

In a famous biblical story, the Almighty's presence came to comfort and visit with Abraham after his circumcision. Spying some desert travelers, Abraham "puts G-d on hold" and runs to offer his hospitality to the three strangers.

If developing intimacy with G-d is the ultimate spiritual activity — why would Abraham give priority to being a "nice guy"? He understood that "hanging out" with G-d was one thing — but acting G-dly himself was even higher.

There is no greater closeness with G-d than transforming ourselves to act as G-d acts. When this consciousness informs our *tzedakah* activities and community involvement, we are not just helping others — we are connecting with the Almighty and with the essence of who we really are.

— ***Rabbi Michael Skobac*, Jews for Judaism**

Community Awards

The women and men pictured on Pages C3 and C4 have made *tzedakah* and community involvement constant priorities in their lives. Their unrelenting commitment to Jewish values helps enrich the lives of so many and instills enormous community pride in us all. These community role models received their Volunteer Recognition Awards on behalf of the entire community at UJA Federation's Annual Meeting on June 17, 2003.

BEN SADOWSKI AWARD OF MERIT

The Ben Sadowski Award recognizes individuals with long standing records of senior community service with UJA Federation and the larger Jewish community. It is this community's most prestigious volunteer recognition award.

SANDY BROWN

For more than a decade, Sandy's expertise, commitment and leadership have benefited a broad range of community organizations.

Her long and distinguished association with UJA Federation includes serving as President from 1997-1998, as well as sitting on the Project Renewal, Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, birthright Israel, and Social Planning & Allocations Committees. Currently she is a member of the UJA Federation Board of Directors.

In addition, Sandy has assumed other key leadership roles including serving on the Board of UIA Federations Canada, Past President and member of the Board and Executive of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education, member of the Executive Committee of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region and past Chair of Bialik Hebrew Day School, where she is a Life Member.

"While it is humbling to be the recipient of awards for one's communal service, it truly has been a privilege to serve one's community. The act of giving of oneself is richly and immeasurably rewarded by the personal satisfaction one gains from the experience. High praise must be given to all who volunteer and to all those many dedicated professionals who make the volunteer service so meaningful."

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

Leadership Development Awards, which were established to encourage young men and women to assume community leadership roles, are presented to those individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment and service.

MICHAEL BUCKSTEIN

Michael's commitment to Israel and the community began in his student years at CHAT. Coming full circle, he joined the CHAT Board and served for three years from 1993-1995. He has been Chair of UJA Federation's Major Gifts Division for the past two years.

A fervent advocate of Israel, with strong family ties in Jerusalem, Michael will co-chair the upcoming UJA Federation B'Yachad Solidarity Mission to Israel in November.

"I want my children to look at our community work and be as inspired and proud of us as I am of my parents and their generation. We have a way to go. My wife, my father and UJA Federation's Emissary from Israel Yossi Tanuri are my community heroes. They model selflessness, humility and accomplishment."

LYNN KIRSHIN

A graduate of UJA Federation's 1993 Leadership Development Program, Lynn has chaired UJA Federation's Young Adult Division (YAD) and currently sits on UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 YAD Committee.

She is also a member of the Keren Hayesod International Young Leadership Committee as well as the National Young Leadership Executive. Lynn is this year's recipient of the National Young Leadership Award presented by UIA Federations Canada.

"I have learned so much and met so many outstanding people by volunteering in the community. It is seeing the actual fruits of people's labour that I find so satisfying. It is amazing what one person can do but what is even more amazing is what can be accomplished by people working together for a common cause."

More awards, see Page C4

GRANOVSKY AWARD FOR CAMPAIGN EXCELLENCE

Named after the late Jewish community leader Phil Granovsky, the award is a tribute to individuals who exemplify the best in UJA Federation campaigning.

CAROLE STERLING

A dedicated fundraiser and active member of the community, Carole has been involved in UJA Federation since 1995, demonstrating outstanding leadership as the 2000 Women's Campaign Chair, Vice Chair of Campaigns 2002 and 2003 and a past Chair of the Walk with Israel. She currently sits on the Jewish Toronto Tomorrow Vaughan Campus Steering Committee, the UJA Federation Board of Directors and the Israel Now Consortium.

Carole's volunteer involvement extends to Temple Sinai, the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism, CHAT, Canadian Friends of Hebrew University and State of Israel Bonds.

"This community is blessed with many volunteers who give so generously of their time and effort. As Jews we are commanded to be responsible, one for the other, and in so doing we strengthen and support each other. The greatest reward and motivation for doing is the opportunity to do more. I am grateful for the opportunities that have been given me, and I am honoured and privileged to be the recipient of this year's Granovsky Award."

Community Awards (cont'd)

SHEM TOV HONOUREES

The Shem Tov Awards are presented to leaders representing the highest levels of excellence in volunteer service in Toronto's Jewish community.

HENRY ICYK
Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living

Presently Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee and a member of the Building Steering Committee, Henry has been involved at Bernard Betel since 1998. Henry also enjoys volunteering as a coach and fundraiser in both baseball and hockey at the rep and house league levels.

"Having elderly parents myself ... I wanted to become involved with an organization that offers a program that enhances the lives of the elderly. I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity to volunteer my time and expertise to the Bernard Betel Centre in helping them achieve the wonderful work they do."

MORRIS MILNER
JVS of Greater Toronto

Since completing his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering in 1968, Mickey has devoted his career to improving the quality of life for people with physical disabilities. JVS of Toronto has benefited from his compassion and expertise through the numerous positions he has held on the Rehab Advisory Council, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee.

"Volunteering enriches volunteers and the endeavours to which they commit valuable time and experience. Truly committed volunteers add naturally and positively to the hearts and souls of those they serve."

ALEX SEROTA
Jewish Camp Council of Toronto

During his long and impressive association with the Jewish Camp Council, Alex has held almost every position on the Executive, including Treasurer and President and currently sits on the Board of Directors. In addition, Alex is active in Beth Sholom Synagogue, Magen David Adom and State of Israel Bonds.

"To volunteer is in my opinion a great mitzvah. To help in bettering the lives of fellow Jews and others by volunteering in aid organizations locally and overseas provides the greatest satisfaction anyone can have."

FRAN SONSHINE
Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Fran has been actively involved with Baycrest for over 12 years as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors and Executive Committee, Co-Chair of the Guardian Gifts Campaign, and a member of the Board of the Women's Auxiliary. She is also Vice Chair of UJA Federation's Women's Campaign & Advocacy and National Vice President of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO.

"I cannot imagine a world without volunteers. Voluntarism is the backbone of a civil, compassionate and caring society. Giving my time and energy to benefit others is of vital importance to me."

HOWARD UNGERMAN
Reena

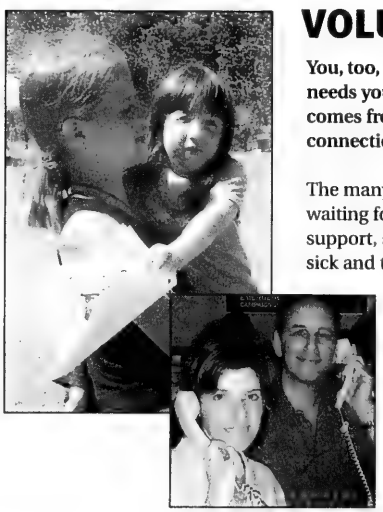
A dedicated volunteer with Reena for more than 20 years, Howard served as Chair from 2000-2002. A lawyer by profession, he was instrumental in helping Reena ensure that individuals who are developmentally challenged have the same rights and privileges as others more fortunate when the City of Vaughan proposed a by-law limiting group homes.

"Volunteering my time and energy to such a wonderful agency as Reena for almost 25 years has been such a privilege and joy that I am honoured to have been given the opportunity to do so. These feelings are the essence of volunteering."

CECILE ZAIFMAN
Jewish Family & Child Service

During Cecile's 2002-2003 presidency, JF&CS underwent an intensive strategic planning process. An active member of the JF&CS Board for thirteen years, Cecile has held other key volunteer positions, including sitting on the Leo Baeck Day School Board of Directors and on the United Jewish Welfare Fund Investment Committee.

"Giving back to our community has always been a part of my family. It is important to set an example for our children so that the vulnerable and disadvantaged will be cared for in the next generation, and that our children know they have a responsibility for others in their community."



VOLUNTEER IN YOUR TORONTO JEWISH COMMUNITY

You, too, can share your expertise or talents – offer your time to someone who needs you – make new friends and contacts – experience the satisfaction that comes from helping others – develop a stronger connection to our Jewish community.

The many rewarding volunteer opportunities waiting for you include administrative support, serving as a Big Brother, visiting the sick and the elderly, fundraising for UJA Federation or working with children who have special needs.

For more information on these and other community volunteer opportunities, visit **www.jewishtoronto.net** (click Volunteering)

A TRIBUTE

In Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers), we are advised not to separate ourselves from the community. This seemingly simple injunction represents the essence of Jewish living. We are all dependent on each other and responsible for each other. The community strengthens every individual and every individual strengthens the community.

The strength of our community is visible through our schools, our community centres, our agencies and thousands of talented, motivated, devoted volunteers, without whom our Jewish community could not function.

This special supplement is not just a tribute to them but to our collective community and every one of the 180,000 individuals within it.

Because we strengthen each other — **Together We're Stronger.**

Fern Orzech, **Chair, Volunteer Recognition Project**

Adath Israel Congregation

Perpetuates and promotes Conservative Judaism and the Jewish way of life. www.adathisrael.com

Howard Goldstein

"It was especially meaningful for me, after many years of community service, to have been able to make a difference and to leave a meaningful impression on the life of the Synagogue and its congregants."

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto*

Provides students with an excellent Jewish and General Studies education based on Torah values in a safe and supportive learning environment. www.associatedhebrewschools.com

Michele Michaelov

"As President of the Parent-Teacher Council, I manage several hundred volunteers and many new and ongoing projects. Mentoring parents to become dedicated volunteers, who will enrich the lives of our children, has been extremely rewarding."

Together We're Stronger!

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre*

A community organization providing quality programs and services that meet the social, educational, cultural, recreational and citizenship needs of our constituents. www.kofflercentre.com

Felicia Cukier

"Volunteer work has been an integral part of my life, having been involved on a professional level in art, both in Montreal and Toronto. I am delighted to be a volunteer with the Koffler Centre of the Arts, because I believe art is a great part of our lives."

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Internationally-renowned for its care, research and education related to aging and geriatrics, its unique continuum of care includes supportive residential care and community services for seniors, short-term specialized medical care, as well as long-term and complex continuing care. www.baycrest.org

Irma Orchard

"It gives me pleasure to volunteer at Baycrest Centre because of its devotion to making peoples' lives better. Visiting my aunt, who was a resident for eight years, meeting her caregivers, volunteers and therapists, influenced my decision in becoming a volunteer."

BBYO*

A youth-led, worldwide organization that provides opportunities for Jewish youth to develop their leadership potential, a positive Jewish identity, and commitment to their personal development. bbyo@idirect.com

Florence Glickman

Florence has been a BBYO Board member for four years. Through her own experience and that of her late husband, Steve, and daughter Dana, BBYO has provided a wonderful source of friendship and leadership skills. Florence feels a deep kinship with BBYO which holds a special place in her heart.

Beit Halochem Canada

Raises funds to help support the disabled veterans in Israel, and establishes meaningful relationships between the veterans and the Jewish community in Canada. www.advi.ca

Sara Farajun

"My brother-in-law had been injured as a paratrooper during his military service and visited Beit Halochem in Haifa every week, where he received medical treatment and rehabilitation. Here is where he forgot his pain. When I came to Toronto, I wanted to help the 50,000 disabled veterans who battle with life each day."

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living*

A non-profit learning and wellness centre reflecting Jewish values and committed to maximizing the quality of life for seniors in the community. www.betelcentre.org

Helen Freedman

"My most meaningful and rewarding experience happens monthly at Café Europa, serving smiling, appreciative Holocaust survivors as they enjoy luncheon music."

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation

A family Synagogue emphasizing the warmth of Torah tradition. www.bayt.org

Michele Herrmann & Michael Mirsky

"Our Shul has a very special place in our hearts. By volunteering, it gives us tremendous satisfaction because we know that we are helping realize its goals of being a makom kedusha and providing spiritual enrichment to the community. In particular, we get tremendous nachas being involved with our youth and seeing them grow to become future leaders. It's certainly true that you get back more than you put in."

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation

Dedicated to cultivating, developing and sustaining Judaism and Jewish living in accordance with the ideas and standards of the Conservative Movement. www.bethdavid.com

Myra & Bert Shinwell

"We have been part of the Beth David family for nearly 40 years and it has been an integral part of our lives. Any contribution we have made has been because of how we feel about the Synagogue."

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue

Fosters a full and joyous way of life rooted in a heritage of traditional Conservative Judaism and committed to Jewish values, education, spiritual well-being and community. www.beby.org

Gord Garshowitz

"It's very easy in Toronto to live a Jewish lifestyle of choice. Volunteering at Beth Emeth gives me an opportunity to give something back to the community so that others might also have those choices."

Beth Sholom Synagogue

Seeks to enrich the lives of our congregants and community through the ideals of Torah, Gemillut Hasidim (Social Action) and Achdut (Jewish Unity). www.bethsholomsynagogue.com

Maurice Kerbel

"I joined Beth Sholom about 20 years ago and became actively involved on committees and the Board of Governors. I love the Shul and have always felt that no task was too big to tackle." Moishe is well known to us for always "wanting to do the right thing" and we, as a congregation, daily strive to live up to his challenge.

Beth Tikvah Synagogue

A vibrant forward-looking Conservative Synagogue dedicated to fostering spiritual and Judaic growth and fulfillment. www.bethtikvah.on.ca

Shirley Anne Haber, Sasha Schaeffer & Heather Shapero

Shirley Anne Haber

Sasha Schaeffer

Heather Shapero

These three women have perennially displayed remarkable initiative, boundless energy, and, above all, the skill and competence to complete their various projects successfully and in the great spirit of *tikun olam*.

* Denotes 2002-2003 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Together We're Stronger!

UJA FEDERATION

WITH ISRAEL NOW

Dear Friends,

In every sphere of Jewish life, we look for role models to help us define the ideal. In the Jewish world, Toronto is the role model.

Few Jewish communities anywhere display such generosity, such commitment and such strength. Among the worldwide Keren Hayesod family of communities, Toronto, which ranks first in fundraising, sets an unmatched global example of devotion to Israel.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto donations are currently at work in Israel on behalf of terror victims, trauma units, hospitals, pre-schools and kindergartens requiring extra security for their children and hard-pressed social service agencies. Toronto's extraordinary support is helping Israel deal with a very difficult situation.

Toronto's global reputation is a tribute to thousands of volunteers whose time and energy are directed to the loftiest of Jewish causes. Your volunteer spirit strengthens Jews everywhere.

I wish to thank you, to commend you and ask you to please continue with your great work on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people.

With my most cordial Shalom.

Amb. Avi Pazner
World Chairman
Keren Hayesod

A BIG SELL IN TORONTO

Over 30,000 Torontonians "shopped till they dropped" during a four-day Israel Mall extravaganza. Nearly 75 Israeli merchants and artists, assisted by more than 250 volunteers, set up shop at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, where they sold products from kosher foods to works of art, ceramics, toys, perfumes, cosmetics and jewelry. This 2nd annual event was sponsored by the Israel Now Consortium, the BJCC, the Government of Israel Economic Mission to Canada, State of Israel Bonds, and the Toronto Zionist Council.*

IF IT'S MADE IN ISRAEL, MAKE IT YOURS!

Buy Israeli, a new initiative of the Israel Now Consortium* demonstrates how every single Jewish consumer in the Greater Toronto Area can make a significant difference to Israel's sagging economy. More than 90 retail establishments have embraced this project by importing and selling Israeli-made products. Short of traveling to Israel, Buy Israeli is an excellent way to help Israel on an ongoing basis! For a complete list of products and merchants, visit www.jewishtoronto.net

*The Israel Now Consortium is comprised of more than 115 community organizations, united in solidarity with Israel, under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ISRAEL!

What a party! More than 6,000 people braved the inclement weather on Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israel's Independence Day - to demonstrate the true spirit of Toronto's Jewish community as they marched from the Bathurst Jewish Centre to Earl Bales Park to mark Israel's 55th birthday. Sponsored by UJA Federation and the Israel Now Consortium*, this celebration featured fun for the whole family with singing, dancing, activities for children and kosher Israeli food.

MISSIONS LIFT ISRAELI MORALE

Toronto has sent more educational solidarity missions to Israel than any other city in the world. More than 1500 community members have joined over 30 UJA Federation sponsored missions since October 2000 to see how their gifts are helping those in need and lifting the spirits of all Israelis. For a list of upcoming Community missions, see the back page of this Supplement.

ISRAEL, WE'RE WITH YOU!

More than 20,000 walkers, sponsors and volunteers took part in this year's UJA Federation Walk with Israel – the world's largest solidarity walk on Israel's behalf. The massive turnout was a giant step in telling the world how much our Jewish community supports the people of Israel.

... a community in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people.

Beth Tzedec Congregation

Founded to preserve Judaism, to inculcate belief in G-d and reverence for our heritage, to translate Jewish spiritual values into terms of present day thought and action, to revitalize Jewish traditional practices in synagogue and home, and to cultivate Hebrew language and literature.
www.beth-tzedec.org

Cheryl Cappe

"The ultimate reward in volunteering at Beth Tzedec is the freedom to choose a comfortable level of involvement. It is the joy of helping create a community with a common purpose, striving to make our spiritual home the best it can be. It is the pleasure of working with others and feeling good about passing these efforts on from generation to generation."

Bialik Hebrew Day School*

Committed to creating an atmosphere conducive to learning and growth.
www.bialik.on.ca

Gayla Schwartz

"Volunteering with Bialik's PTA for the past 10 years, most recently as Chairperson, has not only enhanced my life as a parent, but has enriched the education of many children, especially my own."

Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

The University acts as a driving force in the development of the Negev and seeks to excel as a major centre for education and research in Israel.
www.bgu.ac.il

Jordan Cohen

"Working with BGU has been a rewarding experience. When meeting with visiting faculty who describe the cutting-edge work being done in their fields, particularly projects that we have assisted, we know we are helping Israel and BGU fulfill its vision in investing in its most valuable resource – its people."

Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital

Israel's foremost centre for geriatric and psychiatric medicine, it treats the effects of advancing age and mental instability using advanced medical technologies, professional expertise, compassion and care.
www.herzoghospital.com

Les Aaron

"The repercussions of homicide bombings extend far beyond the physical damage to human life. Herzog Hospital is instrumental in helping victims and their families deal with resulting trauma that remains long after the initial horror."

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University (Toronto Chapter)

Develops and promotes awareness, leadership and financial support for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
www.cfhu.org

Philip Draper

"A fund for cancer research was established at the Hebrew University to honour my daughter Haley on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah. I am proud to be associated with and to be a Board member of CFHU where some of Israel's best minds are engaged in cutting-edge research that will have worldwide benefit."

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

Provides support for the educational goals of Tel Aviv University, facilitated by enhanced public awareness of the University's achievements, fundraising and the development of a strong local membership. www.tav.ac.il

Mark Greenspan

"There is a great sense of satisfaction that one gets from volunteer work. This past year, CFTAU helped bring together talented doctors from Tel Aviv University and Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children for joint medical research. What could be better than that?"

Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation

Supports and promotes educational, research and patient care programs at Shaare Zedek Medical Centre in Jerusalem.
www.szmc.org.il

Tamara Stieber

"The most meaningful experience for me was visiting the hospital and fully understanding its significance in light of the situation in Israel. It is a true reflection of the ideal State of Israel, being a place where people of every race, religion and creed can co-exist with one another and work towards a united goal."

Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science

Expresses commitment of the Canadian Jewish community to help the Weizmann Institute maintain its standards of excellence and its significant contributions to world science and Israel.
www.weizmann.ac.il

Carol Gordon

"The Weizmann Institute in Rehovot is a special place for me. Its dedicated scientists, through basic and cutting-edge research, strive to advance humanity. It has been a privilege to support Israel and be part of the Weizmann family of volunteers of the Canadian Society, the Toronto Chapter and Women and Science."

Canadian Society for Yad Vashem

Ensures that future generations will know what befell the Jewish people and so many others, through education, research and remembrance in the hope that the lessons of the Holocaust will not be forgotten.
www.yadvashem.ca

Naomi Strasser

"I embrace the fundamental philosophy of Yad Vashem, the main thrust of its mission being education. It is important for me to know that the impact of the Holocaust is being taught properly and accurately, in the hope that Jews and civilization in general will be spared such horrors in the future."

Circle of Care*

Facilitates and supports independent living in the community and promotes individual health, well-being and quality of life.
www.circleofcare.com

Debra Joy Eklove

"As a hospice volunteer, I feel humbled and honoured by people's journeys and any support I can provide. It is the first time that I have volunteered and interacted with a family and a couple, which for me heightens the poignancy of this vulnerable and personal time."

Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT)*

Striving for excellence in all aspects of education, CHAT provides each student with a Judaic and General Studies education in a co-educational setting.
www.chatrh.org
www.chattc.org

Susan Kurin

"I felt I could make a difference by motivating parents at CHAT Richmond Hill Campus to be involved – bringing into reality a shared vision of school, kids and parents coming together to create a real family atmosphere."

Downtown Jewish Community School*

Provides Jewish students with a basis for Jewish identity in a pluralistic community. Students are taught the concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and to feel comfortable within a Jewish setting.
www.djcs.org

Dan Reisler

"I consider my contribution to be quite small compared to many others in our community. However, as we all know, it is a mitzvah to serve, and particularly in my case, the educational, spiritual and cultural needs of our children."

Together We're Stronger!

Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, Sara and Sam Hennick Educational Centre*

Canada's first and only Jewish school for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. Programs are designed to help students reach their personal and academic potential by providing them with strategies to manage their difficulties.
faigied@hotmail.com

Murray Shore

The staff of Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre extends their heartfelt appreciation to Murray, President of the Board of Directors, for his tireless work and inspirational example.

Emunah Women of Toronto

An international women's Zionist organization with a long history of providing children and adults in Israel with a broad education and strong Jewish values.
www.icomm.ca/emunah

Pessy Weitzner

"My motivating factor became realized when I visited Emunah's day care and children's village projects in Israel 13 years ago. Since then I have visited Neve Michael Children's Village four times and that's what keeps me going."

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies

Combats anti-Semitism and hate by promoting tolerance, justice and human rights worldwide through education and advocacy.
www.wiesenthal.com

Sherry Firestone

"I believe in the Center's international work in combating hate and anti-Semitism, particularly as these issues become more frightening. The Center's education and advocacy arm in Canada continues to be at the forefront of promoting tolerance, justice and human rights."

* Denotes 2002-2003 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residences Corporation

A unique living environment based on recognition of the changing needs of older adults. Committed to providing an environment that fosters a positive Jewish identity.
afoss@circleofcare.com

Steven Picov

"I have always been interested in the development and need for affordable housing. My involvement on the Board of Directors allows me to explore this interest while utilizing my professional business skills to benefit the Corporation."

Hillel of Greater Toronto*

Committed to building Jewish identity, nurturing intellectual development, and fostering spiritual growth in a pluralistic university and college setting.
www.hilleltoronto.org

Adam Cutler

Hillel at the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life

"Presenting Alan Dershowitz to a crowd of 500 in a largely politically ambivalent campus showed me how effective our Israel advocacy efforts could be provided we, the volunteers, put in the long hours of preparation."

Seth Winberg

Jewish Student Federation at York University

"Coming from a small Jewish community in Oakville, my experiences at Jewish Student Federation, the friends I've made, have been truly meaningful. It's a real sense of community."

Elysse Zarek

Hillel at Ryerson

"Being part of Hillel at Ryerson is fantastic. Everything from our sock drive for the homeless to Israel advocacy has been a very positive experience."

Holy Blossom Temple

A Canadian Congregation of Jewish men and women who are committed to the principles of Reform Judaism.
dtameanko@holyblossom.org

Walter Seaton

"There will always be a meritorious cause or person in need who will benefit from benevolent help. Giving some thought, spare time and energy to providing this help is a responsibility we must all share; it is a mitzvah.*"*

Israel Cancer Research Fund

Supports scientists working in institutions, hospitals and health centres throughout Israel, enabling them to engage in innovative cancer research to the benefit of all.
www.icrfonline.org

Vera Finkelstein

Dynamic, enthusiastic, tenacious and incredibly committed are just a few of the words to describe Vera. She is one "classy lady" who gives of herself completely and is a role model for us all.

Jewish Camp Council of Toronto*

Provides residential, recreational camping services to the community, geared to the social needs of the recipient, regardless of ability to pay. Camping services for children provide an opportunity to learn and enjoy recreational skills, while gaining independence and self-sufficiency in a caring Jewish environment.
www.campnbb.com

Allan Borins

"Camp has been meaningful to me since my own experiences there. Serving on the Board has allowed me to follow an important tradition in my family."

Together We're Stronger!

Jewish Family & Child Service*

Supports and promotes the healthy development of individuals, families and communities in the Greater Toronto Area through prevention, protection, counselling, education and advocacy services within the context of Jewish values.
info@jfandcs.com

Lisa Flomen

"Helping a child feel better about himself and gain confidence is one of the most gratifying feelings one can receive. I really enjoy working with the kids at JF&CS."

Jewish Family & Child Service – Chaplaincy Services *

Supports and promotes the healthy development of individuals, families and communities in the Greater Toronto Area through prevention, protection, counselling, education and advocacy services within the context of Jewish values.
www.toronto.com/jfcs

Margaret Klompas

"There is no other activity in which the rewards are so immediate and so tangible as visiting the sick. The face that lights up and the smile of joy makes volunteering so meaningful."

Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada (Toronto)*

Facilitates the lawful entry and resettlement of Jewish refugees and immigrants arriving in Canada. Advances their well-being through settlement services/programs and expedites integration into the Jewish community and society-at-large.
www.jias.org

Arlene Stone

"To be a small part of an agency that strives to add meaning and better quality of life for others is a personal reward that lifts the spirit and is indescribably satisfying. I urge others to grasp the opportunity to be of service."

Jewish National Fund of Toronto

Part of the international family known as Keren Kayemeth Le'Israel, an agency given primary responsibility with regard to afforestation and reforestation in Israel.
tor@jnf-canada.org

Ziona Cowen

"I love volunteering at JNF because of their established strong links between Israel and people around the world. JNF's work is important to Israel and its people. Volunteering is fun, exciting and enables me to become involved in a worthy cause."

Jewish Women International of Toronto

Strengthens the lives of women, children and families and perpetuates Jewish values through education, advocacy and action.
www.jewishwomen.org

Dena Levant

"Our society is searching for 'Win-Win Situations.' Voluntarism is just that. Even a single act of kindness rewards the recipient, the volunteer and society with positive messages and change."

Jews for Judaism*

Dedicated to counteracting the multi-million dollar efforts of numerous cults and missionary groups which target Jews for conversion, offering an extensive variety of preventive education programs and counselling.
www.jewsforjudaism.org

Daniel Ventresca

"Jews for Judaism provides me with some of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Helping Jewish souls back to Judaism allows me to live the words of our sages: 'Whoever saves a single Jewish soul is as if he has saved an entire world.' "

JVS of Greater Toronto*

Sets educational and vocational goals, develops the skills and knowledge necessary to achieve those goals and deals effectively with educational or vocational disabilities.
www.jvstoronto.org

Diane Cadden

"The camaraderie and teamwork exhibited by my staff supervisors was a real eye opener. Everything I did was appreciated and I learned exactly what it takes to become successful in administration, not just from a work point of view, but also attitude. Thanks to this, I gained full-time employment with the JVS Targeted Wage Subsidy Program. Thank you JVS for helping me get my life back on track. I will be eternally grateful."

Kehilla Residential Programme*

Identifies and champions affordable housing initiatives responsive to the needs of the Jewish community through education and advocacy, project sponsorship, development consultation, research and management.
www.kehilla.ca

Mary Spring

"I have been on the Board of the Kehilla Residential Programme since the late '90s. My most interesting and rewarding experience has been my direct involvement in the annual affordable housing workshop 'Bagels to Bricks.' "

Kehillat Shaarei Torah

Serving the Bayview-York Mills area, this modern Orthodox Synagogue prides itself on providing an open and welcoming setting where all feel at home.
tradburk@interlog.com

Beverley Allen

"I'm grateful and humble for gifts Hashem has given me and I try to use these skills to repay. Some of the projects I love to work on are The Mature Adults Group, Project Linus, visiting the sick and disabled with Rabbi Tradburks and Shul members and helping out in the office. I enjoy the warm feedback I get from all these groups."

* Denotes 2002-2003 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning

A pluralistic, egalitarian progressive communal adult education centre that, through the study of traditional texts, gives students a connection to their Jewish heritage and the freedom to apply that knowledge as they best see fit. www.kolel.org

Vicki Campbell

"I am honoured to be part of this dynamic, pluralistic organization. Kolel builds and strengthens Jewish identity through study and programs, in an environment that brings together all streams of Judaism as well as the non-committed. Learning at Kolel leads to a better understanding of who we are, where we came from and where we are going as Jews today."

Leo Baeck Day School*

Reform Jewish Day School where families, professionals and Board members together create a child-centered learning environment in which each student experiences a multi-faceted educational program. zita.gardner@leobaeck.thornhill.on.ca

Franci Sniderman

"Volunteering on the Board and Parents' Association provides the opportunity to influence growth and development of the school, making a difference to the whole educational experience of students, staff and families, while helping my children experience, through example, the Jewish values learned at school."

Maccabi Canada – Ontario Region

Dedicated to enriching the lives of Canadian Jewish youth through athletic, cultural and educational programs. Maccabi Canada utilizes the unique venue of athletics to communicate its ideals of Jewish unity and continuity across the country and throughout the world. www.maccabicanada.com

Darryl T. Mann

"Building relationships has always been a goal that I have strived to achieve. My involvement with Maccabi Canada and, most recently as the Ontario Chairman, has enabled me to contribute to and foster the success and growth of the organization. I am honoured to be associated with all the people that volunteer with this organization and I share this recognition with everyone involved in Maccabi Canada."

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre*

Dedicated to serving the cultural, educational and recreational needs of downtown Toronto through programs and services guided by Jewish values. Open to all members of the community regardless of race, ethnic origin, or religious affiliation. www.milesnadaljcc.ca

Charlotte Lynch

Charlotte is an extraordinary woman. She volunteers on a regular basis and plays an important role in most of our special events. She is committed, hard working and happy to contribute in any way she can. Charlotte has MS and, with great courage, works to make every day special. Sometimes she volunteers from her wheelchair, sometimes with the aid of a cane, and when she is feeling well, with no aids at all. A member of the JCC who works out regularly to keep strong, she is truly an inspiration to us all!

Mount Sinai Hospital

Discovering and delivering the best patient care with the heart and values true to our heritage. volunteer@mtsinai.on.ca

Shirley Richman

"I came for a week and stayed for over 25 years, contributing more than 12,000 hours. I buy merchandise for the gift shop and provide service to patients, visitors and staff. This helps raise needed funds for Mount Sinai Hospital, but I feel wonderful knowing I'm really giving much more."

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section

A non-profit volunteer service organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of individuals through education, service and social action. www.ncjw-ts.org

Judy Brown

"By volunteering I am able to be a part of the positive changes I help bring about to my community. Being a part of National Council of Jewish Women of Canada-Toronto Section is one of the most rewarding and worthwhile experiences of my life."

Netivot HaTorah Day School*

An Orthodox Jewish Day School striving for excellence in a full program of Judaic and General Studies incorporating the Zioni Dati philosophy and Halacha and Halachic principles. asteinfeld@netivothatorah.com

Y. Dov Meyer

"Karen and I believe that if the school you send your children to represents the values that you try to instill in your home, then volunteering in the school is simply an extension of their education. The reward for volunteering is the privilege of participating in the process."

ORT Toronto

Raises funds in support of education and training programs worldwide; and serves Jewish and non-Jewish ORT students by providing them with the skills necessary for today and tomorrow. www.ort-toronto@ortcanada.org

Ellis Jacob

"Over the years, ORT has provided me the opportunity to continue a family tradition of giving back to the community. Improving technical skills and employment opportunities around the world for students in need attracted me to the organization. Our strength at ORT Toronto is a dedicated group of volunteers and a small professional staff working together on a specific group of fundraising activities."

Reena*

Enables people with developmental handicaps to realize their full potential by forming life-long partnerships with individuals and their families within a framework of Jewish culture and values. skeshen@reena.org

Rabbi Sheldon Korn

"Volunteering at Reena, one receives more than one gives. You get a mitzvah, a smile, a tear, an abundance of inspiration and immeasurable joy. Who can resist?"

Shaar Shalom Synagogue

Provides for the spiritual, intellectual and social lives of the Jewish community through religious services and educational, cultural, social and recreational activities. ebader@shaarshalom.on.ca

Miriam & Meir Bester

"Volunteering at the Synagogue provides satisfaction in promoting a worthy cause, pride in seeing a job well done, and the rewards of new friendships with like-minded people."

Shaarei Shomayim Congregation

A modern Orthodox centre of Jewish life that provides the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs, and that seeks to inspire the community to greater commitments to Torah, the Jewish people and the State of Israel. www.shaareishomayim.org

Louis W. Zeifman

"When our Synagogue was without a Director, a group of us spent weeks ensuring that the Shul and congregation were prepared for the High Holidays. Our shared commitment and hard work for the community's benefit are among my fondest memories of voluntarism."

State of Israel Bonds

The sale of Israel Bonds provides a steady source of investment capital for the development and expansion of Israel's essential industry and infrastructure. www.israelbonds.net

Eddie Weisz

"My work for Israel Bonds is most satisfying because of how it impacts on all aspects of Israel's economy - the backbone of any country. A Bond is a share in Israel. That's as meaningful as it gets."

Temple Emanu-El

A Reform Congregation that is committed to perpetuating Judaism within the home and the Synagogue through worship and study. Central to the activities of the Congregation is concern for issues of social justice. temanuel@pathcom.com

Cheryl Shuster

"A genetic predisposition to voluntarism was inherited from my mother! I find helping my Temple Emanu-El community thrive is a continual source of learning and fun."

Temple Har Zion

Fosters commitment to Judaism through the mitzvot of worship, study and good deeds in a warm inclusive environment. www.templeharzion.com

Norm Fisher

Norm has been involved in the House Committee for the last 20 years (most recently as Chair) and, as a result, knows every nook and cranny of this building. Most of his work goes unnoticed by the Congregation because it is behind the scenes, but the job has given him immense satisfaction because he knows that he makes a difference for our community.

Toronto Hadassah – WIZO

Enhances lives in Israel's communities and promotes women's issues in Canada. www.canadian-hadassah-wizo.org

Esther Matlow

"The establishment of close personal relationships and the satisfaction derived from seeing the results of our efforts were highlights of my presidency, which led to my becoming National President."

Together We're Stronger!

* Denotes 2002-2003 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

Toronto Heschel School*

Envisions an educational community in which students develop an appreciation for learning, mutual respect and cooperation, love of Judaism and an understanding of the role of Jews and Judaism in the broader community and in the world.
office@torontoheschel.org

Rochelle Reichert

"My most meaningful contribution has been in chairing the Chevrah Committee. I am proud of the culture of respect and cooperation that we have helped create at the Toronto Heschel School, and the strong feeling of community that we have nurtured."

Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa*

Provides non-interest bearing loans, guaranteed by a minimum of two people of sufficient worth, to recipients for the purpose of establishing/re-establishing their self-sufficiency.
www.jewishtoronto.net/JewishFreeLoanCassa

David Sefton

"It is truly gratifying to watch how a small loan granted to a deserving family is turned into a thriving business that provides an income and a source of self-respect for the whole family."

Toronto Jewish Film Festival

Aims to be both a window to and mirror of Jewish culture, striving to be inclusive of all aspects of the Toronto community, undertaking to show films of excellence that reflect the diversity of Jewish life. Our commitment is to use film for its contemporary, popular value and its ability to address the subject of Jewish identity.
www.tjff.com

Carol Lavine

"There is a rich reward for being a volunteer – 100% naches and satisfaction! Having been part of the unique TJFF team for 11 years, seeing the film patrons weep, laugh, discuss, renew friendships and nosh noshes... makes my involvement meaningful."

Toronto Jewish Youth Council

Brings together young leaders from youth movements spanning the religious and political spectrum. By sharing ideas, debating hot topics, networking and learning together, TJYC brings together the leaders of tomorrow in the hopes of fostering greater unity and understanding in our community.
tjcy@rogers.com

Aliza Jesin

"Volunteering with the TJYC has given me the opportunity to see the future leaders of our community interact with each other in a positive and productive way, creating a vision for a unified community."

United Synagogue Day School*

A nurturing and respectful community that strives to provide excellence in integrated Judaic and General Studies programming, focusing on the needs and growth of students in order to foster a lifelong love of learning. swalsh@usds.on.ca

Rosalie Antman

"My involvement with USDS is enhanced by my desire to provide my children with a remarkable Jewish and General Studies education, while enhancing their love for Judaism and to set an example of giving time and commitment back to our community."

Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee

Raises the consciousness of all of its members to the world's ills, and actively engages in efforts to repair the world's inequities and imperfections, as part of the Jewish value of 'tikun olam' – 'repairing the world'." www.veahavta.org

Andrew Simor, MD, FRCPC

"I have had the privilege of working at the Howard Hospital in rural Zimbabwe in the past few years. It has been an extremely challenging and rewarding experience, working with patient care, with the provision of treatment to pregnant women with HIV infection, and in the development of a regional tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment facility. I have been amazed at the dedication of those who work there full time, and have also come away much more appreciative of how fortunate we are here in Canada."

Zareinu Educational Centre*

Belief that every child has potential and deserves united efforts in providing therapies and learning strategies that will improve the quality of life for both the child and their family. Strives to battle prejudice and encourages inclusion through opportunities for supported integration whenever possible and works toward increasing acceptance of children with special needs in the community. zareinu@netcom.ca

Jason Marcovitch

"I feel good about volunteering at Zareinu. I enjoy helping the children to the best of my ability. The teachers and staff are very friendly and I really like working with them."

* Denotes 2002-2003 beneficiary agencies of UJA Federation

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Committed to preserving and strengthening the quality of life in Greater Toronto, Canada, Israel and around the world through philanthropic, volunteer and professional leadership. www.jewishtoronto.net

Action Committee for Jewish Continuity**

Marlene Axmith

"Volunteering is an important part of my life. Whether participating in direct service or on a board or committee, I always receive much more than I give."

Annual Campaign**

Brad Ashley

"I became more involved with UJA Federation to help support Israel during these very difficult last few years as well as to support our local community. I co-chair the Ben Gurion Society which encourages those 45 years and under to increase their pledges through member recognition. It has been extremely rewarding to see the huge growth of our membership - and the resultant increase in financial contributions. This should set the stage for a lifetime of elevated support by our membership for both of these compelling causes."

Board of Jewish Education**

Donald Bennett

"A very satisfying and meaningful experience for me was being present at one of last year's UJA Federation telethons and overhearing a future leader of our community, a CHAT student, making a cold call to a donor who usually contributed several hundred dollars. She was so convincing in her presentation that the donor raised her pledge to $5,000."

Committee for Yiddish**

Rhea Shulman

"Since I spent my entire professional life working for the Toronto Jewish community, and was educated at the Arbeiter Ring Peretz Shule on Beverly Street, it was natural as breathing that, on retiring in 1988, I would join the Committee for Yiddish. My volunteering has opened a wonderful world in which Yiddishists work to preserve the Yiddish language and culture. I am devoted to this goal and derive great pleasure in helping to achieve it."

Holocaust Centre of Toronto**

Ada Wynston

"As a hidden child survivor I was taught by my courageous rescuers in Holland to extend a helping hand. I have never forgotten that and it brought me to The Holocaust Centre to speak, along with other dedicated survivors, at schools, libraries and churches, about the Holocaust. As Chairperson of Jewish-Christian Dialogue, it is my passion and it gives me satisfaction to share my experiences with ministers and priests and their congregations so that one day, maybe, we can all live in peace." In 1993 Ada was knighted by Queen Beatrix of Holland for her interfaith and volunteer work.

Jewish Information Service**

Toby Goldberg

"It has been my pleasure to volunteer at JIS for six years. It's been an ongoing source of learning, teaching and being involved with the community. The nicest part for me has been the wonderful, warm environment created by the other volunteers and staff."

Women's Campaign & Advocacy**

Susan Gudofsky

"I find volunteering centres me for the other major parts of my life - work and family. I have learned to appreciate how lucky I am. I have met wonderful people who share my values. Volunteering has provided me great personal satisfaction."

Jewish Toronto Tomorrow***

Peter Cohen

"The opportunity to make a significant contribution to the revitalization of a community through an unprecedented capital campaign happens once in a lifetime. I am privileged to have the opportunity to participate in the redevelopment of the Central Campus which I believe will become a treasure for the Jewish community of Toronto and the world."

Leo Goldhar

"The new Vaughan Campus in York Region will anchor one of the fastest growing communities in the world, giving every community member a place to call home. I am honoured to chair the outstanding steering committee which will make the Northern Campus, which began as a dream, a reality within the next few years."

** Denotes committees and departments of UJA Federation
***An initiative of UJA Federation

Together We're Stronger!

The Toronto Jewish community is vibrant and thriving. Our remarkable quality of Jewish life is the direct result of our community's belief in our collective responsibility to care for one another. Whether as volunteers who offer their time and talent, or, as community members who express their concern by supporting events, we all, in our special way, demonstrate our unwavering commitment to Israel and the Jewish people.
Together We're Stronger!

ISRAEL FOR FREE

If you are 18-26 and have never been to Israel, the Toronto Jewish community invites you to spend ten days in Israel for FREE on the Canada Israel Experience *birthright Israel* Program. If sunrise at Massada, archeological digging in the Israeli deserts, touring the Old City of Jerusalem, white water rafting down the Jordan river, hiking in the Golan Heights, and hanging with your peers in Israel sounds incredible, then this trip is for you. The experience of a lifetime!

Once participants have returned home, the *birthright Israel* Alumni Committee (BAC) helps build a foundation of knowledge and experience in order to strengthen ties to the Toronto Jewish community and to Israel, enabling them to become the Jewish leaders of tomorrow.

For more information, visit **www.israelforfree.com** or Ivy Ackerman, Canada Israel Experience at **416-398-6931 ext. 3.**

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

Here are some volunteer opportunities that will allow you to share your enthusiasm and love for Israel.

- **ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (age18+) – ends June 30, 2003**
  Meet other students from the US and Canada while digging for ancient artifacts in the Kibbut Yotvata area. It's a component of UJA Federation's Partnership 2000, which develops relationships between the people of Eilat/Eilot and the people of Toronto's Jewish community.

- **SAR-EL WORK PROGRAM (ages 18-65) – ends July 10, 2003 (ages 18-24) – International Youth Group, from August 4-21, 2003**
  Work on an Israeli army supply and maintenance base as a civilian. Work is mostly manual labour, i.e. packing and sorting, painting, kitchen work and more. Sponsored by Canadian Volunteers for Israel.

For more information about these and other volunteer opportunities, visit **www.jewishtoronto.net** (click Volunteering)

SAY SHALOM TO ISRAEL

Climb aboard as UJA Federation Missions to Israel take flight.

- **SOLIDARITY MISSION TO ISRAEL July/August 2003**
  Even if you've visited Israel before, never before will you have experienced the jubilation of meeting the people of Israel and showing them your support during these difficult days.

- **PRE-ROSH HASHANAH SOLIDARITY FLY-IN September 3-8, 2003**
  At this special time of year, rediscover what Israel means to you on this solidarity mission.

- **MEDICAL SOLIDARITY MISSION TO ISRAEL October 28 – November 4, 2003**
  A unique opportunity for participants to visit first-hand Israel's renowned hospitals and for medical practitioners to network with their Israeli counterparts.

- **B'YACHAD SOLIDARITY MISSION TO ISRAEL November 10-15, 2003**
  Join this century's largest Canadian mission. Hundreds are expected to make a powerful statement of solidarity with Israel by becoming B'yachad participants.

- **FAMILY MISSION TO ISRAEL December 2003-January 2004**
  Forget Florida, Mexico and the other usual holiday destinations this coming winter and visit Israel! Experience its history, beauty and vitality with your whole family.

For details on these and other community missions, visit **www.jewishtoronto.net**

Israel Now Consortium:
Speaking With One Voice

With a membership of more than 115 community organizations, the Consortium, under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel, offers one of North America's most unified voices for Israel. Consortium members represent the entire religious and ideological spectrum of the community.

Chaired by Julia Koschitzky, a past recipient of this community's Ben Sadowski Award of Merit, the Consortium ardently and passionately demonstrates to the people of Israel they will never stand alone. Over 35,000 members of Toronto's Jewish community have participated in Consortium-sponsored events and programs since its inception two years ago.

Adath Israel Synagogue
Aish HaTorah
All-For-One Mutual Sick Benefit Society
Anshei Minsk Congregation
ARZA Canada
Associated Hebrew Day Schools
Association of Soviet Jewry in Canada
B'nai Akiva Schools
BBYO
B'nai Isaac Synagogue
Bathurst Jewish Community Centre
Beit Halochem
Bernard Betel Centre For Creative Living
Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto
Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
Beth Israel Hebrew Academy
Beth Jacob High School
Beth Sholom Congregation
Beth Tikvah Synagogue
Beth Tzedec Synagogue
Bialik Hebrew Day School
Bnei Akiva of Toronto
Canada Israel Committee
Canadian Associates of Ben Gurion University
The Canadian Foundation For Masorti Judaism
Canadian Committee for the Haifa Foundation
Canadian Friends Boy's Town Jerusalem
Canadian Friends of Amal Charity
Canadian Friends of Bar Ilan University
Canadian Friends of Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Canadian Friends of Israel Museum
Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital
Canadian Friends of Peace Now
Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University
Canadian Friends of Tel Hashomer Hospital
Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University
Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association
Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region
Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation
Canadian Society for The Weizmann Institute of Science
Canadian Society for Yad Vashem
Canadian Technion Society
Canadian Young Judaea
Canadian Zionist Federation - Central Region
Chai Tikvah Foundation
Circle Of Care
Congregation B'nai Torah
Congregation Knesseth Israel
Consulate General of Israel
Downtown Jewish Community Council
Downtown Jewish Community School
El Al Israel Airlines
Emunah Women of Toronto
Ezrat Nashim Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital
First Narayever Congregation
Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies
Games Jewish Singles Play
Habayit Shelanu Seniors Residence
Habonim Dror
Hashomer Hatzair
Herut Likud
Hillel of Greater Toronto
Holy Blossom Temple
The Israeli Artists Group of Toronto
Israel Aliyah Centre
Israeli Association of Greater Toronto
Israel Tourism Office
Jewish Camp Council of Toronto
Jewish Family & Child Service
Jewish Public Library
Jewish Russian Community Centre
JIAS Toronto
JVS of Greater Toronto
Kehillat Shaarei Torah
Keltzer Sick Benefit Society
Kolel: The Adult Centre For Liberal Jewish Learning
Lagover Mutual Sick Benefit
Maccabi Canada
Mercaz-Canada
Meretz Canada
Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre
Mizrachi Organization of Canada
Na'amat Canada
NCSY- Building a Jewish Tomorrow
The New Israel Fund
Orah School for Jewish Children
Oraynu Congregation
Reena
Rishon Le Zion Congregation
Sephardic Kehilla Centre
Shaar Shalom Congregation
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation
Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue
Solel Congregation of Mississauga
State of Israel Bonds
Temple Har Zion
Temple Sinai
Toronto Board of Rabbis
Toronto Council of Hazzanim
Toronto Hadassah-Wizo
Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa
Toronto Jewish Youth Council
Toronto Zionist Council
UIA Federations Canada
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto
United Synagogue Youth
Ve'Ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee
The Village Shul

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Daniel Fine, Community Development Associate
Dena Libman, Community Development Associate
Shelly Rotman, Community Development Administrator
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This Week

National

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Father's music is his son's muse. *Page 37*

Sports & Leisure

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www.cjnews.com

Birthright numbers hit record

Canadians on the Birthright Israel program last summer. *[Israel Sun photo]*

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canada has always contributed more than its fair share of young people to Birthright Israel trips, but this year's spring/summer numbers have reached record proportions.

Birthright officials announced last week they expect to send approximately 1,400 people to Israel between May and August 2003, a 280 per cent increase over the same period last year.

Only 368 people took advantage of Birthright's free trip to Israel last summer, although the number increased substantially during the winter season, to 842.

"It's crazy this summer," said Elizabeth Sokolsky, vice-president of education and operations for Birthright Israel. The program's "excellent" numbers may be due to a "tipping point" being reached in which a collective hesitation to travel to Israel because of security concerns seems to have ended, she said.

Birthright is a four-year-old partnership between the Israeli government, Jewish philanthropists, North American Jewish fededrations and other Diaspora communities that sends 18- to 26-year-olds to Israel on fully subsidized 10-day educational and cultural trips. In its first year, the program proved so popular that Birthright held a lottery to deal with the large number of applicants: 920 Canadians participated, but organizers had 3,000 applications

With the onset of the Palestinian intifadah, numbers plummeted, though figures for Canada were always out of proportion to the country's population.

Worldwide, 8,000 young people are expected to take part in Birthright programs this spring and summer. Of that number, 5,000 will hail from North America – 1,400 of them Canadians.

Continued on page 21

FIERY PROTEST: Demonstrators opposed to any Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank created an obstacle of fire to try to prevent the IDF from dismantling the illegal outpost Mitzpeh Yitzhar, near Nablus, last week. They were unsuccessful. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Toll free number set up for German pensions

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

With a deadline of June 30 looming, the federal government has set up a toll-free telephone line for survivors of Nazi ghettos to apply through Human Resources Development Canada for German government pensions.

HRDC invites those interested to dial 1-800-454-8731 between 8:30 and 4:30 EDT and, at no charge, to inquire about or actually apply for German Pensions for Work in Ghettos ("ZRGB").

June 30 deadline

A year ago, Germany passed a law granting pensions to those who laboured in wartime ghettos, even if they volunteered. Payments will be retroactive to July 1, 1997. Applicants who file after June 30 may be eligible for a regular pension, but not for back payments.

Continued on page 20

Shabbat: Shelach
Candlelighting: 8:45
Havdallah: 9:50

Greater Toronto Area

International anti-Semitism conference a milestone — see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Anniversary Marked

REGINA — As part of Regina's yearlong 100th anniversary, the 300-member Beth Jacob Synagogue is marking 10 years in the Pearl and Max B. Herman Centre with events this week that include two concerts and the dedication of the Nate Kohn Heritage Hall, a collection of artifacts of the southern Saskatchewan Jewish community. The shul will mark its own centennial in 2005.

ISRAEL

Barghouti Denial

JERUSALEM — Israel denied rumours last week that Marwan Barghouti, the jailed leader of the Fatah movement in the West Bank, would be released. The denial followed reports Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat phoned Barghouti's wife last Monday and told her husband would be freed within 48 hours. As well, there is speculation Palestinians are seeking Barghouti's release as part of calls to free Palestinian prisoners under the "road map" peace plan. Israeli Deputy Defence Minister Ze'ev Boim said Barghouti's trial for allegedly organizing terror attacks that killed dozens of Israelis would continue.

Israeli Bonds Set Record

JERUSALEM — Israel has wrapped up its biggest bond issue in history, a $750 million (US) offering that spurred $2 billion in demand and drew 200 global investors, including from Dubai. "It is very encouraging to see how quickly the institutional markets have responded" to the bid, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week.

Burial Box 'a Fake'

JERUSALEM — A burial box with an inscription suggesting it once held the bones of Jesus' brother is a forgery, Israeli experts said last week. "The ossuary is real," said Shuka Dorfman, the director of Israel's Antiquities Authority. "But the inscription is a fake." Investigators concluded the inscription cut though the box's fossilized sheen and was written in modern script.

WORLD

N.Y. Jewish Poverty Up

NEW YORK — Jewish poverty in greater New York has doubled in the past decade to 21 per cent of the community, while the number of Jews in the city fell five per cent to 972,000, the lowest in a century, a survey released last week shows. But due in part to suburban flight and an influx of Russian Jews, the Jewish population in the metropolitan area remained at 1.4 million, or 643,000 households. The poverty figures are "shocking," said Alisa Rubin Kurshan, vice-president of UJA-Federation of New York, which funded the study. This "will help shatter the myth of Jewish affluence," said Rabbi Marc Schneier of the New York-based Foundation for Ethnic Understanding.

Pre-Nup Modified

NEW YORK — Men who refuse to give their wives a *get* will pay $150 a day under a revised prenuptial agreement released last week by a coalition of Orthodox groups – the Beth Din of America, the Rabbinical Council of America and the Orthodox Caucus. The new agreement names the Beth Din of America as a default venue for giving the *get* and simplifies earlier prenuptial agreements, the groups say.

Romania Backtracks

BUCHAREST — Romanian officials reversed course last week and acknowledged that the country's former leaders collaborated in the Holocaust. The Romanian regime during World War II used "methods of discrimination and extermination, which are part of the Holocaust," a government statement said. The previous week, the government's denial that any extermination of Jews occurred on Romanian soil unleashed a torrent of criticism from Jewish groups and threats from Israel that diplomatic relations could be affected.

Gibson Defends Film

LOS ANGELES — Actor Mel Gibson has broken his silence about his yet-to be-released film on the last 12 hours of Jesus' life, saying it's "meant to inspire, not offend" and that neither he nor the film are anti-Semitic. Jewish leaders had worried the $25-million (US) film *The Passion*, in Latin and Aramaic, would blame Jews for Jesus' crucifixion. Gibson is reportedly a traditionalist Catholic who opposes reforms of the 1960s Vatican II Council, which rejected Jews' collective guilt for Jesus' death. In a statement, Gibson blamed misconceptions about the film, which he directed and co-wrote, on a draft script leaked to a group of Jewish and Catholic scholars.

Appeal to Christians

NEW YORK — Israel is launching a campaign to attract evangelical Christian tourists to the Jewish state. Announced last week by Israeli Tourism Minister Benny Elon and U.S. Christian leader Gary Bauer, it starts July 1 and features ads saying "Don't put your soul on hold" and highlighting Jesus' connections to the Holy Land. As Israeli tourism has plummeted because of the intifadah, Christians have "saved the industry," Elon said.

Police Name Jewish Leader in Drug Probe

BERLIN — Cocaine has been found in the possession of Michel Friedman, vice president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, after searches of his home and law office in Frankfurt on June 11, German authorities said.

The raids came after Friedman's name came up in an ongoing probe of a Ukrainian crime ring involving slavery, prostitution and the smuggling of drugs and weapons into Germany. But prosecutors said Friedman, also the president of the European Jewish Congress, is not suspected of involvement in the ring and has not been charged with a crime.

Penalties for possession of illegal narcotics in Germany range from a fine to up to five years in jail.

German news outlets quickly highlighted the story about one of Germany's best-known Jewish public figures. Some used old photos of Friedman smiling and receiving Germany's highest medal of honour to illustrate the seamy news.

A well-known TV talk-show host, Friedman, 47, is also known as a speaker against racism and anti-Semitism and an outspoken supporter of Israel. He has suspended production of his TV talk shows, *Friedman* and *Watch Out! Friedman*.

Breaking a week's silence, Friedman filed a challenge in Berlin last Wednesday seeking to quash the investigation by Berlin authorities, since the allegations concern purported evidence obtained outside Berlin, authorities said.

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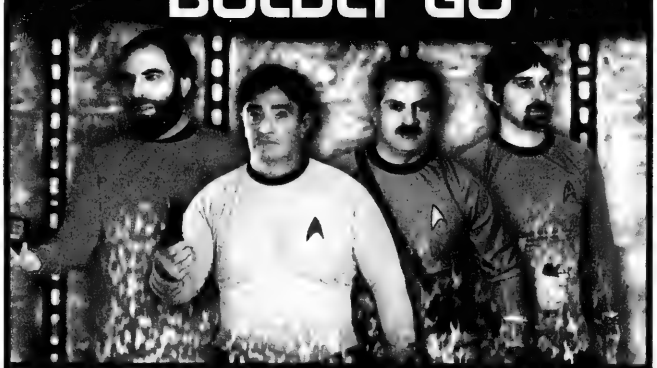

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Missionaries lose appeal on rights to menorah

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Chosen People Ministries (CPM), a Jews for Jesus-type group, is not entitled to use a stylized menorah as a legally protected symbol because the organization is not a "public authority," the Federal Court of Appeal ruled last week.

The court dismissed CPM's appeal of a Federal Court (trial division) ruling a year ago that reversed a decision by Canada's Registrar of Trademarks to grant CPM's semi-circular menorah official mark status in 1999.

CPM's menorah

In a brief oral decision handed down from the bench last week, a three-judge panel upheld last year's ruling, and awarded costs to Canadian Jewish Congress, which has for years fought CPM's attempt to protect a stylized, semi-circular menorah the group already uses on its stationery and signs.

Manuel Prutschi, national director of community relations for CJC, was pleased with the ruling, saying it "sends an additional message that [CPM] cannot misappropriate Jewish symbols with impunity."

CJC said the case serves as an another example of the deceptive and underhanded tactics so-called Hebrew-Christians use to lure vulnerable Jews to evangelical Christianity.

In documents submitted to the court, Congress argued that the menorah is "an ancient and hallowed symbol of the Jewish people," and CPM's "sole activity is to attempt to convert Jewish people to Christianity."

The court heard that CPM, a New York-based group with about 100 Canadian adherents and an office in Toronto, attempted to get official mark designation for its menorah on three previous occasions, and was turned down each time. The group was successful on its fourth try, in December 1999.

At the same time, CPM applied for trademark status for its menorah. That was also opposed by Congress, at the government level, but both sides have held that battle in abeyance pending the outcome of the court case over the official mark.

An official mark offers legal protection that is superior to a trademark. The status would have permitted CPM to use its menorah on all its wares and services, including those for sale, and potentially prevent others from using the same or similar symbol for commercial purposes.

But Congress pointed out that official mark protection is only granted to "public authorities," over which the government exercises control regarding funding, activities and tax rules. Congress questioned how CPM satisfies the definition of a public authority, which must operate for the benefit of the public and fill a public need.

The court agreed CPM is not a public authority, since it is not publicly funded and not subject to a sufficient degree of government control or intervention. The court noted that simply issuing receipts for tax deductions does not qualify a charity as a public authority.

CPM's lawyer, Mervyn White, argued that all charities operating in Canada are public authorities because they represent public interests, and are subject to "absolute and invasive" government control and are "creatures of statute."

The 'universal symbol of the Jewish people'

Noting the "high level of animosity" directed at his client, White said CPM sought the designation for its logo in order to protect the group from "persecution" and avoid having its religious beliefs "degraded."

Inevitably, arguments spilled over into theology and the thorny relations that have existed between so-called Hebrew-Christian groups and the Jewish community.

White conceded his client's mandate is to "spread the word of Jesus Christ among Jewish individuals in Canada." He said CPM's beliefs "do not accord with traditional Jewish or Christian beliefs, but the symbol accords with *their* beliefs."

CJC lawyer Ben Zarnett countered that members of CPM are "born-again Christians who believe in the deity of Jesus Christ" and whose "goal is the conversion of Jews to the Christian faith."

The menorah is the "universal symbol of the Jewish people," and the official emblem of Israel, he said.

Arguing that CPM is a public authority is tantamount to saying the Canadian government is in the business of converting people from one religion to another, Zarnett told the court.

Larry Rich, CPM's Canadian director, told *The CJN* his group would soon decide whether to seek leave to appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Meantime, he said, "we are committed to our goal of sharing Yeshua [Jesus] with the Jewish people."

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A profound writer

Since January, in the last issue of each month, this space has been dedicated to coverage of Israeli authors and their works. The following column is about Israeli writer Aharon Appelfeld.

* * *

In the spring of 2000, the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University in Toronto invited Aharon Appelfeld, the celebrated, award-winning Israeli author to inaugurate the Silber Chair for the Study of the Holocaust and Eastern European Jewry. Appelfeld was at the centre for a week, delivering a number of seminars and public lectures.

Endowed by Allan and Hinda Silber in honour of their parents, the Chair is intended "to memorialize the victims of the Holocaust and the lost world of eastern European Jews." Few people in the world today are as worthy or as capable as Appelfeld to have been chosen to inaugurate the Silber Chair.

Born in Czernovitz in Bukovina (now part of Ukraine), Appelfeld was nine years old in 1941 when his mother was killed by the Nazis and he and his father were sent to a labour camp in Transnistria.

Unbelievably, Appelfeld escaped from the camp under the non-electrified fence, and spent the rest of the war in the forests and then working for the Soviet army.

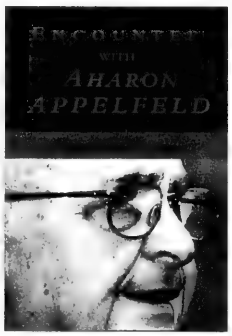
In 1946, at the age of 14, he – and ultimately, some 100,000 other child survivors of the Holocaust – arrived in mandatory Palestine to resume and to build his life.

Appelfeld has been described as "one of the best Israeli novelists of his generation." But his oeuvre incorporates more than novels. It is profound in scope and in content. Among the many honours he has received in recognition of his unique cultural contribution to literature has been the prestigious Israel Prize.

Happily for us, York's Centre for Jewish Studies has recorded some of the highlights of Appelfeld's vist three years ago in a book called *Encounter with Aharon Appelfeld*. Published by Mosaic Press, this slim volume is a treasure chest of gold nuggets of finely nuanced insight and beautiful writing.

Editors Michael Brown and Sara Horowitz have compiled, essentially, a mini-primer, a handy resource text about Appelfeld, his myriad writings and some of his achingly powerful insights into the nightmare that was the Shoah.

The book consists of three essays about Appelfeld – by the editors, Jonathan Rosen and Vivian Rakoff – two essays by Appelfeld himself, one of his short stories, a transcript of an interview by Eleanor Wachtel of the CBC and a 38-page bibliography by graduate student Abby Brown chronicling some 560 of his writings.



The book is important reading.

It is a pointed, intense window into an exquisitely humane and humble writer who provides inspiring insights about the human condition. Individuals who are familiar with Appelfeld's work will delight in the volume as will those who are reading Appelfeld for the first time.

Each contribution in the book is a ray of light. Together they help to illumine different aspects of the artist's life and impressive body of work. Considering that Appelfeld only began to learn Hebrew at the age of 14, his accomplishments are even more remarkable.

The short story, *Chanukah 1946*, is almost spooky, an unsettling allegory about human disfigurement.

His essays open eyes and hearts to the very different ways children internalized their vast suffering in the Shoah.

"While the adults spoke about what had been, for the children the Holocaust was the present, their childhood and youth. They knew no other childhood. Or happiness. They grew up in dread. They knew no other life…

"They knew man as a beast of prey, not metaphorically, but as a physical reality with his full stature and clothing, his way of standing and sitting, his way of caressing his own child and of beating a Jewish child."

Through Wachtel's thoughtful, gentle probing, Appelfeld tells us more about himself and his art. "I did not use language during the war. I learned not to use language. So by the end of the war, I had actually become mute, because it was dangerous to speak.

"The wrong accent, the wrong word and you are in their hands. Therefore I don't speak! That was the first rule. So, I learned not to speak. Muteness became a guiding principle. And so when I came to write, I understood the importance of the silence in a sentence, in a paragraph, in everything. You see, sometimes you think art is words and more words and even more words. But words and explanations do not always explain. Sometimes the silence between what you say – the silence that leaves the reader his imagination – is more important."

I highly recommend this book.

—MBD

SeeJN

VOLUNTEERS' DAY IN ISRAEL:

As part of a recent UJA Federation mission to Israel, the 52 participants performed volunteer work there. Max Wolfond, 14, who was on the trip with his father Henry, is seen here serving a hot lunch at the Hazon Yeshayah Soup Kitchen in Jerusalem.

[Steven Stein photo]

UJA Fed. commits $1 M for campus advocacy

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has allocated $1 million for the 2003-2004 year to fund advocacy initiatives at Canadian universities in response to a rise in anti-Israel sentiment and activity, announced Allan Reitzes, the organization's president, at its annual general meeting.

The federation also plans to raise "significant amounts of money" to start and complete planned Jewish community campuses in Vaughan and North York (the current Bathurst Jewish Centre/Lipa Green Building site) in order to provide world-class services, said new chair Leslie Gales, at the meeting at Adath Israel Congregation. She succeeds Ralph Shedletsky for a two-year term.

Gales co-chaired the Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative three years ago that launched the two community campus projects, as well as the redevelopment of the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre and the building of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, scheduled for completion later this year just off the University of Toronto campus.

Sandy Brown – a past president of the federation and this year's recipient of UJA Federation's highest volunteer honour, the Ben Sadowski award – spoke about the importance of Jewish education. She cautioned that "it isn't about bricks and mortar. It is about content and affordability... We must strive to establish a major community Jewish education endowment that will ensure access to all socioeconomic groups."

Earlier this month, the federation committed more than $1 million in new money to Jewish education for next year. Nine hundred thousand dollars [of that amount] is being directed to day school tuition fee subsidies, said Shedletsky.

Brown also paid tribute to professionals who work with the volunteers, adding that, "as leaders, we should be devising strategies to attract our young people into the noble professions of Jewish education and Jewish communal service, and if successful, make certain that we treat them with dignity and respect."

Among the other volunteers being honoured was Carole Sterling, a past Women's Campaign chair and two-time campaign vice-chair, who received the Phil Granovsky Award for Campaign Excellence.

Netivot HaTorah launches endowment fund

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

Netivot HaTorah Day School recently celebrated both its 18th year and the inauguration of the Elli and Max Podolski Education Endowment Fund with a lively evening featuring a performance by the Israel Defence Forces choir.

Attended by more than 500 guests, the Chai Celebration was held at the historic Carlu building and also featured speeches, a slide presentation, a tribute to alumni living in Israel and a performance by Netivot's choir.

The Elli and Max Podolski Education Endowment Fund, established in the couple's memory, will support the Netivot Educational Support Services (NESS) program, which provides curriculum support for the school's remedial and enriched children and supports other services, such as the provision of teacher assistants in many of the school's classrooms. Most of the school's teachers are supported by two or three teacher assistants, improving the student-teacher ratio.

'This program stands for a lot of things our school does differently from other schools'

"This program (NESS) stands for a lot of things our school does differently from other schools," said Y. Dov Meyer, who co-chaired the event with his wife, Karen, and David and Sarena Koschitzky, a granddaughter of Elli and Max Podolski.

The Podolskis fled Nazi Germany in 1938, first moving to Cardiff, Wales, and then emigrating to Canada in 1948, eventually settling in Toronto. Many of their great-grandchildren currently attend Netivot.

Meyer said Netivot represents the Jewish values the Podolskis lived by – the school's motto is Torah, Israel and Derech Eretz.

Located in Thornhill, Netivot is the only religious Zionist elementary day school in the city. Since 1985, its student body has grown from a handful of children to 525 students, with 570 enrolled for the upcoming school year. Netivot maintains a strong connection to Israel, and 40 of the school's alumni have made aliyah.

Meyer noted that many of the event's guests weren't from the school.

"One of the purposes of having this celebration was to show the community that in Toronto we have a religious Zionist school that is open to the community," he said.

Has your doctor told you to lose weight?

According to Health Canada, ***approximately 300,000 people die each year due to health related problems caused by obesity***. Overweight and obesity are associated with heart disease, certain types of cancer, type 2 diabetes, stroke, arthritis, breathing problems, and psychological disorders such as depression. If your doctor has told you to lose weight, ***it is because your weight may be contributing to serious health issues.***

Dieting Doesn't Work

It's been said that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, each time expecting a different result. Yet millions of perfectly sane people start diets each year, hoping that this time it will be different, and that they will finally, magically, lose the weight for good. Approximately 33 billion dollars a year is spent on diet and weight-loss plans yet there are more overweight North Americans than ever before.

What's wrong with dieting?

The inherent problem with diets is that they focus on the foods you eat rather than helping you change the way you think about food. Eating habits are deeply ingrained in our subconscious mind. Without changing these habits, dieters become frustrated and soon give up.

Fortunately, there *IS* an alternative. Many health professionals are now recommending a revolutionary new *non-diet* approach to losing weight: hypnosis.

Finding the key to change

The subconscious mind often stores negative thoughts or behaviours that can trigger destructive habits. For overweight people, an inability to change these habits can result in a lifetime struggle with weight. The most effective way to overcome this obstacle is to *reprogram the subconscious mind through hypnosis*. "In a relaxed state like hypnosis, it's easier to incorporate new habits," explains Dr. Patrick Porter, Clinical Director and Founder of Positive Changes Hypnosis.

"We help clients think and eat like a slim person by redirecting their subconscious mind," says Porter. "You lose weight and keep it off long-term because you change your whole relationship with food. You never have to think about dieting, because your weight is no longer an issue."

"The easiest way to break habits is through hypnosis"
- *Newsweek Magazine*

"The country is turning to hypnosis to lose weight"
- *Cosmopolitan Magazine*

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As evidenced by recent studies published in medical journals, hypnosis has been shown to be a successful tool for weight loss. For example:

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Zundel not prisoner of conscience, says Amnesty

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Amnesty International's Canadian office has turned down a request from Ernst Zundel's supporters that it declare the Holocaust-denier a "prisoner of conscience."

But the international human rights organization raised concerns about the use of security certificates in the refugee-determination process, including the one that currently involves Zundel.

In a statement released last week, Amnesty International (AI) said its definition of prisoner of conscience does not include persons imprisoned for hate speech. Such speech, by definition, includes "the advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence."

AI Canada spokesperson John Tackaberry said, "You cannot be a prisoner of conscience if you engage in activity that could lead to violence."

AI has taken the position that there are legitimate restrictions on the use of free speech, he added.

Zundel, who was deported to Canada from his home in the United States for overstaying a visitor's visa, is currently in custody pending the outcome of his refugee claim. The federal government has argued Zundel poses a security threat to Canada and should be denied refugee status. They have filed a security certificate prepared by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service in support of their claim.

Tackaberry said AI has been concerned about the use of security certificates for some time. "For us, the issue [in the Zundel case] is a fair hearing that is expedited and efficient," he said.

Use of the security certificates is unfair and not in keeping with international human rights standards, he added.

However, AI noted in its statement that the organization "has reminded the Canadian government that numerous allegations of possible commission of hate crimes have been made against Zundel, largely stemming from his position with respect to the Holocaust, and that those allegations must be investigated, leading to charges if borne out by the evidence."

That response prompted a rebuke from Ingrid Rimland, Zundel's wife. In responding to questions e-mailed to her from a *National Post* reporter and posted on Zundel's Web site (www.zundelsite.org), Rimland stated: "Amnesty International did what politically correct courts do – they took 'judicial notice' that the Holocaust was essentially what Hollywood told the world it was... Amnesty International is not an honest organization – it is a Marxist front, in many people's eyes."

Rimland went on to say that further investigations of her husband's activities "will make Jewish lawyers richer and Canadian taxpayers poorer."

She said AI had championed the cause of South African anti-apartheid advocate Nelson Mandela, who was not free of associations with violence.

But Tackaberry pointed out that AI never considered Mandela a prisoner of conscience for that very reason. "AI does not designate anyone a prisoner of conscience who is involved with or advocated violence," he said.

Teens to represent Canada at math contest

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

Two Jewish teens will be crunching numbers in Toyko at the International Mathematical Olympiad on July 10.

Oleg Ivrii and Jacob Tsimerman, both 15 and from Toronto, are part of a group of six students who will represent Canada at the competition.

They will spend two weeks at math camp at the University of Calgary before jetting off to Tokyo for 10 days of math competitions and touring before returning to Toronto.

The math olympiad is the world championships of math contests for high school students.

Both students are excited about the trip and the competition.

Oleg has had his sights on the math championships for a while, his father Victor said. "It was his dream for a few years to go there and finally he got it."

Oleg has always loved numbers and math concepts, his father said. When he was in Grade 1, he talked to his class about six-dimensional space.

This love of numbers comes from his family. His father is a math professor at the University of Toronto and his mother is a high-school math teacher.

Two Toronto students to take part

"We are a completely crazy mathematical family," Victor said.

Oleg has competed in the International Mathematics Tournament of Towns and won first prize in the University of Waterloo's Pythagoras contest when he was in Grade 6.

Tsimerman was inspired by his grandfather, who had a PhD in math and physics. As a child, Tsimerman studied the principles of math and physics with him.

The Grade 9 student at University of Toronto Schools says math is easier for him than most people. He recently completed a second-year calculus course at the University of Toronto.

He wants to pursue a PhD in math and philosophy.

Tsimerman has received gold medals in the Asian Pacific Mathematics Olympiad and Waterloo's Euclid and Fermat contests.

Both teens also received honourable mentions in the 2003 Canadian Mathematical Olympiad.

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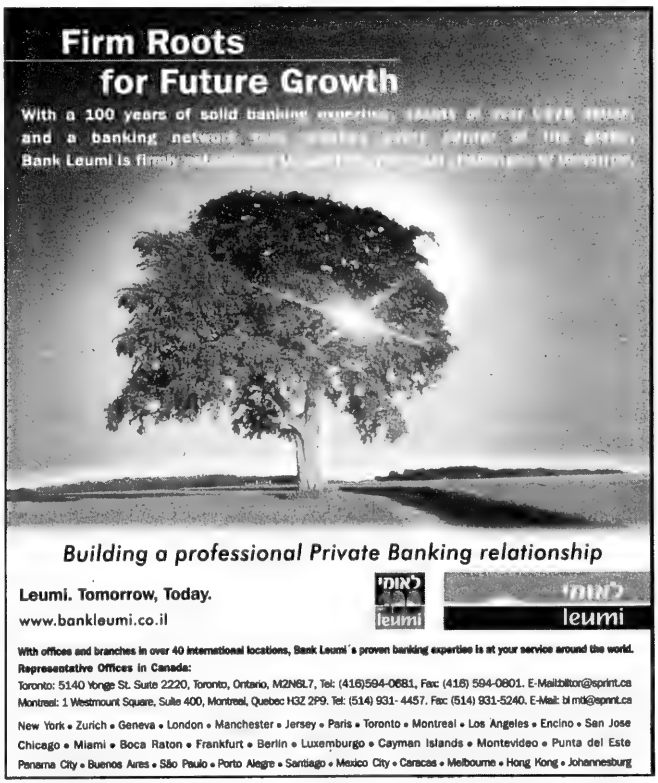
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Debate about Jewish state ongoing: Rabbi Regev

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After 55 years, Israel is still debating what it means to be a Jewish state, says Rabbi Uri Regev, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

On one hand, the Orthodox believe a genuine Jewish state must be governed by the laws of Torah, and on the other, there is Israel's founding vision of a pluralistic state, Rabbi Regev said at a recent lecture sponsored by ARZA Canada, the principle voice of Israel on behalf of the Reform movement of Canada.

The past executive director and counsel for the Israel Religious Action Center (IRAC), the social action arm of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, said that marriage law, which is of concern to everyone, is one narrow aspect of the debate.

"Religious marriage is still the only form of legal marriage in Israel, and Jews must marry through an Orthodox rabbi. There is no Reform, Conservative or civil marriage for anyone," he said.

Jews from the former Soviet Union can come to Israel under the Law of Return, he said, but they cannot marry because Orthodox rabbis do not recognize Russian immigrants and Reform marriages are not recognized.

A kohen who wants to marry a divorced woman is prohibited from doing so, said Rabbi Regev, because in Israel, priests cannot marry divorcees.

Despite the UN's universal declaration of human rights, the rabbi said, "hundreds of thousands of Israelis are denied the freedom to marry and start a family. These individuals are denied the basic rights of man."

In his blueprint for the state of Israel, Chaim Weizmann said that while there is a powerful religious community in Israel and it is our duty to respect it, we cannot put religion in control of the state, Rabbi Regev said.

"Weizmann forecasted a great struggle, but said we must be firm if we are to survive. There must be a clear line between religion and the lust for power that is exhibited by these religious groups."

A society with a separation of religion and state has the ability to nurture and support Jewish institutions, he said. "No lover of Judaism has been created because religion was shoved down their throat."

The main task, he said, is to create a model in which Judaism and democracy go hand in hand. "One can be seriously committed to Judaism and still hold on to the tenets of democracy."

Paid parking to continue at BJCC

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC) has decided to continue designating 50 of its most accessible parking spaces for a paid lot.

The controversial policy, which prompted a mini-revolt among many of the centre's senior members, will be modified somewhat at various peak periods to address some of members' concerns.

Sherry Kulman, the BJCC's executive-director, said the gate will be lifted on the paid lot during the summer when the centre's summer camp is in full swing. School buses used to transport children take up many available spots and to free up more spaces, the paid lot will be opened. In addition, the lot will be free during high-traffic periods when parents pick up and drop off their children to free up more spaces in the remainder of the centre's lot, Kulman said.

Last winter, seniors complained bitterly about the new paid lot, saying the $2 charge

'It's viable and we're not taking it out'

was more than many on fixed incomes could bear. The policy forced some members to the more distant, overflow lot located over a bridge south of the Leah Posluns Theatre. Some seniors said they fell walking to and from the facility.

A petition was circulated to keep parking free and Kulman said at the time the BJCC would revisit the issue in June.

"We're not making what we projected [from paid parking], but it's viable and we're not taking it out," she said last week.

During theatre nights and for special events such as the recent clothing sale in the centre's gymnasium, the lot was full, she added.

In other developments, Kulman said work has concluded on the BJCC's renovated outdoor swimming pool and deck area, which re-opened on Father's Day. More than $200,000 was spent renovating the pool area and the building's front lobby, she said.

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Camp George staff take part in Birthright trip

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Camp George counsellors who recently returned from the first ever Birthright trip for Jewish camp staff say they cannot bring all of Israel back to their camp this summer but they can plant the seeds of excitement for the country by showing campers their homemade film of Israel.

The trip was run in conjunction with the New York-based Foundation for Jewish Camping, Inc., which awarded a grant to Camp George and four other camps to equip the staff members with digital video equipment in order to film the trip for campers.

Camp director Ron Polster said the $12,000 US grant was awarded to the five camps out of more than 45 that applied.

The mission of the delegation, he said, was for the counsellors to view their experiences not only as their own, "but as lenses through which our entire camp community is able to gain a better understanding and appreciation of Israeli life and culture."

At the end of the 10-day trip, the group – Polster joined them at that point – spent four extra days meeting with this year's camp shlichim.

The nine Camp George staff members were Tamara Leszner, Natalie Reisman, Tanya Sermer, Julie Sermer, Aaron Krongold, and Dara Frankel, all from Toronto; Aaron McQuillan from Regina; Leah Gingrich from Calgary; and Perry Gast from New Jersey.

Using three cameras, the counsellors shot 18 to 20 hours of footage, which will be edited by camp staffer Daniel Goodbaum.

The video footage includes Israeli sights, each person's personal journey, and Israeli youth.

They plan on screening the footage as the culmination of the camp's annual Israel day, as well as at various times throughout the summer.

"We are also planning an ongoing program in which we will play a segment of a counsellor standing at a certain site, and campers will decide which site it is and point out the spot on a map," he said.

At a recent meeting after their trip, Julie Sermer said that the trip reaffirmed her connection to Israel. "It is one thing to feel connected intellectually, but it is another to feel it deep down in my bones."

Camp George staff relax in Israel.

"I will be able to tell people what I felt and show them where I went, but I cannot, for example, make them feel what it smells like in the Negev. I cannot portray the overwhelming emotion that made me want to cry.

"I cannot bring back all of Israel, but I can instil in the campers the need to visit their homeland."

Tanya Sermer said that before she took the trip, something was missing in her Jewish life. "Now I feel more whole, and I believe that will affect how I teach the material.

"I have never before felt so proud to be Jewish. Israel enabled me to find my Jewish identity and reaffirmed my belief in God," she said.

Tanya Sermer said it was special to spend time with the shlichim. "Their challenge is to convey their lives to us, and this gives them a chance for us to see their lives first hand."

Julie Sermer said that in visiting the host families, the group saw that Israelis live "very similar lives to us. The trip gave us a historical sense of Israel, but we also learned that Israelis are friends who have many of the same issues we do."

Riesman said that while in Israel they talked a lot about whether they were tourists or pilgrims.

"I felt like a pilgrim. The trip was not just for fun, it was my Jewish duty to go," she said.

She'arim honours Rabbi Scheim

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Philip Scheim is a reluctant honoree – "It's not my thing to be honoured," he says – but he couldn't say no to She'arim Hebrew Day School, which serves children with learning disabilities and/or attention deficit (hyperactive) disorder.

Rabbi Philip Scheim

"They do such good [at the school]," said the 49-year-old rabbi in an interview in his book-lined synagogue study.

Rabbi Scheim, spiritual leader of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, is the recipient of She'arim's 2003 Keter Shem Tov Award for community leadership and support of Jewish children, particularly those at She'arim. The tribute dinner and fundraiser was scheduled for June 25, at Beth David.

As a parent, Rabbi Scheim knows first-hand about She'arim's work. His younger daughter, Batya, attended the school for two years. "It was a very positive experience."

As a rabbi, he has seen congregants whose lives, he said, have been changed by the school. One young man is now doing "extremely well" in university and is involved in the Jewish community, he reported. "She'arim set him on the path of learning and opened the door. This story is repeated all over the place."

As for the rabbi's involvement with the school, he has assisted with fundraising because tuition, at $14,900, covers only a percentage of the costs due to a high teacher-student ratio; in addition, many students receive subsidies, he explained.

Although Rabbi Scheim speaks eloquently about She'arim, his top priority for many years – aside from tending to the 1,250-family congregation he has served since 1981 – has been encouraging travel to Israel. "I've always had the sense that when times are tough, that's when we have to mobilize and go to Israel," he said.

Beth David has had groups going to Israel every year for the last four or five years, he noted. The rabbi has also made a point personally of travelling there several times a year. He has organized two Israel missions for the Rabbinical Assembly, the umbrella organization of Conservative rabbis, on whose executive council he serves

In his Rosh Hashanah sermon last year, Rabbi Scheim took the unusual step of asking people who had been to Israel in the past year, as well as those who had firm plans to go in the coming year, to stand so that he could honour them. He also wanted others to see who they were, so that they could ask them about their experiences there.

"Rabbis are always very happy when a sermon motivates one person," he said. But Rabbi Scheim knows of about two dozen people who made plans to visit Israel as a result of his High Holy Day sermon. "That's rare," he said.

A more recent sermon addressed the need for respect among Jews of different denominational streams, another issue on which the rabbi, a past president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, has spoken out before. Rabbi Scheim – who grew up Reform in Montreal and gravitated to Orthodoxy before attending the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary – told *The CJN* he believes it's important to respect "every Jew who takes Judaism seriously."

Actually, he noted, the mix of denominations at She'arim is one of the reasons the school appeals to him. "It brings together Orthodox, Conservative and Reform. They're Jewish kids coming to learn. That's a wonderful model."

ORT raises $45,000 for school in Israel

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

More than 80 people attended ORT's recent annual Golden Circle luncheon that raised more than $45,000 for a high school in Israel.

The money will go toward buying extra teaching hours at the Harmatz School of Engineering in Jerusalem.

Joel Shapiro, executive director of ORT Toronto, was pleased with the turnout. "It's wonderful for ORT to be supported by so many people," he said.

ORT is the third largest educational and vocational non-governmental organization in the world, educating more than 286,000 students in its network of programs, training centres and schools around the world.

The organization has been particularly affected by the ongoing terrorism in Israel. Several dozens of its graduates have been injured or killed since the violence began three years ago, says ORT board member Ian Leventhal.

ORT Toronto had invited two Israeli students to come speak at the luncheon, one of whom set up a science experiment about growing crystals that was brought on the space shuttle Columbia, but the students cancelled their trip because of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome). Their speeches were presented on videotape.

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What right of return actually means

To a frightening degree, unfortunately, the Arab world has succeeded in dictating the terms of the debate on the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Nearly four decades of unremittingly hostile and false propaganda, with the United Nations as the Arab world's distinguished soapbox, have taken their toll since 1967. The world appears no longer able to distinguish truth from falsehood. The record has been utterly ignored or altered. History itself has become irrelevant, and in a sense, to the world's great peril, defiled.

The Arab world, and eventually the leaders of the Palestinian Arabs, refused at every critical turn of events in the conflict – in 1936, 1947, 1949, 1967, 1979 and 2000 – to find a compromise, despite the plea by the Jews and the Jewish state to do so. They have never shown a sincere desire to try to accommodate the presence of a state for Jews in their midst, Rather, they have only wanted to prevent and then to supplant such a state.

But the Jewish state refuses to be supplanted.

Incapable of defeating Israel in the field of battle, Israel's enemies, alas, have been considerably more successful in the field of propaganda. Their latest artillery piece in this theatre of the conflict is the demand of a "right of return" for the Palestinian refugees of 1948. That any of the "right of return" salvos have found their mark in a receptive western world is a further betrayal of history and of the honesty that is its indispensible requisite.

The mere contemplation of a "right of return" in this context is legally and pragmatically inappropriate. But more than that, it is morally offensive.

There is no such right under international law; nor was such a right conferred under any of the legal instruments that have accompanied the conflict. Nor is there any precedent for the existence of such a right in any of the displacements of human beings that were the sad outcome of any of the wars of the last two centuries. But the deeper reason to oppose such a right is that it is morally repugnant. Propounding a "right of return" for the Palestinians is transparent code language for propounding the destruction of the Jewish state. There are fair and reasonable accommodations for Palestinian statelessness. But this is not one of them. How is it conceivable then, that enlightened, well-meaning people can champion such a right? But they do.

Thus, last weekend, Toronto city councillor Olivia Chow, was slated to attend and address Al-Awda's First International Convention on Palestinian Right of Return and Self-Determination in a New Colonial World: Strategies and Actions. Most of the conference's listed organizers and participants are well-known individuals who villify and delegitimize the Jewish state.

How is it possible, then, that Chow would join in their cause, which, without shame, but rather with great earnest purpose, calls for Israel's destruction?

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Dry Bones

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Appalled at political stance

In response to the letter stating that the Canadian Alliance is the only party standing up for world Jewry, I must say that I am appalled.

This party does have a good record of support for Israel, but while I can not defend all of the NDP's Middle Eastern policy, it is the only party that has considerably fought against racism in Canada and abroad.

Stephen Ben-Shalom
Toronto

* * *

Israel must remove Hamas

Israel was too quick to accept the so-called "road map" to Mideast peace. It was clear from the outset that Hamas rejected the peace proposals. We have now witnessed Hamas, together with Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, attack an Israeli military outpost in Gaza that killed five Israeli soldiers as well as perpetrate another horrific suicide attack on a bus in Jerusalem on June 11 that killed 17 and injured more.

Clearly, the Palestinian Authority (PA) cannot be counted on to eliminate these terrorist organizations, as the PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has indicated he will not use force to disarm the terrorists. Now that Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades have joined forces, they are an even greater threat to the security of Israel. The Israeli army should march into the headquarters of all three organizations, seize their records identifying their leaders and bombers and arrest them all. Once these evil forces have been removed, the road to peace can be pursued. In 1967, it took a pre-emptive strike to save the State of Israel. The same should be done now.

Bert Raphael
Chair, Canadian Lawyers and Jurists for World Jewry
Toronto

* * *

Gerber misses the point

It is unfortunate that Jean Gerber takes a complex issue that requires patience and tolerance on all sides and reduces it to a string of intemperate exaggerations ("Wars over the Wall," *CJN*, June 12). In doing so, she misses the point altogether.

The Kotel belongs to every Jew precisely because the rules there follow the lowest common denominator of standards that all can abide by. There is no monitoring at the Kotel of belief, politics or personal practice. It is probably the only place where Jews of all affiliations pray together.

But the behaviour of the Women of the Wall undermines this. Their introduction of certain halachically forbidden practices into the precincts of the Kotel prevents traditionally oriented men from praying at the same time. There is no law that prevents someone from praying in whatever way they like elsewhere in Jerusalem. Why is it so important to the Women of the Wall to do so in just the place where it is sure to scandalize many others who regularly pray at the Kotel? It makes one wonder what part of their motivation is heartfelt prayer and what part is political grandstanding.

While it's regrettably true that on occasion, the provocative behaviour of the Women of the Wall has elicited some hotheaded behaviour in response, this is the reaction of a few of the hundreds at the Kotel at any given time and is universally condemned. This whole issue is lost, however, in the hostile haze of Gerber's diatribe. The way she calls all opponents of the Women of the Wall "thugs" is beneath the dignity of *The CJN*. Furthermore, her coded pejorative usage of the word "haredim" to mean all Jews who consider themselves bound by tradition is inexcusable in a publication intended for the whole community.

Robert Levine
Toronto

* * *

Film viewers be warned

In his review of *The Believer*, Larry Anklewicz says it is "not always a comfortable film" ("True story about a Jewish neo-Nazi," *CJN*, May 29). Having recently seen the film, I feel viewers should be forewarned that this characterization is far too mild. Yes, the film is "fascinating and challenging," but it also visually and intellectually brutalizes the viewer.

Your readers should be aware that *The Believer* contains scenes that may well be intolerable for many viewers. A Jewish student is viciously attacked; a synagogue is graphically and gleefully desecrated. The anti-Semitic rhetoric is far beyond the typical incitement to hatred. Danny, the protagonist, an intellectual, Judaically knowledgeable skinhead, corrupts Jewish learning and theology in the most destructive manner imaginable. I found myself thinking that many of the scenes and much of the rhetoric could be exploited by those with the vilest of intentions.

The film and its protagonist ultimately achieve a redemption, and the impact is indeed powerful. But your readers should know that *The Believer* may be, for many, simply too painful.

Jerry Friedman
Toronto

* * *

Oy, tradition!

What a great "Reb Tevya" Rabbi Marmur makes, dancing through life singing "Tradition, Tradition" while the shtetl becomes more irrelevant to more and more people ("Why I don't officiate at same-sex marriages," *CJN*, June 12). Such wilful neglect or denial of change is the very reason many gay and lesbian Jews are deserting the shuls (and Judaism altogether in some cases), only to join liberal Christian, Buddhist or other more accepting faith groups. I personally know more than a dozen same-sex Jewish couples who have married at Christian or Unitarian churches because of the welcome and acceptance they received in these places. It is sad to hear rabbis complain about the sad state of Jewish solidarity and commitment and then disallow some Jews to participate in "tradition." For Rabbi Marmur, it is an issue of kedushah, not tzedek. How strange. My Torah says justice and holiness are one and the same.

Dov Davies
Windsor, Ont.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
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Perspectives

Two sides of the story: reframing the Arab-Israeli Conflict

By OTTO BARUCH RAND

With the election of Mahmoud Abbas as the Palestinian prime minister and the publication of the Middle Eastern road map, there might be a new window of opportunity for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. There are, however, many obstacles to a substantive change, and coming to a political agreement acceptable to both parties is only one step in removing them. It is naive to assume that a rapprochement between the two people can be accomplished strictly on the political level. Without a shift of opinions at the grassroots level and substantive change in the education of children, a political settlement may not last.

Peace will require debunking the many myths on which the Palestinians' political position rests and which are being perpetuated, particularly in educational institutions. In order to be able to live peacefully together in neighbouring societies, each party will need to reframe the image it had created of its opponent, and also redefine itself and its own perceived truths.

Separation of Religion from State

An important change needed in both Israel and a future Palestinian state is one that every enlightened society has gone through – the moving of religion from the political to the personal realm. This does not mean Israeli and Palestinian societies must become secular. Religion may continue to play an important role in enhancing morality and ethics and combating social ills, but for there to be a fair and an equitable accommodation between members of different faiths, religion cannot play a dominant or formal role in politics. It is as simple as this: an institution that purports to harbour an absolute truth cannot share power with another absolute truth. Turkey is an example of how democracy can prosper along with a powerful religion (not without problems!) on condition that religion is banned from power politics.

To separate religion from politics might be harder in Israel than in the Palestinian Authority (PA). It might be possible for the Palestinians to conduct elections without allowing parties with an exclusive religious agenda into the race, since a secular infrastructure is already in place. However, in Israel, Jewish religious parties have been participating in the government since the inception of the state, and excluding them might result in a serious confrontation. Yet, since both the Israeli and the Palestinian societies are multi-religious, they must face this issue.

Conflicting Narratives

Each side of the conflict has its own historical narrative going back to the times of Abraham. The earliest discord between them is in the story of the Sacrifice. Whom was Abraham instructed to sacrifice? The Jewish narrative states clearly that Isaac was the intended sacrificial lamb; Islam teaches that it was Ishmael. The Christians accept the Jewish narrative with the rest of the Bible, but see the aborted sacrifice of Isaac only as a prelude to the real sacrifice of Jesus.

One could probably dismiss this historical disagreement as irrelevant to a peaceful coexistence, but not so the staunch believers on both sides. As far as they are concerned, the conflict extends to the ownership of land and to the identity of holy places. In 2000, the Palestinians destroyed a synagogue in the city of Shechem (Nablus) presumed to stand on the site of the Tomb of Joseph, because they considered it a Muslim holy site. On the other hand, in 1994, Baruch Goldstein, a Jewish settler from Kiryat Arba near the biblical city of Hebron, murdered 29 Muslims praying in the mosque adjacent to the Tomb of the Patriarchs, for he and many of the settlers considered the tomb exclusively Jewish, purchased by Abraham from a Hittite landowner some 3,000 years ago to be passed as inheritance to Jews.

The historical disagreements also affect archeological excavations. The Syrian government fought hard against an Italian team of excavators who suggested that they found in an ancient Syrian city, Ebla, cuneiform tablets that confirm, or at least strengthen, the possibility of Abraham's existence. Arabs have made an outright attempt – assisted by some Israeli scholars – to dismiss the ancient history of Israel as a politically motivated story, particularly as it refers to the Davidic and Solomonic kingdoms. PA President Yasser Arafat even claimed that a Jewish temple never stood in Jerusalem, although there are reliably identified remnants of the Herodian Temple (the so-called Second Temple) as well as a plethora of historiographical evidence dating back to the time when the Temple still existed. The purpose of this denial is to disclaim Israel's historic rights to Palestine. Some Arabs say there was no Jewish settlement in Palestine prior to the Balfour Declaration (1917).

This myth is as unfounded as Israel's claim that there was no sizable Arab population in Palestine prior to the advent of the British and, subsequently, Jewish pioneers. The truth is that Arabs had flourishing cities and villages, some of which date back to the Arab conquest in 640. Whether there are descendants of the earlier Canaanites among the present Palestinian population, as some claim, is irrelevant, because 1,400 years of continuous settlement provide enough historical rights without requiring further support. Equally, Jewish historical rights to the land in which they lived and established kingdoms for hundreds of years prior to the advent of the Muslims is undeniable and does not depend on whether all the biblical stories are proven true or not.

> 'New textbooks are needed as well as properly trained teachers to present both narratives'

If a settlement is to be reached, both sides' historical rights to the land must be considered equally valid and not mutually exclusive. Each party needs to acknowledge the historical rights of the other and cease trying to discredit them.

The War of Independence and Al Nakba

The gap between the narratives becomes wider as we enter the 20th century. The events leading to the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel in 1948, the subsequent war and the refugee crisis following it are seen in a totally different light by the Jews and the Arabs. The difference is not only in facts but also in tone. Israel sees the events with a sense of euphoria, realization of a messianic dream, continuation of its glorious history that was interrupted by the tragic destruction of the Second Temple, the heroic struggle of a few against many. The Palestinians see it as an unparalleled tragedy, expropriation and expulsion of thousands of families from their ancestral lands, destruction of cities and villages, and – worst of all – turning hundreds of thousands of their people into refugees.

Jews and Arabs moving in different directions, symbolizing the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. [RNS photo]

The Israeli narrative is triumphal. A people in need of a country because of persecutions in Europe culminating in the Holocaust returns to its ancestral homeland and attains sovereignty there. When the United Nations decided to partition the land, the Jews were willing to accept a UN resolution which allocated to them only 56 per cent of the land (in which they were a minority of one-third).

But the Arabs were not willing to accept the resolution. Instead, seven Arab nations declared war on the nascent State of Israel and lost. Israel offered peace and friendship to the Palestinians who would stay, but the Arab warlords told them to exit in order to return victoriously with the Arab armies after pushing the Jews into the sea. The Palestinians never accepted the presence of Jews in the area. They attempted, time and again, to reverse events by using violence, with the ultimate goal of occupying the whole land.

Today they are using terrorism and suicide bombers as their means of resistance. This hurts the Israeli people and the economy, but thanks to the steadfastness of the Israeli army, most suicide bombings are prevented. It is necessary to continue the occupation, not because Israel wants the Palestinian territories, but in order to prevent infiltration of terrorists from them.

The Arab narrative is blaming. It ascribes all Arab ills to the Jews and the West. No one had the right to parcel their land against their will. The Holocaust was not the fault of the Arabs. The Zionist goal was (and is) to replace the local population with Jewish refugees and turn the local Arabs into refugees. The war (Al Nakba) was an attempt to prevent the Palestinian tragedy, but because western nations supplied Israel with arms and volunteers, the Arab armies were defeated and more Palestinian territory was lost. Palestinians fled their homes at gunpoint. Israelis massacred entire villages to induce those remaining in their homes to run.

At the end of the war, Israel occupied 73 per cent of the land. Unhampered, Jewish immigration grew into millions. It was impossible to accommodate all the immigrants without expropriating further Arab land. This became possible after another unsuccessful attempt at liberation of Palestine during the Six Day War (1967). In its wake, Israel occupied all of Palestine and continues the occupation till this day. Moreover, it is establishing settlements even in the one-quarter of original Palestine left in Arab hands, and thus practically annexing the entire territory.

Which story is true? Unfortunately both, and it is hard to build a bridge between them without creating a parody. The only way to narrow the gap is to validate and teach both stories. Facts and perceptions are inseparable. Both sides must acknowledge the perceptions of the other and the facts will fall into place or become irrelevant.

The Educational Challenge

Even the minorities in each group that would like to solve the problem by the elimination of the other party know that it cannot be done. At the end of the day, Jews and Arabs will have to live together as neighbours, either in one bi-national or in two separate states.

Because of the inevitability of peaceful coexistence, both sides of the conflict should not waste time blaming or hurting each other. What our generation missed must be offered to our children: two sides of the story. Listening to each other may not cure the ills of the past, but it can be the beginning of building the future. There is currently no foundation for a new edifice. Only by acknowledging that neither party is completely right or completely wrong can they start building it.

To begin the process of attaining peace at the grassroots level, new textbooks are needed as well as properly trained teachers to present both narratives without a bias, and without hatred or vengefulness. Students of both nations must come to terms with the past by understanding their own story and also the pain and agony of the other. Myths must be debunked and truth faced, no matter how painful it is. This is how the revolution in education should begin. Dialogue about the future will follow. Without an educational revolution, there will be no real peace in the land.

Baruch Rand was the founder and the first principal of the Toronto Heschel School. He is the author of a junior-high school textbook called Civilizations *and is currently working on an anthology about Jewish and Palestinian experiences in the 20th century.*

When will you visit Israel?

Yes, I shouldn't be writing about the same topic again. Please indulge me, but I just got back from Israel – again– and I can't help myself. I have to write another "go to Israel" column.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Go to Israel, because they need tourists, because the economy needs your money and because it is safe.

Here's where I need to discuss statistics (and I promise never to do a math column again). The recent violence has given some people the impression that it's dangerous to visit Israel. But that's not what the statistics conclude. Of course, we can never reduce any death to a "statistic". However, the only way to evaluate danger is by the numbers.

Last year, 2002, was Israel's worst year of violence in recent memory. In it, 453 Israelis, including 156 police officers and soldiers on active duty, were killed. Considering Israel's population of 6.7 million, that translates to 4.4 civilian deaths per 100,000.

Compare that with driving a car. In Canada, in 2002, there were 2,778 deaths as a result of car accidents in a population of 31.4 million, which translates to 8.8 deaths per 100,000. In other words, even in 2002, it was twice as dangerous to drive a car in Canada as to walk down the street in Israel (because of the drop in violence in 2003, Canadian roads are now 5 times as dangerous as a visit to Israel).

So why are people nervous about Israel? Because media coverage of every incident is non-stop. If car accidents were given similar round-the-clock TV coverage, people would be afraid to get into a car. Terrorism succeeds because it uses the media to manipulate our perceptions, making us imagine a major danger when there's only a small risk.

But even if it wasn't safe, we would still have to visit Israel.

Wherever our group went, Israelis thanked us profusely for coming, grateful that 40-odd tourists had visited. This exaggerated gratitude depressed me. I realized Israelis feel so alone that a full tour bus was a major event. It is shameful that when Israel needs us the most, it has so little support.

Support is our obligation, in good times and bad.

At Yad Vashem, a guide told us about a Polish couple that had been there several years earlier, simple peasants there to be honoured as "righteous of the nations." After the ceremony, they were asked why they risked their lives to save a couple of strangers. Their answer was simple: "We saw people running, and they needed help, so we took them in."

These words reminded me that there are times when we must forget all excuses, be courageous and help those in need. Now is one of those times.

Israel needs our help. It isn't even dangerous. Will you visit?

Aqaba and aftermath may signal shift in Israeli attitudes

The Aqaba summit in early June will be remembered not just for what took place there, but also for what happened later. Within seven days, Hamas launched several attacks against Israeli military and civilian targets; Israel attacked Hamas leader Abdul Aziz Rantisi; and a suicide bombing in Jerusalem killed 17 Israelis and wounded many others. It seemed like a return to the familiar pattern of hopeless deadlock, with no change in sight.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

But beneath the surface, there appear to be subtle changes taking place in Israeli public opinion that should give government and military leaders pause for thought. It isn't the first time the Israeli public has been ahead of its political leaders and not blindly accepted the "party line." And while the following survey results, published recently in the Israeli press, are just snapshots of a moment in time, they also point to longer-term attitudinal trends.

In keeping with consistent public support for a negotiated settlement leading to a Palestinian state – as long as terror ceases – a majority of Israelis have supported the U.S.-sponsored "road map" to peace since its publication. (Interestingly, this position holds despite doubts about the ability of Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to fight extremist factions.)

Even after the most recent terrorist attacks and a growing sense the process was dead, 57 per cent of Israelis (including nearly 50 per cent of Likud voters) still supported the road map. This isn't surprising when other findings are analyzed: 67 per cent of Israelis agreed with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's statement that the occupation is harmful to Israel; only 15 per cent of Israelis believed Israel would still be holding all the territories in five years; and 66 per cent said they supported the removal of unauthorized outposts (referring to Sharon's first, halting steps toward removing all the outposts established since 2000, as called for by the road map).

In other words, Sharon hasn't risked much in the positions he has taken over the last several weeks. In spite of the opposition he encountered within some Likud circles, he reflected the prevailing views of the centre of the Israeli political spectrum. In fact, 51 per cent of Israelis believe Sharon's should be guided by his own views and not those of his party.

A significant difference from past surveys showed up in Israeli attitudes toward Sharon' tactics against terrorism. Until the Rantisi incident and its bloody aftermath, Israelis generally gave Sharon a carte blanche in combating terror, because they believed political concessions alone would not decrease attacks against Israeli targets.

This has changed. After the failed attack on Rantisi, 58 per cent of Israelis said targeted killings are detrimental to Israel's interests and supported at least a temporary halt to the controversial practice. And more significantly, 40 per cent believed the attack on Rantisi was motivated by a political decision to delay progress on the road map. Israeli commentators were right to call attention to this unprecedented questioning not just of the government's credibility on security matters, but also that of the Israel Defence Forces.

Sharon and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz cannot ignore this finding. Especially for the prime minister, it comes at a time when his personal credibility is declining on economic as well as security policy. A year ago, Sharon's credibility was at an all-time high of 74 per cent. A month ago, it stood at 65 per cent. Seven days after Aqaba, 54 per cent of Israelis considered him credible, and only 47 per cent expressed satisfaction with his performance as prime minister.

All this adds up to more than a tentative sense that Aqaba and its negative aftermath may in hindsight be seen as a turning point. The shift in Israeli attitudes on the question of how best to deal with the challenge of terrorism may have significant domestic political consequences. Like most politicians, Sharon cannot afford to alienate public opinion. Last week, he was given some important messages.

I found one additional finding particularly worrisome. Fifty-four percent of Israelis expressed concern for Sharon's personal safety in light of the vocal opposition he faces from his own constituency on the right. The shadow of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in 1995 still looms large for Israelis. Leaders of the settler movement have called on even their most ideological followers to draw the line at violent resistance to the government and its leaders. One can only pray their call will be heeded.

The best prime minister - for the Jews

Some weeks ago, a group of scholars released a ranking of the best Canadian prime ministers of the postwar period. They chose Lester Pearson, followed by Brian Mulroney.

Fine. But which recent prime minister was best for the Jews?

Is this a silly question? Is it irrelevant? We have all heard Jews ask themselves about any development or personality and whether it (or he or she) good for the Jews? Even sophisticates are not immune. So let's ask the question.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

For politicians, being good for the Jews can mean two things. It can mean taking actions and articulating positions that are specifically aimed at Jewish concerns, such as anti-Semitism or the defence of Israel. Alternatively, it can mean showing leadership on matters of general public policy that also have specific affects on Jews, such as policies on private-school funding or human rights.

In general, most of the long-serving prime ministers of recent vintage have been reasonably good for Jews on one or both counts. More or less, they have all been supportive of Israel. Most have supported immigration and Canadian multiculturalism. Most have taken steps to increase tolerance and promote equality at home and abroad. (About the worst episodes have been times that Canada's commitment to the United Nations and our helpful middle-power image may have led some of our leaders to overlook or tolerate biased anti-Israeli resolutions and actions, such as those at the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.)

But no act by any prime minster, or former prime minister, compares with the recent speech by Brian Mulroney at a Jewish National Fund dinner in Montreal. It was essentially the same speech he gave to a University of Toronto audience in the fall. I was present for both speeches, and both were riveting and their effect electrifying.

No Canadian prime minister, and I suspect no American president, has ever given such a thoughtful, informed and personal speech. It both condemned Canadian anti-Semitism past and present and affirmed solidarity with Israel. Mulroney demonstrated both an intellectual understanding of, and visceral empathy with, Jews and Israel. His phrase "Israel is the new Jew" underscored the potential linkage between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

This was not some ultra-right manifesto. Mulroney stated very clearly that his preferred Middle East scenario was to see a Palestinian state alongside a Jewish one, both living within peaceful and secure borders. But he was also absolutely clear that until that day arrived, he would stand firmly by Israel and would not preach to Israel about how best to safeguard its security.

Cynics can offer their own explanations as to why Mulroney did it. Maybe he was pandering to Jews who might in the future offer votes and contributions to the Progressive Conservative Party – something they haven't done much of in the past. But I reject that interpretation. If that was his motive, he went much farther than he had to.

This was a man speaking from the depths of sincerity to a battered community – 16 innocents had been blown up on a Jerusalem bus that day – in need of some outside support. This was a genuine, not Clintonian, "I feel your pain" speech.

Everyone, including hard-nosed veterans of Jewish and Canadian politics, left the Montreal speech deeply moved. I know I did. It will go down as a signal event in Canadian Jewish history.

* * *

It is with sadness that I report this is my last regular column for *The CJN*. It has been a privilege and a pleasure each month to share my thoughts with you over the past several years on a wide variety of issues.

Some columns were analytical, explaining why things happen or what may happen, but left my own views or convictions hidden. Others were prescriptive. They were rooted in ideological convictions and advocated specific policies and positions. Still others were personal, focussing on my private life and relying on personal anecdotes and humour.

I tried to blend aspects of all three in my writing. I have appreciated your feedback over the years, both the compliments and especially the arguments.

Have an enjoyable summer, and let there be peace in Israel.

The Kirshner File

Rosenberg case still mired in controversy

Fifty years have passed since Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed after being convicted of conspiracy to deliver atomic secrets to the Soviet Union.

On June 19, 1953, the couple, having exhausted their last desperate legal appeal, were given an hour of what passed for privacy before being escorted to the electric chair at Sing-Sing prison in New York. They embraced, kissed and exchanged final words. The poignant moment was caught by a photographer.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The Rosenbergs were to have been executed at 8 p.m. on that night, but in deference to the Jewish Sabbath, their fateful date with destiny was postponed by three hours.

Five decades after their execution, following the most celebrated espionage trial in American history, the Rosenberg affair remains mired in controversy. The questions asked back then are still relevant today: Were the Rosenbergs guilty? Did they deserve to die? Were they victims of a travesty of justice?

The case, which unfolded against the backdrop of the Cold War and a climate of anti-communist hysteria, has inspired a flood of scholarly articles, books and movies.

Although they were one of the most famous or infamous couples of the 20th century, depending on your perception, the Rosenbergs sprung from humble working-class origins.

Julius was born in 1918 in New York City. He was the scion of a Polish immigrant who toiled in the garment industry. His mother hoped he would be a rabbi, but Julius opted for electrical engineering at City College.

Ethel Greenglass, almost three years older than Julius, was also born in New York City. Her father ran a hole-in-the-wall sewing machine repair shop. After finishing high school, she worked as a clerk in a shipping company. She was fired for organizing a strike.

Despite Julius' membership in the Young Communist League, to which Ethel also belonged, the U.S. Army Signal Corps hired him as a civil engineer. Later, he and Ethel became full members of the American Communist party. Ethel's brother and sister-in-law, David and Ruth Greenglass, were communists as well.

The Rosenbergs dropped out of party activities in 1943. According to historian Howard Sachar, Julius was recruited by officials of the Soviet consulate in New York to transmit data in Signal Corps manuals. Ethel stayed at home, raising their two sons.

In 1944, David Greenglass, a skilled machinist, was invited to join the top secret Manhattan Project, whose mission was to develop an atomic bomb. Greenglass was assigned to a laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and then to a lab in Los Alamos, N.M.

Julius was sacked in 1945 when his ties with the Communist party came to light. He and Greenglass, along with two other partners, opened a small machine shop.

Shortly afterward, Klaus Fuchs, a German-born British atomic scientist who had worked in Los Alamos, was detained on suspicion of having turned over classified information to the Soviets via an American contact known as Raymond. In an effort to try to ascertain Raymond's real identity, the Federal Bureau of Investigation focused on Harry Gold, a chemist sympathetic to the communist cause. Gold confessed he had conveyed atomic data to the Soviet Union. Before being sentenced to 30 years in prison in July 1950, Gold claimed that Greenglass had passed sensitive information to Julius.

On June 17, 1950, about a week prior to the outbreak of the Korean war, Julius was arrested on suspicion of espionage. He maintained his innocence until the end. Ethel was detained in August. But much to their surprise and horror, Greenglass turned against them after the federal authorities promised him his wife would be granted immunity from prosecution. Greenglass himself was sent to prison for 15 years.

Another pivotal figure in the Rosenberg affair was Morton Sobell, who knew Julius at City College. A communist, Sobell was charged with having conspired with Julius and others to commit espionage. He received a prison sentence of 30 years.

Julius and Ethel were formally indicted in January 1952. They were accused not of treason, but of conspiracy to commit espionage and of enlisting Greenglass in the plot.

These events took place at a time when the Soviet Union – a U.S. ally in World War II – and communism were viewed with the utmost of suspicion in the United States.

In 1946, Joseph McCarthy, a zealous Red baiter, was elected to the U.S. Senate. In 1947, the U.S. Congress inaugurated hearings to root out communists and fellow travellers in the Hollywood film industry. In 1948, a State Department official, Alger Hiss, was indicted for perjury after having denied his involvement in espionage on behalf of the Soviet Union. In 1949, Moscow detonated an A-bomb, breaking the United States' nuclear supremacy. And in 1950, the Korean war broke out, pitting the West against the forces of communism.

Amid these developments, the Rosenberg trial convened in Manhattan in March 1951. The chief prosecutor was Irving Saypol, the son of Russian Jewish immigrants. One of his assistants, Roy Cohn, was the son of a New York State Supreme Court judge. (Cohn later served as an aide to McCarthy.) The judge was Irving Kaufman. Julius said that he looked "like a cross between a rabbinical student and an army sergeant."

Julius Rosenberg and his wife, Ethel, kiss before their execution

The Rosenbergs were pronounced guilty and sentenced to death in April 1951. Kaufman described their crime as "worse than murder." Their lawyer, Emanuel Bloch, appealed. The United States Court of Appeals rejected the defence argument and the U.S. Supreme Court chose not to hear arguments.

A "Pro-Rosenberg Committee" publicized the Rosenbergs' cause, but mainstream Jewish organizations branded the committee "a Communist-inspired group."

The director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover, and attorney-general Herbert Brownell, persuaded then-president Dwight Eisenhower not to grant the Rosenbergs a commutation. The execution was scheduled for June 18, 1953, the Rosenbergs' 14th wedding anniversary.

Their defence team appealed to U.S. Supreme Court justice William Douglas. On June 16, he granted the Rosenbergs a stay. By way of response, Chief Justice Fred Vinson summoned the court into special session. The justices rejected the stay.

The Rosenbergs' execution touched off mass demonstrations in the United States and Europe. Their two sons, Michael and Robert, were adopted by Abel and Anna Meeropol. (Abe Meeropol wrote the music and lyrics for *Strange Fruit*, Billie Holiday's haunting trademark song).

Sachar, in *A History of the Jews in America*, claims that while Julius was indeed guilty of espionage, Ethel was convicted on "tainted evidence," though was almost certainly an accomplice.

Anti-Semitism played no role in the case, in his opinion.

In their definitive study, *The Rosenberg File*, historians Ronald Radosh and Joyce Milton write that Julius was the co-ordinator of "an extensive espionage operation." As for Ethel, she probably knew of and supported her husband's endeavours. But Ethel's conviction, they say, was based in large part on a last minute change of testimony by key witnesses and was "relatively weak."

Radosh and Milton argue that the Rosenberg spy ring was never "the primary conduit of U.S. atomic secrets to the Soviets." Yet federal prosecutors and FBI officials wanted the Rosenberg case "pursued to the limits of the law." They hoped that Julius would name names – unmask spies in important positions in the United States – and that the case would create a chilling effect by setting a lasting example to potential traitors. Neither supposition panned out.

Radosh and Milton believe that a grave miscarriage of justice was perpetrated. First, Ethel was arrested to pressure her husband into breaking his silence. Two, the law under which the Rosenbergs were tried did not allow for capital punishment of individuals who spied for a wartime ally (the Soviet Union).

Michael Meeropol thinks that his parents' conviction was based upon perjured testimony and fabricated evidence, and that U.S. government agents and agencies orchestrated their "frame-up."

In a new book, *An Execution in the Family*, Michael's brother, Robert, admits that his father participated in "an illegal and covert effort to help the Soviet Union defeat the Nazis." But he maintains that the evidence used to convict them "only demonstrated that they had been framed."

True or not, the consensus is that the prosecution of the Rosenbergs did not fulfil the high standards of American justice and fair play. As Radosh and Milton put it: "The fate of the Rosenbergs remains a blot on America's conscience."

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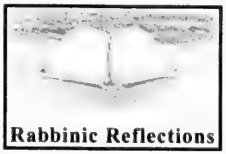
Jewish Life

From the inside out

By RABBI MICHAEL SKOBAC



Rabbinic Reflections

As Moses was about to lead the Jewish people into the Promised Land, they asked to first send an advance party of spies. God consented, and Moses directed the 12 chosen spies to determine the strength of Canaan's inhabitants and the quality of the land. After 40 days, the spies returned, and 10 of them reported, "It is a land of milk and honey… however, the people are very fierce, and the cities are large and well-fortified."

Suddenly, Caleb, the 11th spy, cut them off, proclaiming, "We should go up immediately and occupy the land, because we can surely prevail!"

But the spies insisted the land couldn't be conquered because its people were too powerful. Accepting this gloomy report exposed the nation's lack of faith, and God condemned them to perish during 40 years of wandering in the desert.

Since God approved the reconnaissance mission, it is difficult to understand His harsh reaction to the spies' assessment. And what provoked Caleb's stern outburst after the initial report of the spies? They were merely reporting their findings.

The Midrash describes those who despaired of the land as a "topsy-turvy generation" (Numbers Rabbah 16:5). The Lubavitcher Rebbe explained that the spies erred in reversing the order of what Moses asked them to determine.

Moses' focus was on carrying out God's will that the land of Canaan be conquered, so he directed the spies to first report on the strength of its inhabitants. When the spies returned and began to describe the quality of the land, Caleb suspected their interest centred on the material benefits of Canaan. He feared they would weigh the effort and danger needed to take the land versus the potential payoff and decide that the project was not worthwhile. Hoping to nip them in the bud before spreading their seeds of doubt to the people, Caleb hastened to silence the spies.

The incident of the spies is followed in the Torah by the commandment to attach tzitzit, ritual fringes, to the corners of a garment. The connection between these passages is not simply their proximity. The Torah uses some form of the word *latur* 11 times in describing the mission of the spies. Significantly, the Torah uses this same word to describe the effect of looking at the tzitzit, "You shall not go astray (*taturu*) after your hearts and after your eyes."

According to Rabbi Mendel Lewittes, the Torah is saying here that sin is a process. It is often assumed that our eyes are engaged by something and then our hearts begin to desire it. The Torah maintains, however, that the process begins within our hearts (innermost values), which condition what our eyes notice. Two people see a valuable lost object on the street; one relates to it as a mitzvah and seeks to find the owner – the other sees it lining his pockets.

The problem with the spies stemmed from how they viewed the land of Israel. Moses, Caleb and his colleague Joshua were focused on implementing God's plan for the Jewish people to conquer it. Therefore, their concern was to determine how strong its defenders were in order to formulate a plan of attack. The other spies viewed the land as a potential source of material benefit, and so they concentrated on its qualities.

The commandment of tzitzit addresses the spies and all who err like them – attitude affects perception. The faith of the spies slipped, because they placed self-interest above the will of God. The tzitzit call us to cast our gaze on them, draw us to meditate on the path of Torah and gently guide us to envision a world in line with the Divine.

Rabbi Skobac is the director of education of Jews for Judaism in Toronto.

One person can make a difference

By HOWARD DRIMAN

Guest Voice

This is not a Holocaust story; neither is it intended to be the expression of a father's pride in his daughter. It is, rather, an example of how one person can make a difference in other people's lives with little effort, and so make the world a better place.

In 2001, my daughter Julia, in her last year at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), participated in a school trip to the rally for Israel in Washington, D.C. While there, she acquired, for a small donation, a metal bracelet on which was inscribed the name of a person killed in a terror attack in Israel. Hers read "Ofir Magidish."

On Feb. 14 this year, Julia sent me an e-mail from the University of Western Ontario, where she is a student. She said, "Today is the second anniversary of the death of Ofir Magidish who was killed in Israel. I wear his ID bracelet – my silver one – every day and I feel somehow connected to him. So tonight I am going to shul for prayers. He was 20 years old in 2001, so he would be 22 now."

Attached to the e-mail was something Julia had found on the Internet, which mentioned Ofir's death and the town from which he came. He was waiting for a bus to return to his military base when a terrorist crashed another bus into a crowded stop south of Tel Aviv. Included in the e-mail was a "Prayer for the Well-Being of the Israel Defence Forces," which Julia asked us to read when we recited the *Kiddush* that evening.

I was touched that Julia would take the trouble to go by cab to and from the synagogue in London to pray for someone who was really just a name to her. I felt that the Magidish family would like to know that there was someone on the other side of the world who didn't know them or their son, but thought of him just about every day of her life, and went to shul to pray on his yahrzeit. I e-mailed the UIA Federations Canada office in Jerusalem and asked if they could find the address of the Magidish family and gave the name of the town cited in the e-mail. Within 24 hours, Dvora Wilshansky emailed back to say she had spoken to Ofir's mother and sister, and she gave me the family's names and address.

In a letter to the family, Julia wrote, "I truly feel that Ofir has changed my life without ever even knowing him. Many people ask to see the bracelet – Jewish and non-Jewish – and each time I tell them about Ofir Magidish and the conflict that is taking place in Israel. Through my bracelet, his story is being told to so many people…

"I wear the bracelet with pride. It gives me strength to tell everyone I can about the terrorism in Israel and the soldiers who are courageously fighting for Israel, as well as for us in the Diaspora…

"It reminds me of the importance of education about Israel. It makes it clear to me what life is all about. It gives me hope that one day there will not be a need to make these bracelets…

"Please know that although I do not live in Israel or serve in the army or experience what Israelis experience every day, I, along with thousands of others, am thinking of Israel and we are doing our best to show you our support. I, along with many of my friends, have been to Israel three times during the current intifadah. We attend lectures, put up posters and run programs at university – and do anything we can to make the lives of those in Israel easier. Israel is not alone."

A few weeks later, after the war in Iraq, Julia received a reply: "We were very excited to read your letter and to know that someone on the other side of the world is thinking of Ofir. In Israel, where there are terror attacks every day and people are hurting on a daily basis, the dead and wounded are forgotten after a few days, and the newspapers are full of new victims. Through your letter, we felt your strong commitment to Israel and the difficult situation in the country. We felt your will and the will of the Jews in the Diaspora to help the people in Israel, and yes, you are helping. We were very excited to read that you are wearing Ofir's name on the bracelet…"

The family proceeded to tell Julia about their late son and their respective dreams and aspirations for him, all of which died with him.

"Two years have passed since the tragedy and we still cannot believe that Ofir is not with us, and we miss him terribly. When we received your emotional letter, you touched our soul and warmed our heart, knowing that we are not alone and that in some way, you feel with us our pain, that you remembered the day that our son was killed and prayed for him. We hope that you and the rest of the Diaspora Jews will keep visiting Israel and we would be happy to continue to be in contact with you and see you when you next come to visit Israel."

It was gratifying for Julia to know that she had touched the souls and warmed the hearts of a grieving family in Israel. She felt enriched and heartened. The ripple effect of that small donation in Washington was indeed considerable.

Howard Driman is director of finance for UIA Federations Canada and chair of the Holocaust Centre of Toronto.

Jewish Life

Chupahs and the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It is perhaps the most touching moment of a Jewish wedding. The chatan and the entire wedding party are joined under the chupah by the kallah. The chupah, or wedding canopy, is a beautiful and ancient tradition that many couples are now imbuing with personal touches. Today, a look at chupahs on the World Wide Web.

First the chupah's origins. We find two biblical references to chupahs: Psalm 19:6 compares the rising sun to a groom's radiance as he exits his chupah **[http://www.breslov.com/ref/Psalms19.htm]**; and Joel 2:16 exhorts a bride to leave her chupah, and the groom his wedding "room," to ask Divine forgiveness and avert national disaster **[http://www.breslov.com/ref/Joel2.htm]**.

In his essay on the Huppah: From Eden to Today, Eliezer Segal explains that today's weddings under the chupah hark back to the "paradigm of all weddings: the Revelation of Torah at Mount Sinai. In the biblical account of the marriage between God and the people of Israel, our sages also discovered allusions to the presence of a chupah, whether in the enveloping cloud of darkness that hovered over the people, or in the fact that the Israelites, about to enter into their marriage with God, were made to stand 'beneath the mountain' – just as the bride stands beneath the sheltering chupah on her wedding day." **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?L16A218E4]**

If you want to look online for someone to create your chupah, check the listings at MavenSearch **[http://mavensearch.com/subjects.asp?S=502]** or go to Google **[http://google.com]** and search for "chupah" or "chuppah."

As chupah-makers go, Richard Caro has some pretty interesting credentials. Caro is a direct descendent of Yosef Caro, the 16th-century kabbalist of Safed, author of the the Shulchan Aruch, the Code of Jewish Law. The contemporary Caro from Hudson, N.Y., feels he has a special responsibility to create the right chupah. "I see myself as a builder, and a chupah is a spiritual representation of a couple's first house… something that they will have in their lives forever." **[http://www.forward.com/issues/2001/01.11.23/fast3.html]**

Dena Bliss posted an e-mail to the Pomegranate Guild discussion area looking for advice about building a chupah for a friend who is getting married. Check out the creative responses from Elaine, Laura and Irene. **[http://www.pomegranateguild.org/wwwboard/messages/17.html]**

Seth and Amy Krostich have put the plans for their chupah online along with shots of them hammering, painting, assembling – and even kissing – under it. After its formal use, they plan to keep in the garden of their new home. **[http://www.sethandamy.com/ceremony/chuppah.html]**

Instead of designing your chupah by yourself, make it a communal effort. Elsa Wachs asked friends and family to contribute personal items to be incorporated into her son's chupah. The chupah has become a family heirloom and has been used at the weddings of Wachs' three sons, two cousins and other relatives. Rahel Musleah's lovely article, *Chuppahs of Hope* from *Jewish Woman* magazine tells how chupahs have evolved to symbolize what one artist calls "love, beauty and joy." **[http://www.jwmag.org/articles/03summer/p22.asp]**

As for what actually takes place under the chupah, there are many customs. The Jewish Virtual Library provides a good summary of the wedding process. **[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/marriage.html]** I was particularly interested in the questions people have asked rabbis that are posted at the Jewish.com site. Questions like: Who circles whom and how many times? Were wedding rings used during the days of the Torah? Why are chupahs traditionally held outdoors? To the final question, Rabbi Leibie Sternberg answers that since Abraham was blessed that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars, we wish to apply that blessing to every chatan and kallah. **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?V1CC23DC4]**

If you are planning some time under the chupah, you'll want to make sure that everything goes like clockwork. But life doesn't go as planned as you'll see in the Chupah Horror Stories presented at the *Country Yossi Family Magazine* Web site. There are tales of red wine spilled on white wedding dresses under the chupah, the band that missed the chupah because it was stuck in the elevator, and the couple that only realized under the chupah that they hadn't bought a wedding ring – and purchased one from one of their guests. **[http://www.countryyossi.com/nov00/chupah.htm]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

U.S. Jews not responsible for Iraq war

MYTH:

American Jews pushed the United States to go to war against Iraq in 2003 to help Israel.

FACT:

One of the most absurd arguments made by opponents of the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 2003 was that American Jews were somehow responsible for persuading U.S. President George W. Bush to launch the military campaign on Israel's behalf.

The truth is that Bush decided that Iraq posed a threat to the United States because it possessed weapons of mass destruction and was pursuing a nuclear capability that could have been used directly against Americans or could have been transferred to terrorists who would use them against U.S. targets. The removal of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was also designed to eliminate one of the principal sponsors of terrorism.

The war in Iraq liberated its people from one of the world's most oppressive regimes. Even in the Arab world, where many people objected to the U.S. action, no Arab leader rose to Saddam's defence.

It is true that Israel will benefit from the elimination of a regime that launched 39 missiles against it in 1991, paid Palestinians to encourage them to attack Israelis and led a coalition of Arab states committed to Israel's destruction. It is also true, however, that many Arab states will likewise benefit from the removal of Saddam – in particular, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. This is why these nations allowed Allied forces to use their countries as bases for operations.

As for the role of American Jews, it is important to remember that Jews comprise less than three per cent of the U.S. population and were hardly the most vocal advocates of the war. On the contrary, the Jewish community was divided as the whole country was and most major Jewish organizations purposely avoided taking any position on the war. Meanwhile, public opinion polls showed that a significant majority of all Americans supported Bush's policy toward Iraq.

Some critics have suggested that prominent Jewish officials in the Bush administration pushed for the war. In fact, only a handful of officials in the administration is Jewish, and not one of Bush's top advisers – Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Vice-President Dick Cheney or National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice – is Jewish.

The suggestion that American Jews are more loyal to Israel than to the United States, or that they have undue influence on U.S. Middle East policy, is an example of anti-Semitism. Unfortunately, some critics of the war on Iraq chose the age-old approach of blaming the Jews for a policy they disagreed with rather than addressing the substantive arguments in the debate.

Source: Myths & Facts Online: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.

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Zelig & Nina; Jack & Charlotte and their Families

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Jewish Toronto

Supporting Jewish Education

What we can do together

Dear Jewish
Community Member:

Dr. Seymour Epstein (Epi)
Vice President, Education
UJA Federation

Marshall Kesten
Chair, UJA Federation
Board of Jewish Education

Toronto, as an organized Jewish community, has an exceptional reputation for its devotion to Jewish education, based on two factors: the diversity and quality of our schools and the high proportion of UJA Federation campaign contributions - $11 million for the 2003-2004 school year – allocated to tuition subsidies and other educational programs. Toronto's community funding for Jewish education is unrivalled in North America.

While we are proud of that reputation, we dare not become complacent, satisfied with the status quo. Jewish education is not about mere continuity; rather, it is about growth, development, and creativity. For years, dedicated professionals at the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and in our schools have been working on all aspects of the high cost of Jewish education to develop a variety of solutions, which must be pursued in conjunction with each other.

Given the recent increases in tuition at some of the larger day schools and the justifiable concern on the part of many parents, we think it is worthwhile to present an accurate overview of Jewish education costs.

- It is very expensive to run quality schools.
- Teacher salaries account for the largest day school expenditure, and teacher remuneration is hardly extravagant. Our community needs well-trained, well-motivated teachers, whom we salute.
- Everyone in the community must be concerned about middle-income and low-income families that cannot afford day school education.
- Solutions to the problem of Jewish education costs are complex and multi-faceted. No one simple remedy exists.

For over three decades, UJA Federation has provided substantial financial support for Jewish education in Toronto. The recent decision by the UJA Federation Board of Directors to approve a $900,000 increase in tuition subsidies maintained this pattern of deep commitment to Jewish education. Last week's Jewish education budget increase was the result of years of work on the part of many people - professionals and volunteers - based on our ongoing effort to make Jewish education as accessible and affordable as possible. Subsidies are an important component of tuition relief, but there are others as well, outlined on the following page.

As a community dedicated to Jewish education, we must communicate better with each other, so that we can immediately dissolve the barriers that create a we/they situation and that contribute to any gaps in knowledge.

The BJE's first strategic goal is universal access to Jewish education, to which our community is deeply committed. With all our differences in ideology and religious practice, we are truly one on this issue.

Epi° Mk Kesten

Frequently Asked Questions About Jewish Education Costs

Q. ***Why are tuition costs so high?***

A. First of all, we deeply sympathize with parents confronted by rising school fees, however, it is very expensive for a day school to provide high-quality Jewish education. Teacher salaries constitute approximately 85% of school costs. Day school parents justifiably expect motivated, talented teachers, for whom we express our admiration. Overhead and operational costs account for the balance of school expenses.

Q. ***How much does it cost to run Jewish day schools?***

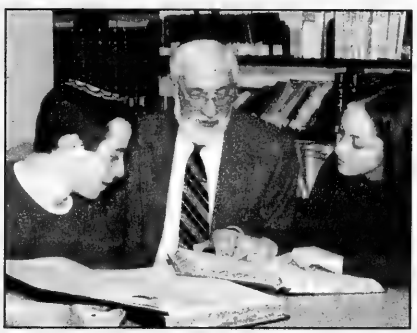
A. The operating costs for BJE affiliated schools total $100 million.

Q. ***Are school costs monitored?***

A. UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education reviews the audited statements of all its funded schools annually.

Q. ***What role does the organized Jewish community play in providing tuition relief?***

A. In the 2003-2004 school year, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education will be allocating nearly $8 million for tuition subsidies to parents who can't afford full fees. These subsidies, which represent a $900,000 increase over last year, come entirely from UJA Federation annual campaign contributions. In conjunction with increased subsidies, which have been in the planning stage for many years, the BJE will be reviewing subsidy guidelines to help relieve the financial burden on middle-income earners. The UJA Federation subsidy program – unprecedented in North America – maintains a pattern, established over 30 years ago, of generous community commitment to Jewish education. UJA Federation's $11 million total allocation for Jewish education this year (for subsidies and other educational programming) is our largest single local expenditure.



Q. ***So what is the answer to high tuitions?***

A. There is no *one* answer to the problem. The tuition fee challenge requires a variety of complementary responses. Withholding fees will certainly not reduce tuitions. It will only aggravate the financial pressure that day schools face.

Q. ***What is our ultimate objective?***

A. Universal access to Jewish education is our ultimate goal. We cannot restrict Jewish education to the highest income earners. Jewish education represents the strongest guarantee of a thriving Jewish future.

UJA Federation
Board of Jewish Education

Seeking solutions for the community

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE) is investigating several options to provide tuition relief for Toronto's day school network.

• *Government Assistance*

Although the level of community support for Jewish education in Toronto exceeds amounts provided by other communities, continuing government support is essential for tuition fee stability, according to Dr. Seymour Epstein, Vice President, Education, UJA Federation. "In the context of the Canadian reality, government support for Jewish day schools is our right, and the lack of such is a gross injustice," says Epstein. "The financial viability of the schools will be greatly enhanced once the general studies part of the curriculum is funded by the government, as it should be."

Governments in other Canadian provinces, and some U.S. states, help to fund independent schools. Here in Ontario, the Equity in Education Tax Credit (EETC) provides tax relief implemented over five years, culminating with a 50 percent credit in 2006 and beyond. Without government funding, cautions BJE Chair Marshall Kesten, it will be virtually impossible to reduce tuition costs. "For this reason, the community must be vigilant in maintaining and increasing its dialogue with the government to ensure that the EETC will be maintained, and ultimately improved," he said.

• *Early Enrollment*

Another key factor in cost control is increasing the number of day school students who enter the system as early as possible, in senior kindergarten or Grade 1.

To that end, the BJE Research Committee, chaired by Karen Chisvin, recently hired Randal Schnoor, a sociologist who, over the course of the summer, will be conducting focus groups consisting of parents who will soon be making education decisions about their children, to determine how earlier enrollment could be encouraged.

"Parents need to be exposed to, and educated about, the benefits of choosing day school education for their children as early as possible," says Schnoor.

"The main thing we hope to learn from this study are ways we could add value to a Jewish education in Toronto," says Chisvin. "It is a qualitative research project to look at what parents take into account when considering whether or not to send their kids to Jewish day school."

• *Neighbourhood Schools*

"It is imperative that, through a rational geographic distribution of schools throughout the GTA, children will have access to a Jewish day school education, close to where they

live," says Epstein. Through UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) initiative and its capital expansion project, this is quickly becoming a reality. At its downtown campus, the new Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre houses the Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School, as well as the Downtown Jewish Community School.

At JTT's Central Campus in the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, there is a full pre-school program, as well as She'arim, a Jewish day school for children with learning disabilities.

Continuing northwards, the JTT Vaughan Campus, located at Bathurst and Weldrick, due for completion in 2006, will house a new branch of CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto), as well as at least two elementary schools.

"These schools, spread throughout the GTA, increase our potential to attract Jewish children from different ideological perspectives, and from different sub-sectors of our population," says Epstein.

• *Innovative Funding*

The BJE is currently working with Partners for Excellence in Jewish Education (PEJE), to provide new methods of maintaining vibrant and healthy schools and innovative funding alternatives.

PEJE-BJE coordinated workshops will provide advice on how schools can develop effective business plans while increasing access, by concentrating on the following solutions:

- Training and consultation on school fundraising
- Acquiring endowment funds
- Research, marketing and advertising designed to attract more entry-level students
- Training on school governance: effective utilization of school boards and new leadership recruitment.

$8 million in subsidies for new school year

Since the early 1970s, community subsidies provided by the UJA Federation annual campaign have been allocated to parents of children attending Jewish day schools. Over the past 10 years, more than 26,000 children in funded schools - ranging from first grade to OAC - have benefited from this funding.

The subsidies are administered by each individual school based on guidelines set by the Board of Jewish Education, which take into account several factors including family size and income. Subsidies range from nominal amounts to full tuition.

For the 2003-2004 school year, UJA Federation will be allocating nearly $8 million toward tuition subsidies – an increase of $900,000 over last year. The UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education will also be reviewing guidelines to determine ways in which more financial relief can be provided to middle-class income earners, such as one parent who, in a letter to the BJE, wrote, "...the middle-class of day school oriented parents is simply being squeezed to the limit and beyond. Some opt out, which is an unspeakable tragedy to Jewish continuity. Others like myself will persist at all costs..."

"It is precisely because we feel the pain and frustration of two very important groups that we work so diligently towards increased access for all members of the Jewish community," says Dr. Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation's Vice President of Jewish Education. "One, middle-class parents who are currently making great sacrifices in the day school system, and two, those who so sadly have – from the outset – not opted for Jewish education because of the high cost."

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DEADLINE REMINDER:What's New and About People deadlines: Friday, June 27, is deadline for July 10 issue. Monday, July 7, is deadline for July 17. Please note: There is no issue on July 24; therefore, the July 17 issue will list events occurring between July 17 and July 30. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, June 26

CONCURRENT DISORDERS

The Centre For Addiction and Mental Health presents a panel on Concurrent Disorders – when a person has a drug or alcohol problem and a mental health problem at the same time. Trinity Community Recreation Centre, 155 Crawford St. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free. For information, call **Betty Miller** 416-535-8501.

THANK YOU RON!

Join a tribute evening to Ron Wiseman, the king of Jewish reggae, at the Minsk Synagogue, and celebrate the music that has inspired many people. 10 St. Andrew St., 7:30 p.m. for food, shmooze and music. Call 416-595-5723 or reachus@theminsk.com.

Saturday, June 28

BETH DAVID SPEAKER

Bernie Farber, of Canadian Jewish Congress, will speak on Anti-Zionism, Anti-Semitism: How Can We Respond, during Shabbat services at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue in a program sponsored by Beth David Brotherhood. For information, call 416-635-5500.

Sunday, June 29

DYNAMIC SINGLES BRUNCH

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel presents **Allan Soberman** launching his newest CD, *A Musical Memoir: Searching For My Voice*, at its Sunday brunch for singles 35+. 11:30 a.m., 37 Shelbourne Ave. $10 if prepaid by noon June 27 or $15 at the door. Call Nilly at 416-635-5340 or visit adathisrael.com.

GARDEN TOUR

Kehillat Shaarei Torah Sisterhood Garden Tour fundraising event tours six gardens in Thornhill and six in Bayview/York Mills area, open for viewing noon to 5 p.m., rain or shine. $10. Call **Rachel**, 416-229-2600 for tickets, brochure and map.

Monday, June 30

ROSH CHODESH SERVICES

The Lodzer Centre Congregation invites the community to participate in Rosh Chodesh services and discussion with **Rabbi Matthew Kaufman** beginning at 9 p.m. Breakfast follows discussion. For information, call 416-636-6665.

Wednesday, July 2

CAFSACK GALA CONCERT

The Canadian Friends of the South African Chevrah Kadisha, an organization that focuses on the financial difficulties facing South African Jewry, will be officially launched at a gala concert, Together We Are One, featuring **Oshy Tugendhaft** and the **Sydenham Choir**, at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, North York, 8 p.m. For tickets, call 416-761-6060 or visit cafsack.org.

Other News

NEW TO TORONTO?

Have you moved to Toronto in the last five years from other parts of North America, South Africa, Australia, the United Kingdom or western Europe? Interested in being part of a focus group looking into what information or services helped or would have helped you integrate more easily into the Toronto Jewish community? UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service holds focus groups on the evenings of Tuesday, July 15, and Wednesday, July 16.

Continued on page 19

Confrontation at Concordia

INTOLERANCE. EXTREMISM. VIOLENCE.
On September 9, 2002, Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to speak at Montreal's Concordia University. Student union activists staged a demonstration that culminated with the calling in of the police and the cancelling of Netanyahu's speech.
Confrontation at Concordia examines the issues and circumstances that fueled the bitter clash that made national headlines.

Global
Wednesday, July 2
Maritimes/Quebec/Ontario/Alberta/BC-10PM
Manitoba/Sask.-9PM

PRIME
Sunday July 6 8PM ET/PT

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CALL 1-800-805-1182 or online at canada.com Searchword: astora
$19.95 per unit *vhs only
S&H $5.50 per unit
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allow 2 to 4 weeks for delivery

Continued from page 18

Thursday, June 26

They need your ideas and experiences. For more information, call **Barbara Barak**, 416-631-5843, or go to gmintz@ujafed.org.

WRITING & ART CONTEST

Jews For Judaism invites students in primary, middle and secondary school to submit entries exploring the theme "I Love Judaism." Entries can be short stories, poems, songs, homepage design or art projects. Submission deadline is July 31. Entries can be mailed to Jews For Judaism, 2795 Bathurst St., Box 41032, Toronto, Ont., M6B 4J6, or brought to Jew for Judaism Centre, 800 Steeles Ave. W. Call 905-761-0040 to arrange drop off time.

***OKLAHOMA* AT ARTPARK**

Adath Shalom Sisterhood's annual trip to Artpark in Lewiston, N.Y., will be Sunday, July 20, to see *Oklahoma*. Ticket $60 Cdn per person includes bus and show. Call 416-635-0131.

CAMP OGAMA REUNION

Calling all Camp Ogama alumni! Don't miss the third camp reunion on Sunday, Sept. 7. For tickets and information, call 416-486-8782 or visit members.rogers.com/ogamareunion3.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday dances June 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26; Casino Rama, July 9, 23; Casino Niagara, July 10, Aug. 28; Cruise and casino, Aug. 14. Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. June 26, bingo; June 29, party and dance. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Summer classes begin the week of July 7 and end Sept. 19. Register at the first class.

Advanced Watercolour Painting, Mondays 1:30-4 p.m. with **Jean Rodak** and **Bilha Morgan**.

Beginners Watercolour Painting, Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Pottery, Wednesday and Friday morning 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Also offered are Gentle Fitness I and II, Low Impact Fitness, Vigorous Fitness, NIA and Osteofit I and II.

Diner's Club is an opportunity to have a hot kosher lunch in an intimate and informal setting. Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. in Back Auditorium. $6.50 includes entertainment. Reservations must be made by Tuesday of each week. Call ext. 110.

Lifelong Learning Institute: Great Religions: Part 2 with **Hugh Innis**, Tuesday, July 8, 15, 22 and 29. 10-11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. For information, call **Barbara**, ext. 134.

Israeli Film Festival with **Bill Stern**. Watch Israeli movies with English subtitles. Wednesday, July 15, through Friday, July 17, 1-3 p.m. in the auditorium. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. **Anna**, ext. 110.

Kosher Meals on Wheels delivered to your home. Fresh or frozen. $6.50 per meal. **Daniel**, ext. 114.

Respite Program: seniors, 55+, looking after a loved one at home can get 1 to 3 hours per week of help at no cost. No physical care is provided. For information, call **Paula**, ext. 118.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. July 1, closed. July 8, Israeli movie. For information, call **Anna**, ext.110.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Come see the new pool! Summer memberships available.

Limited openings in the summer prenatal course. Class meets for two intensive Sunday sessions, July 20 and 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. with a break for lunch. Cost is $136 + GST per couple, and includes 2 complimentary BJCC health club passes. To register, call ext. 390.

Spaces available for morning school (Tic Tac Two, nursery, junior kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten) and for full day care (children 18 months to 5 years old). Call ext. 351 or 248 to arrange a tour or for a registration package.

The Koffler School of Visual Arts offers summer programs in ceramics, painting and drawing, and stone sculpture. For information, call **Perlie**, ext. 269.

Koffler Music registrations open for fall classes: private piano, flute, recorder, violin and guitar. Also classes for kids percussion, adult band, adult sing-along, Royal Conservatory group classes age 0-6, and Suzuki piano, violin and cello. Call ext. 228.

Nashir Children & Youth Choirs, formerly Koffler Renanim, with **Allan Friedman** and **Debra Aronson**, is looking for new members. For registration and information, ext. 228.

Register now for fall drama classes at Leah Posluns Theatre School. Ext. 464 for information, or ext. 231 to register.

Coming this fall to the Koffler School of Visual Arts, photography for adults and kids and calligaphy. Call **Perlie** ext 269.

DIG/DUG @ the Koffler Gallery with seven exhibiting artists: **Isaac Applebaum**, **Adam Brickell**, **Adrian Fish**, **Simon Glass**, **Katherine Knight**, **Arthur Renwick** and **bh yael**. Moderated by guest curator **Vid Ingelevics**. Admission free.

Attention former Chai Dancers: The Chai Dancers will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on Aug. 27. If you are a former Chai dancer, call ext. 364.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211, www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Summer 2003: Summer camps and programs for ages 0-7:

Infant Centre: Summer Babies. 3-14 months, 9:30-11:45 a.m.

Creating Together In The Summer: 14 months to 3 years. Monday to Friday 9:30-11 a.m.

Now You're Two: 2 to 3 years old. A pre-nursery program. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-11 a.m.

Mini Me Day Camp for 3 to 4 years old. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Everything For Me: A Day Camp for 5-7-year-olds. Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Good Age Club silent auction and musical extravaganza, Thursday, June 26, 5-8 p.m. Includes new Judaica items, gift certificates, homemade cakes, food for sale, live music and the play *Two For a Loonie*. Admission free.

SPRING CONFERENCE: The Canadian Seaway branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism recently held its spring conference, Lift Our Voices With Strength, at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Seen, from left, are conference co-chairs Bea Muroff and Laraine Hurwitz; Jean Bernholtz; Bertha Gold, president of Seaway Branch; Terry Winston; and guest speaker, Shirley Ann Haber.
[Mollie Rothman photo]

ZAREINU GOLF TOURNAMENT: More than 365 people participated in the recent Zareinu Golf Tournament. The 7th annual event in support of Toronto's Jewish day school and treatement centre for children with physical and developmental disabilities raised over $100,000. Seen, back row, from left, are: event co-cordinators Rose Shapiro and Sara Gabriel; Linda Sone, Randy Katzman, Shaindy Fischer, Ian Raskin, Andrea Kreidstein, Mark Kaplan, Howard Bergman and Darrell Gold. Front row, from left: Robin Steinberg, event co-chair Jeffrey Lanys, Barbara Lanys, event co-chair Evan Sone, Steve Offenheim and Brian Bossin.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

Coast to Coast

HRDC helps survivors apply for pensions

Continued from page 1

A simple call to HRDC to provide basic information is enough to meet the deadline. If lines are busy, applicants should leave their name and number, and the date and time they called, and "that will be treated as intent to apply," said Marla Israel, HRDC's director of international operations.

Canada is "one of the very few governments" helping survivors apply for the so-called "ghetto pensions" without having to deal directly with Germany, said Ron Singer, director of communications for Canadian Jewish Congress. He added that HRDC "has been supportive on a number of issues and pension agreements that affect Holocaust survivors in Canada."

(The ghetto pension should not be confused with an agreement last summer between Canada and Germany extending pension benefits to German-speaking Jews driven from their eastern and central European homes in the 1930s and '40s.)

Survivors who worked in ghettos, as well as their widows and widowers, are eligible for the pensions, even if they have already received compensation for slave labour or from the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

The pension payment is not for forced or slave labour, but the definition of voluntary labour is complicated. It includes Jews who volunteered for work in factories, fields and mines, but did not receive monetary remuneration. Often, they received food vouchers or worked for lodgings. And they often volunteered to avoid death.

Nevertheless, employers who used Jewish labour from the ghettos paid into German government pension funds, making the labourers eligible.

Ed Tamagno, HRDC's director general of international affairs, said payments will vary depending on the type of work performed, but could reach $250 a month.

Applications are invited from anyone who is 65 and older; lived in a ghetto occupied by, or incorporated into, the Third Reich; and performed voluntary labour for payment or was compensated in some form for their work. According to the U.S.-based National Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, applications are also invited from anyone who has already received restitution under the Article 2 Fund; was under 14 while in the ghetto; worked outside the ghetto but had to return each night; has been previously rejected for the pension; or was in a ghetto for a short time.

A handbook on how to apply for ghetto pensions can be downloaded from www.claimscon.org. A letter of application is also sufficient to meet the deadline, and Canadians can apply by faxing a letter to LVA Hamburg at 011-49-40-53-00-2999.

It should include basic details such as name, age, place of birth, location, period of time in the ghetto and job performed.

BIALIK HEBREW DAY SCHOOL
בית ספר יומי על שם ח. נ. ביאליק טאג שול

Bialik Hebrew Day School of Toronto

has an opening for an

EXPERIENCED REMEDIAL TEACHER

This is a full time position, commencing September 2003. We will accept applications from candidates with a master's degree in special education or with a specialist qualification.

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Director of Education
Bialik Hebrew Day School
12 Viewmount Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6B 1T3
Fax: 416-785-8287
E-mail: dr._korin@bialik.on.ca

Beth Sholom Hebrew School

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Non Members are welcome

For more details, please contact
Esther Benari-Altmann, at
416-783-6103, ext. 225, or
by e-mail at **beitsefer2002@yahoo.com**

Beth Sholom is a conservative afternoon school affiliated with the Board of Jewish Education

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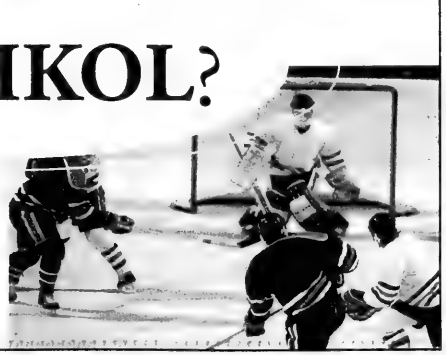
Eshkol Academy
2410 Spencerville Road
Spencerville, MD 20868
Phone: 301.476.8401
rabbireches@eshkolacademy.org

Scholarships and Financial Aid available to qualified students.



YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

מחשבות צו קאַנאַדע געבורטסטאָג

פון אַלעק סילווער

קומענדיקע וואָך, יולי 1, וועט קאַנאַדע אין אַלע אידע איינוווינערס פייערן איר געבורטסטאָג — 136 יאָר. פון צייט צו צייט ווילט זיך אויסדריקן אונדזערע געפילן צו דעם לאַנד, וואָס האָט אונדז אַזאַפּטירט, אַדער וואָס מיר האָבן אַזאַפּטירט. וועג איך שרייב **אונדז**, מיין איך צום גרעסטן טייל די שארית־הפליטה פון אייראָפּעישע ייִדן, וואָס זיינען געבליבן אין אַ לאַנד נאָך דעם חורבן. איך מיט מיינע טאַטע־מאַמע ע"ה אין מיין שוועסטער (איר צו לאַנגע יאָרן), זיינען אַנגעקומען קיין טאָראָנטאָ אין 1947. מיט עטלעכע יאָרן שפּעטער זיינען מיר געוואָרן קאַנאַדער בידערע. אַון איך ווייל מיט זיכערקייט באַשטעטיקן, אַז אַפילו קיין אייַן טאָג נישט האָבן מיר חרטה געהאַט אויף דער דעציזיע.

צו זיין אַ קאַנאַדער בידערע מיינט צו לעבן אין אַ לאַנד פון גרויסע געלעגנהייטן, וואָס עס איז שווער צו גספּינען אין אַ סך אַנדערע לענדער. מיר גענישן פון אַ רעגירונג, וואָס טראַכט אַ צאָל שוואַכקייטן, איז מער נאָענט אין איר באַציִונג צום יחיד, ווי אַ סך אַנדערע רעגירונגען. אַון אויב עס גספּעלט נישט דער מערהייט פון די בידערע די אינפֿורמירונג פון דער זיצנדיקער רעגירונג, קען מען צו יעדער צייט זי אַרויסוואַרפן אין אויסווייל אַ נייע, בלויז מיט אַ צייכן אינפֿן שטימצעטל. טייל מאָל זעט עס אויס, ווי מיר לייגן נישט גענוג אָכט אויף דער אופּפֿירונג פון דער רעגירונג, אבער דאָס איז אונדזער אייגענע שולד.

קאַנאַדע איז אַ לאַנד וווּ יעדע פֿאַרם פון פֿריהייט ווערט שטאַרק אָפּגעהיטן, כדי דאָס לעבן פון בידערע זאָל קענען לחיפּן מיטן שטראָם פון פֿראָגרעס. מיר האָבן די פֿריהייט צו דינען וועלכן גאָט מיר ווילן אין אָפּילו נישט דינען קיין שום גאָט. מיר האָבן די פֿריהייט אויס־צודריקן אונדזער מיינונג, סיי אין רעדן, סיי אין שרייבן, סיי אין די אַנדערע פֿאַרמען פון דער מעדיע. די רעכט פון אינדיווידועלן בידערע שטייט טייל מאָל העכער, ווי די פון דער רעגירונג.

קאַנאַדע איז געגאַנגען פֿאַראויס מיט לאַנגע שריט זינט 1867, ווען מיר האָבן געהאַט בלויז 4 נישט־אַנט־וויקלטע פּראָווינצן. היינט זיינען מיר 10 שטאַרק־אַנט־וויקלטע פּראָווינצן אין 2 טעריטאָריעס. מיר האָבן אַ נאַמען איבער דער וועלט אין וועלן פֿאַרעכט צווישן די אָנגעזעענסטע מלוכות אין 21סטן יאָרהונדערט. מען מוז צוגעבן, אַז איך גאָנג פון קאַנאַדע אַנטוויקלונג זיינען געמאַכט געוואָרן אַ צאָל מיאוסע פעלערן, וואָס האָבן געבראַכט שאַדן צו אונדזער לאַנד. אַבער דער סך־הכּל איז אַ גוטער אָן צופֿרידנשטעלנדיקער.

ווילן מיר טאָקע היינט זאָגן אַ שיינעם דאַנק צו אונ־זער לאַנד קאַנאַדע. דער איצטיקער געבורטסטאָג איז אַ יום־טוב פאַר יעדן בידערע, אָן אונטערשייד פון קאָליר, ראַסע, רעליגיע אָדער פּאָליטישע אָנגעהערעריקייט. אַ האַר־ציקן דאַנק דיר, קאַנאַדע!

דזשאַניס אַרנאָלד איז אַ מיטאַרבעטערין פון דער Canadian Jewish News. מיט אַ שטיקל צייט צוריק האָט זי מיר צוגעשיקט אַ יידישע איבערזעצונג פון אונ־זער לאַנד־הימן **O, Canada**, פאַר וועלכן איך דאַנק איר זייער אָן איך ווייל עס דרוקן דאָ אונטן. די איבערזעצונג איז געמאַכט געוואָרן פון אַ מיטגליד פון *מאַמע־לשון*, **גאָלדע סינגאַל** פון מאָנטרעאָל. עס איז געווענען געוואָרן בייַ אַן אַנערקענונגס־אָונט פאַר דער באַקאַנטער ייִדיש־אַקטיוויסטקע **שרה ראָזענפעלד** איז מאָנטרעאָל. אָט איז די איבערזעצונג:

אָ, קאַנאַדע! אונדזער היים און מוטערלאַנד!
פֿאַטריאָטישע ליבע פון דיינע זין פאַרלאַנג.
מיט פּולע הערצער קוועלן מיר,
דער צפון שטאַרק און פריי!
פון ים צו ים, אָ קאַנאַדע,
מיר שטייען וואַך פאַר דיר.
געבענטשט זאָל זיין דאָס לאַנד, פֿראָכטפול און פריי!
אָ, קאַנאַדע, מיר שטייען וואַך פאַר דיר. (2)

On Campus

Birthright numbers hit record, up 280%

Continued from page 1

Zac Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto, which recruits students to Birthright, said student interest has "exploded. It's been a zoo here" as people try to enrol on the August trips.

Students perceive that the security situation is improving in Israel, and rumours have been circulating that this could be Birthright's last year of operation, he said. (The rumours may stem from the Israeli government's recent announcement that due to budget constraints, it would significantly reduce its contribution to Birthright. That decision was subsequently reversed.)

Mostly, news about Birthright travels by word of mouth. "It really is a grapevine at work and the program is readily perceived as something positive. It created a wave," he said.

Sokolsky said Birthright's numbers had decreased after its initial, pre-intifadah popularity, and now a pent-up demand is manifesting itself.

"[Going to Israel] is becoming the thing to do again," she said.

Some students see Birthright as helping them better deal with anti-Israel agitation on campus. "They see in people who come back a confidence level that they may be lacking," Sokolsky said.

Almost two-thirds of the summer's travellers hail from Toronto, while the second largest group (20 per cent) comes from Montreal.

Five hundred are enrolled at one of Toronto's universities – 80 per cent of them attend York – with smaller contingents from Seneca College and Ryerson University. The University of Western Ontario, Concordia University and McGill University provide the next largest groups of participants.

Since February 2000, 5,264 Canadian have visited Israel on Birthright trips.

In related news, Birthright organizers have been told to more carefully scrutinize applicants after seven Americans on Birthright trips were found to be ineligible because of age or earlier visits. The seven were sent home after landing in Israel earlier this month.

THE DINING GUIDE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

The Lobster Trap Restaurant

1962 Avenue Rd. • 416-787-3211

Hours: Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00noon–2:00p.m.
Dinner 7 days a week 5p.m.-10p.m.,
Licensed. No reservations. Non-smoking.

At 37 years, this is Toronto's longest-lasting and best-known lobster establishment. As the name implies, they feature lobsters — one to four pounds, live in tanks and fresh, prepared whatever way you like them. Also, they offer other fine seafoods and fish, such as Alaska king crab legs; for meat eaters, there are tasty items like filet mignon or chicken breast; and there is a kids' menu. The ambience is casual and friendly; most of the tables are booths, for privacy and comfort. The decor brings to mind a fisherman's cabin, with its traps, buoys and abalone shells on the walls.

Baton Rouge Restaurant

216 Yonge St.
Toronto Eaton Centre
Reservations: 416-593-9667

Hours: Mon.–Thurs. 11a.m.–11p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 11a.m.–midnight
Sun. noon–10p.m.
Wheelchair access.

One of Montreal's leading restaurant chains, Baton Rouge features ribs, steaks, burgers and pastas. Everything here tastes of quality. The beef is Stirling Silver, Canada's #1 grade. The ribs, after 12 hours' slow baking and char-broiling, literally fall off the bone; you can eat them without using your fingers. The meat is aged in-house and fish selected daily; sauces and dressings are also made fresh daily. You'll love the mahogany interior, with its deep, rich reds; Frank Sinatra and Billy Halliday seranade. Come for dinner before the theatre, and return for dessert after.

Trapper's Restaurant

3479 Yonge St., Tor. • 416-482-6211
www.toronto.com/trappersrestaurant
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11:30a.m. - 2:30p.m.
Dinner Mon.-Thurs. 5p.m.-9p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5p.m.-10p.m.
Non-smoking. Partial wheelchair access

Among the tastes Trapper's has created to tempt you, are charcoal grilled Black Angus steaks, Atlantic salmon, Orange Roughy, bouillabaisse, Alberta veal chops, Muskoka trout, PEI mussels, and roast breast of Broom Lake duck. It's Canadian-Continental cuisine, with a little international touch. The atmosphere is elegantly casual, ideal for an intimate romantic dinner. In 2001, *Where* magazine recommended them for the best wine list, and gave them the Most Memorable Meal award; and the Zaggatt survey of quality meals rated them excellent. Trapper's caters, and hosts private functions such as bar/bat mitzvahs or wedding rehearsals.

All Major Credit Cards accepted
Reservations Suggested

Furama House

100 Steeles Ave. W. • 905-731-3288

Hours: 10a.m.–11p.m., Dim Sum 10-4, 7 days.
Eat-in or take out. Licensed. Wheelchair access.
Reservations recommended.

Want to savour authentic, extra-special Chinese food, in a skylit setting amid crafted wood carvings? For Toronto's most superb dim sum, or delicious low-fat Cantonese and Szechuan cuisine, visit Bobbie Peng's **Furama House.** You'll love his Cantonese lobster, braised, sprinkled with canola oil, stir-fried and sprayed with eggwhite. You'll also be delighted by his tender, juicy 1 1/2 lb. Vancouver Tangen crab.

Ongoing specials include Live Lobster (buy 1, get 1 free), and the Live Lobster & King Crab combo. If you pay cash, you'll enjoy 10% off the dim sum Monday to Friday, 10 to 4 except holidays. It's one more reason to savour the Furama House experience.

Lox Stock & Bagel

DINNERFEST • DAILY 5 PM – 9 PM

Soups & Salads $3.50	Appetizers $4.95	Main Dishes $9.95
• Caesar	• Spring Rolls	• Pasta With Grilled Vegetables
• Greek	• Samosas	• Fajitas
• Garden	• Bruschetta	• Chicken Souvlaki
• Matzo Ball Soup	• Tex Mex	• Fish & Chips
• Green Pea Soup	• Chicken Wings	• Chicken Tikka
• Soup of the Day		

Complete Dinner $16.95
Includes one Soup or Salad, an Appetizer, one Main Dish & House Dessert

Dinner for Two $29.95
Two items from Soups & Salads, one Appetizer, two Main Dishes & two House Desserts

Ultimate Deal $49.95
Two items from Soups & Salads, two Appetizers, four Main Dishes & four House Desserts

870 Eglinton Ave. W. • 416-785-4424
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E-mail: lsbcater@hotmail.com • Fax: 416-663-0146
Hours: Daily 8 am – 9 pm. Licensed. Wheelchair access.

Watch for the next
DINING GUIDE
in our October 16 issue
of
The Canadian Jewish news
Deadline: Monday, October 13

Coast to Coast

UNICEF chair receives key Hamilton award

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON – Laura Ludwin, named woman of the year in the category of public affairs by the Hamilton Status of Women Committee last month, has made a lifelong commitment to volunteerism because she is passionate about helping children.

Her role as chairperson of the board of UNICEF Canada and her involvement with the Hamilton Council of Home and School Associations grew out of an awareness of children's needs that she developed while growing up in South Africa.

Ludwin said in an interview that when she was a child, her family stressed the importance of being involved with the community. A commitment to activism was also encouraged by her Hebrew school and solidified by her participation in the Habonim movement.

"By the time I got to high school, I was becoming politically aware. I was very aware of disparities," she said.

When Ludwin moved to Hamilton in 1982, one of the first things she did was look for the Hamilton UNICEF office because she wanted to send out UNICEF change-of-address cards. She discovered that UNICEF did not have an office in Hamilton.

Refusing to settle for any other type of card, Ludwin phoned the Toronto UNICEF office and demanded to know why UNICEF cards were not available in Hamilton.

A spokesperson for the Toronto office said there was no one in Hamilton to sell the cards and asked if she would take on the job.

"That's how I got started. I sold cards from my house. At one point, I had $30,000 worth of cards in my basement."

Ludwin's role with UNICEF as a card seller led to further involvement with the organization. She began to promote UNICEF by speaking to schools and community groups. Her leadership role grew as she became the regional chair, member of the Ontario provincial executive, Ontario provincial chair and member of the board of UNICEF Canada.

Her involvement with the organization has taken her on trips to such places as Mali, West Africa, and to Cambodia, Thailand and Slovenia.

The mission of UNICEF is to help ensure the survival, growth and long-term development of the world's underserved children and to serve as their advocates. In Canada, other agencies protect children's rights, so UNICEF focuses on education here, she said.

Ludwin refuted the notion of UNICEF being anti-Semitic.

"Many people think UNICEF is anti-Semitic, which it isn't. It never has been. We've always been in Israel. There is a committee in Israel doing peace studies and seeing that prejudices are not being taught in schools.

"I wouldn't be doing this [volunteering] of there was any hint that UNICEF was anti-Israel."

In recognition of her efforts, the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education presented Ludwin and the planning committee with the Bravo Award of Excellence.

Edmonton Jewish film fest a success

By TAMARA STECYK
Special to The CJN

EDMONTON — After its second successful year, the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival continues to receive high praise and there's growing pressure to expand the event from two days to four in 2004.

But festival co-chair Michael Saouli said he is hesitant because he only wants to show the best films.

"I don't want to become a film festival of quantity," Saouli said, adding people should expect to see outstanding movies instead.

This year's festival screened four films, two each on June 11 and 12. Poor weather in March 2002 led organizers to schedule this year's festival later in the spring. As a result, organizers said, some 1,000 people in total attended this year, up from 900 last year.

The four films were screened at the West Edmonton Mall's Cineplex Odeon theatres, with two lighter movies shown the first night and two heavier films reserved for the following evening.

Saouli, who is a producer for Alliance Atlantis, said he was surprised to be able to get such top quality films again for the festival.

Time of Favor, the 2001 winner of six Israeli Academy Awards, opened the festival. The Hebrew drama tells the story of the commander of a combat unit comprised of Orthodox soldiers who falls in love with his rabbi's daughter and becomes torn between his feelings and his duty as a soldier.

But the film that drew the most praise was the uplifting comedy *Monsieur Batignole*. Set in 1942, the French film with English subtitles tells the story of Edmond Batignole, a Parisian butcher who abandons his attempt to avoid trouble when a young Jewish boy named Simon appears in his life during the Nazi occupation of France. Actor Jean-Paul Rouve, who plays Simon, won a 2003 French César award for most male promising actor.

Saouli said next year's festival may be moved to a different theatre to accommodate more people.

He estimates this year's profit to be more than $20,000. It will be used to help the Edmonton Jewish Federation's Partnership 2000 project called Living Bridges. Living Bridges is a student exchange program between communities in northern Israel and Edmonton.

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Correction

In the story "Israel Day festival 'brings people together'" (*CJN*, June 19), the Israeli Flowers' Web site was stated incorrectly. The correct URL is www.israeliflowers.com. *The CJN* regrets the error.

According to Reports Will Return

By PAUL MICHAELS

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Group leaves Ottawa shul over mixed seating

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Some ex-members of Congregation Beth Shalom in downtown Ottawa plan to start their own shul after 70 per cent of the congregation voted in April to secede from the Orthodox Union and allow mixed seating in the main sanctuary.

The group of about 40 to 50 people, which calls itself the Ottawa Downtown Orthodox Minyan (ODOM), has been davening in the party room of a downtown apartment building for the past year and is seeking a permanent home for the new congregation.

"Orthodox is Orthodox. You either are or you aren't. What are we supposed to do?" said Ian Sadinsky, a member of the breakaway group who was Beth Shalom's president from 1996-2000 and a shul member for nearly 30 years.

Jack Shapiro, Beth Shalom's current president, said the shul is looking into joining the Union for Traditional Judaism (UTJ). The UTJ's president, Rabbi Bruce Ginsberg, and its vice-president, Rabbi Ronald Price, said in a recent letter to *The CJN* the UTJ is "about promoting increased commitment to tradition" and supports synagogues with and without mechitzahs.

Shapiro said because many Jews have moved from downtown to Ottawa's west end, Beth Shalom hopes to boost membership by letting men and women sit together and by embracing UTJ principles. He said most of the shul's founding members have died and many of their children are less observant than their parents.

He said the congregation has about 450 member families, roughly half the number it had 25 years ago.

Aside from the move to mixed seating, Beth Shalom will maintain Orthodox kashrut standards and liturgy. However, bnot mitzvah will now be allowed to read haftarot, but will not be permitted to read from the Torah.

"For some people, that's sufficient, but it's not truly Orthodox," said ODOM member Chuck Rotenberg.

Since mixed seating came into effect the Saturday after Shavuot, several people have joined or have made inquiries into joining, Shapiro said.

"If the membership we get follows the number of inquiries we've had, that will be fantastic," he said, adding he anticipates more people will join as the High Holy Days approach.

In a May 2002 poll of Beth Shalom members, about two-thirds approved of the shul leaving the OU. Beth Shalom has made contact with the UTJ but has yet to officially join, Shapiro said.

In June 2002, a group of members opposed to mixed seating founded ODOM. They applied to Canada Customs and Revenue Agency to become a charitable trust in order to establish themselves as a legal entity.

Shapiro said Beth Shalom tried to accommodate the minority by setting aside the shul's chapel for an Orthodox minyan.

But Rabbi Eli Braun, the shul's former spiritual leader who left in January when his contract expired and Beth Shalom's new direction was becoming clear, said the synagogue was only prepared to allow the minyan to hold Shacharit and Minchah/Ma'ariv services every day but Shabbat, when the only morning service was to be held in the main sanctuary.

He said if Beth Shalom intended to allow the Orthodox minyan to be independent, it would have given the minyan full control over its davening times.

"It is a dishonest farce," Rabbi Braun said. "It's all an issue of control."

Cantor Yair Subar said he also left in January when his contract expired because the synagogue is no longer "acceptable according to Jewish law."

Beth Shalom is seeking replacements for Rabbi Braun and Subar, Shapiro said.

Rotenberg said efforts to have ODOM and Beth Shalom share the same property have been unsuccessful.

Last summer, he said, Beth Shalom and ODOM tried to reach an agreement to have a third party, a secular entity, own the shul building, in order to comply with a ruling by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada that holds "it is forbidden to give any support, moral or financial, to any synagogue which has no proper mechitzah."

The plan collapsed last fall because Beth Shalom pushed for a clause that would have allowed the partnership to be terminated with six months notice, potentially leaving ODOM without a home.

Rotenberg, a tax and corporate lawyer, said there are legal issues involved in the move away from Orthodoxy. He said a "significant body of case law" says a vote to fundamentally change the purpose of a religious building must be approved unanimously by its congregation.

He said planning documents from 1946 said the building was to be used for an Orthodox synagogue with a mechitzah.

The synagogue could theoretically be sued, Rotenberg said. He and Sadinsky wouldn't comment on whether they will take legal action against the shul, but Rotenberg said some ODOM members are considering it.

Shapiro said he consulted lawyers throughout the process who didn't consider legal precedents to be an issue.

Sadinsky said he disagrees with the contention that a strictly Orthodox synagogue in Ottawa can't attract young members. He says ODOM members vary in age, background and profession.

"We have what Beth Shalom claims that they want," he said.

Jewish environmental society wins award

By PETER CAULFIELD
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — A Jewish environmental group has won this year's City of Vancouver Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award.

The Adam va-Adamah Environmental Society works to protect the environment and educate British Columbians about Judaism's deeply rooted environmental values. Mayor Larry Campbell presented the award to the Vancouver-based group on June 10 during Canadian Environment Week.

"This award reflects the important work Adam va-Adamah does in educating residents in the Lower Mainland, and the close connections between Judaism and the environment," said AvA chair Steve Lipari. "Our programs contribute to a better environment for all who live here."

Founded in 1998, Adam va-Adamah (meaning "man and the earth") is the British Columbia affiliate of the Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life (COEJL), a network of 14 Jewish environmental groups across North America.

The organization develops programs that demonstrate how Jewish environmental values can be applied to daily life. Examples include a program that was developed with the help of the Farm Folk/City Folk Society that shows the connection between Sukkot and topical agricultural issues, such as organics; a program that highlights the environmental themes of Tu b'Shvat, the Festival of Trees; and an energy conservation program called "Eight Days, Eight Actions" that ties in with Chanukah.

For the past four years, AvA has collaborated with the First Nations' Ut'sam/Witness Program to offer a Wilderness Shabbaton. The weekend program combines observance of Shabbat with education about the environment and First Nations culture and spiritual traditions. AvA also holds an annual eco-retreat at the Sunwolf Outdoor Centre, which is located near Squamish.

AvA's programs have attracted more than 2,000 participants during the last 18 months.

CORRECTIONS

In the article, "Get away from it all at these scenic party places" (*CJN* Party Planner, June 5) the phone number for Estates of Sunnybrook should have been 416-487-3841. We regret the error.

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The article titled "Plans set for JWI's conference on domestic abuse" (*CJN*, June 19) should have said that about 12 people from across Canada will attend the conference. *The CJN* regrets the error.

VOLUNTEERS HONOURED: On June 13, Beit Rayim Synagogue and Hebrew school held it's fourth annual Judy Stein Volunteer of the Year Award. This year's recipients were Karen Baron and Richard Levick. The evening began with the Beit Rayim Choir, followed by the award presentations, volunteer appreciation and an Oneg Shabbat. Seen, from left, are: committee chair Cheryl Green-Ockrant, youth recipient Levick, Billy Stein and award recipient Baron.

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Coast to Coast

Mulroney draws 900 to Montreal Negev Dinner

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Former prime minister Brian Mulroney was in his element at this year's Jewish National Fund Montreal Negev Dinner.

Before delivering a passionate defence of Israel and the Jewish people and a blistering condemnation of anti-Semitism to a black-tie crowd of 900 at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel, Mulroney, 63, spent more than an hour at pre-dinner cocktails posing amiably for photos, chatting with guests and generally turning on his politician's charm.

Accompanied by his wife Mila, 50, and youngest son Nicolas, Mulroney accepted JNF's Man of the Year award and won round after round of applause for his address.

Speaking June 11, the same day a Hamas suicide bomber killed 16 in Jerusalem, Mulroney wondered how the world would react to a similar incident in Canada or the United States.

"Canada – 96 dead and 600 injured. United States – 960 dead, 3,000 injured.

"What do you think we would say then? Would we move on to other things or would we deal with terrorism in the only manner possible: implacable and unflinching opposition to the people and institutions that initiate, encourage or condone such acts of violence against innocent men, women and children."

Mulroney, who served as prime minister from 1984 to 1993 and became leader of the federal Tory party 20 years earlier to the day of the dinner – praised Canada's Jewish community, defended his government's record on Israel – describing it as the most supportive of Israel in Canadian history – and recounted Canada's lamentable track record in its treatment of Jews.

Much of Mulroney's speech echoed his February address at the University of Toronto that won him kudos and made him the JNF's choice for Negev honoree.

Mulroney said he was distressed by the "incomprehensible resurgence" of anti-Semitism.

"Contemporary anti-Semitism, without changing its stripes, has added Israel as [one of] its targets. Israel has in effect become the 'new Jew,'" said Mulroney, now a senior partner with law firm Ogilvy Renault.

Mulroney said he rejected suggestions his government should be "evenhanded" regarding Israel.

"It struck me as a code that meant Israel ran a serious risk, in the crunch, of getting shafted and I was determined to change Canadian policy to ensure that [would] not happen."

He said he was determined to treat Israel as a true ally and not be a "fair-weather friend." He also reminded the crowd he was the first prime minister to appoint three successive Jewish chiefs of staff.

He also noted that he appointed Canada's first Jewish ambassador to Israel, Norman Spector, in order to reject the "odious myth of dual loyalty."

Mulroney said Israel should not be immune from criticism, but added that Canada should also speak out against any country that shows "hostility or malice to Israel or the Jews."

Volunteers honoured in nation's capital

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Bernard Dolansky is this year's recipient of the Gilbert Greenberg Distinguished Service Award, the highest volunteer award presented by the Ottawa Jewish Community.

The award was presented to Dolansky at the 69th annual general meeting of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa/Vaad Ha'Ir, at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre June 11.

Named for late Vaad Ha'Ir president Gilbert Greenberg, the award recognizes exceptional service over many years.

Jackie (Tick) Barwin arrived in Ottawa from Hamilton as a bride in 1991 and immersed herself in her new community. Her dedicated volunteerism, in particular with Hadassah-WIZO and the UJA Young Women's Leadership Council, earned her the 2003 Freiman Family Young Leadership Award and the Lawrence Greenberg Young Leadership Development Award. The latter will enable her to attend the United Jewish Communities General Assembly this fall in Jerusalem.

Longtime volunteer Evelyn Greenberg was the first recipient of the new Shem Tov Community Volunteer Award. Over the years, Greenberg has used her musical talent to bring cheer to the ill and infirm at hospitals and seniors' homes. The pianist and professional accompanist has also played with guest soloists at fundraisers for a variety of Jewish organizations. As well, she was founder and first co-chair of the Ottawa branch of the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation and was instrumental in starting the Hebrew University-University of Ottawa academic exchange.

Also at the meeting, recognition was given to Norman Barwin, general chair of the 2003 UJA campaign, and to Ingrid Levitz, chair of the 2003 UJA Women's Campaign, for their dedication and success in raising funds.

In votes for officers and trustees-at-large, Arnie Vered was elected to succeed Gerald Levitz as Vaad Ha'Ir president. In his inaugural address, Vered praised the dedication of community volunteers and professional staff.

Housing board aims to complete new projects

By PETER CAULFIELD
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — The new executive and board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's Non-Profit Housing Society have their work cut out for them, says David Berson, the federation's director of community planning.

"The cost of housing in Vancouver is the highest in Canada," Berson said. "There is a 'hot' market here for both market and non-market housing. The Jewish community in Vancouver has few options for affordable housing and there is a strong consensus that housing for seniors, new immigrants and families, particularly single parent families, is critical."

The new executive of NPHS is led by Gabe Bandel (president) and includes Rozanne Kipnes (vice-president), Allan Tapper (secretary), George Sommer (treasurer) and Jerry Kushner (past president). The society also recently elected a new board that includes professionals and individuals with experience in affordable housing for seniors and people with special needs.

The NPHS was formed in 1994. Registered under the B.C. Societies Act, the society is mandated to acquire and manage housing that meets the needs of the Lower Mainland's Jewish community, educate the community and local agencies about housing issues and conduct research on housing needs and services.

In recent years, community activists have discovered that many Jews in Greater Vancouver are living in straitened circumstances. The federation estimates that at least one in six members of the Lower Mainland Jewish community live on limited incomes. About one-half of this group is paying too much for accommodations. In addition, it is difficult for many Jews of limited means to find affordable housing that doesn't isolate them from the rest of the Jewish community. Approximately 200 to 300 Jewish households are in need of housing every year.

Bandel challenged the board to set a goal of at least one new completed housing project in the next year.

"It will require diligent work by new subcommittees working on land acquisition, fund raising and social planning," Bandel said. "People need affordable housing with access to their community in order to maintain and strengthen their cultural and ethnic identity."

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Coast to Coast

Hamilton's Rabbi Silverman known as great intellect

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Rabbi Israel Silverman, rabbi emeritus of Beth Jacob Synagogue, a scholar and rabbinic leader, died June 16 at age 74.

Spiritual leader of Beth Jacob from 1966 until his retirement in 1996, Rabbi Silverman was known as a great intellect who was a master of the sermon, in both content and delivery.

Obituary

Rabbi Silverman was determined to be a scholar at a young age, and he succeeded, said Rabbi Abraham Kelman, Rabbi Silverman's brother-in-law.

"He was more than a good student, he was a superb student. He loved Torah and he mastered the Hebrew language," Rabbi Kelman told the large crowd of mourners at the funeral service at Beth Jacob Synagogue.

In her eulogy, one of a number presented by family members, Rabbi Silverman's daughter Riva said, "My father, above all else, was a great teacher. Many learned from his brilliant sermons each Shabbat and holiday. Others were privileged to study with him in smaller classes. But for his family, we had a chance to learn from him day in and day out from watching him and seeing how he lived his life.

"We will never understand why God chose to take our father from us now when he had so much more to teach us, and we should not ask why. Rather, it is up to each of us to ask '*Eicha?* How?' How can we take the lessons of such a profound life and make ourselves and the world around us better for it? The gaping hole in our lives will never be repaired, but if we ensure the continuation of his legacy, his memory surely will be for a blessing."

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto led the funeral service, which was attended by rabbis from Toronto, Ottawa and the United States. Rabbi Morton Leifman, dean emeritus of the cantorial school at the Jewish Thelogical Seminary, chanted the memorial prayer for the departed, concluding the service.

As a student at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Rabbi Silverman studied with the great rabbis of the Conservative Movement, including Mordecai Kaplan, Saul Lieberman, Louis Finkelstein, and Abraham Joshua Heschel.

He was scholar-in-residence at Camp Ramah in Canada and former chair of the committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism. He was head of the Canadian Conservative Movement Bet Din (rabbinic court) and a member of Va'ad HaKavod (disciplinary committee) of the Rabbinical Assembly.

Rabbi Silverman was born in Montreal, where he graduated from Sir George Williams University (now Concordia University). He was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America in 1954 and assumed the position of assistant rabbi to Rabbi Robert Gordis of Temple Beth-El, Rockaway Park, Long Island, N.Y. In 1955, he became rabbi of Temple Beth Zion in Brookline, Mass., a position he held for nine years.

He was president of the New England region Rabbinical Assembly from 1961 to 1964. In 1964, he became registrar of the Graduate Rabbinical School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, a position he held until taking on the role of spiritual leader of Beth Jacob Synagogue in Hamilton in 1966.

From 1974 to 1976, he served as president of the Ontario region Rabbinical Assembly, and in 1980, he was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He received the Max Arzt Memorial Rabbinic Service Award in 1996.

In a telephone interview, Rabbi Mordechai Green, rabbi emeritus of Adas Israel Synagogue, said that in recent months, Rabbi Silverman often reminisced about his days at Telshe Yeshiva, recalling his relationships with the great rabbis. He felt rooted in tradition and that gave him a sense of inner tranquillity because he felt a sense of connectedness, Rabbi Green said.

As well as being a scholar, "he was a great father and a great source of inspiration for his family. He was a gentle person with a good sense of humour."

Rabbi Bernard Baskin, rabbi emeritus of Temple Anshe Sholom, said, "Rabbi Silverman was an outstanding scholar as well as rabbi who ministered to his congregation and the community for many years with great faithfulness.

"He was ecumenical in his approach to both Jewish and non-Jewish life, finding some common ground with non-Conservative rabbis as well as with members of the outside larger community. He was especially close to his family and spent time with many members of the community in imparting the wisdom that he had gleaned from his years at the Jewish Theological Seminary and as a spiritual leader. He will be sorely missed in the entire community."

"He was one of the earliest influences on my decision and the decision of many of my colleagues to enter the rabbinate," said Rabbi Lionel Moses, spiritual leader of Shaare Zion Synagogue in Montreal.

"He was considered the senior expert on Jewish divorce law in the entire Conservative Movement."

Rabbi Silverman leaves his wife Gloria, and children, Judah, Lanie, Aviva, Riva and Devorah, and their spouses Margo Silverman, Dr. Joel Goldberg, Dr. Mark Smiley, Abram Heisler and Reuben Rotman, as well as 16 grandchildren.

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Woman converts diaries into book for cancer caregivers

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

Over the years, Marcia Schnoor has filled many roles: wife, mother, sister, grandmother, friend, artist and insurance agent. But when her husband Jack was diagnosed with cancer – malignant melanoma – in the summer of 1997, she took on the role of caregiver as well.

Jack had retired from his job six months earlier and the couple had been looking forward to enjoying their retirement years. The diagnosis changed everything.

For three years, they lived and breathed doctors' appointments, treatment plans and medication regimens. Schnoor kept a journal of everything that happened, tracing the steps of her husband's illness and her own response to it.

When Jack died in January of 2001, they had been married for 37 years. He was 66; she was 58.

To help herself cope with the loss and to help others in the same situation, Schnoor converted her journals into a book titled *Transitions: Dealing with the Illness, Caregiving and Death of My Husband*, published last month.

Schnoor found writing the book to be very therapeutic.

"The book was a summary of where I was at my life," she says. "It allowed me to think about all these issues that I was dealing with, the issues of loss and of adjustment to being single. I now had a new status in the community and I had to think of myself as being single after having been married for 37 years."

Schnoor writes that one of the most difficult things she had to do was tell her two adult children that their father had a terminal disease. "My daughter Cindy said, 'Mom and Dad, you have looked after us all these years. We are now adult children, and we are there for you both and will look after you.'"

'The scourge of cancer is touching so many people'

Schnoor quickly realized that in addition to caring for Jack, she had to look after herself as well. She credits a combination of yoga, meditation, art classes and strong friendships for keeping her going.

She also made a point of getting out of the house at least a few hours every day. While she was out, a home-care worker took care of Jack, but she never went far and always had a cellphone with her.

"When you're going through that really tough caregiver role, it is important to take time for yourself and to try not to feel guilty about doing that because the caregiving role is onerous and very difficult," she says.

The changes in her family came quickly. Her son took Jack's empty place at the dinner table, while her daughter prepared her children for their grandfather's death.

After Jack died, Schnoor worried about how she would cope on her own and about how her children and grandchildren would deal with the new change in their family. Even the house seemed quiet with only one person living in it.

The change shook her world.

"It's a struggle to know who I am now," she says. "I'm no longer a wife, but I still have a lot of other attributes and I'm still a worthwhile person in my own right. I'm still a mother, a sister, a grandmother, I'm a friend and I can contribute in the general community as a volunteer. I saw myself as still having value even though I was no longer part of a couple."

Once the shivah ended, Schnoor took up offers to visit out-of-town friends and relatives. She went to New York, San Francisco and Arizona and welcomed the change of scenery.

Schnoor now makes plans in order to give herself something to look forward to. "I try to involve myself in activities and keep busy. I'm searching for how to use my time in a fulfilling manner."

For her 60th birthday last September, Schnoor decided that instead of a party or a gift, she wanted to spend quality time with friends. She and her daughter arranged to send out invitations to friends, inviting them to call and make plans to see her. Her birthday-related activities lasted several months.

Schnoor knows that while each caregiver's story is unique, she hopes the suggestions in her book, such as trying yoga and meditation, can be used by others.

"The scourge of cancer is touching so many people," she writes.

The Canadian Cancer Society estimates that 140,000 people will be diagnosed with cancer this year and 67,000 will die of the disease.

Schnoor's book was published by Wellspring, a network of support centres for people with cancer and their loved ones, and is available at Princess Margaret Hospital, Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre and at Wellspring locations.

ADD fails to slow 67-year-old author

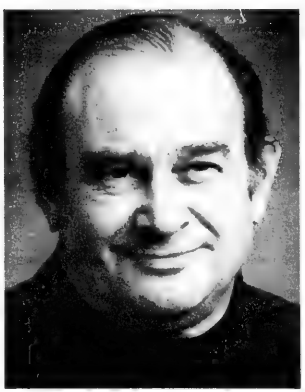
By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Alvin Abram says he learned early in life that if you have a lemon, you have to learn to make lemonade.

The 67-year-old author, speaker, businessman and award-winning volunteer has coped with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) since childhood and has faced a number of crises head on.

He married Marilyn Epstein in 1960, and together they have handled Alvin's five heart attacks, Marilyn's bout with breast cancer and other challenges.

But he has emerged as a success in his personal, business and creative endeavours. Abram's most recent book, *The Unlikely Victims: A Gabe Garshowitz Mystery* (AMA Graphics Incorporated, Toronto), was shortlisted by the Crime Writers of Canada for the Arthur Ellis Award for the best first novel in 2002.


Alvin Abram

In *The Unlikely Victims*, Abram's fourth book, six cases are solved by Detective Gabe Garshowitz, a hard-boiled, arthritic, chauvinistic 30-year veteran of the Toronto police force who is partnered with Detective Iris Forester, an attractive young divorcée half his age who is driven to prove herself in a field of tough-minded men.

The readers are thrown into local Toronto street scenes where they come across characters with familiar names and learn about Garshowitz's personal conflicts as he attempts to cope with his guilt over the suicide of his wife, a Holocaust survivor, and to deal with his daughter who holds him responsible.

Abram's ADD allows him to concentrate for only up to 20 minutes at a time. At school, he was labelled a dreamer by his teachers. "I had to learn very early in life how to cope." Things must be visual for him, he says.

"Over the years, I lived my life in books," he says. "My mind is like a firecracker. It is always lighting up."

His interest in literature came partly from father, Herman Abramovitz, who was the editor of *Vochenblatt*, the workers' newspaper.

However, Abram says his mother, Annie Abramovitz, who worked in a Spadina Avenue sweatshop, had the most profound influence on him.

"Never forget your dreams, Alvin," she told him. "But you must learn to live in today's world as well. Maybe, someday, you'll be able to use your gift so everyone can enjoy your dreams."

The dreamer and loner attended Charles G. Fraser Public School where, he says, "I got strapped at least once a month because I was in la la land."

He went to Central Technical High School, and, "after four years, I got my diploma on condition that I promise never to come back," he says.

He then opened his business, AMA Printers, in a room in Parkdale Press in downtown Toronto, and later moved to Finch Avenue, where he ran the company until 2000.

In 1995, Abram decided he wanted to put his dreams on paper, and he took a creative writing course at York University.

Since then, he has written poetry, short stories and a collection of true tales of courage and survival.

More than 30 of his stories and articles have been published, including *Why, Zaida?*, the story of a Holocaust survivor who answers his grandson's questions about the Holocaust by using metaphors from nature.

His first full-length book, *The Light After the Dark*, was published in 1998. All the royalties from that book, more than $16,000, have been donated to Jewish community charities.

Abram is currently compiling a new book, an anthology titled *Stories I Wrote*, containing 18 of his stories that were published in newspapers and magazines since 1995.

His books are available at most book stores throughout Canada, or by e-mail at bubbameinsa@yahoo.com.

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Violence flares in Israel as U.S. sends envoys

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — This week's events had a familiar ring to them: the United States dispatched envoys to the Middle East and daily violence showed little sign of abating.

The violence flared again last Saturday, when Israeli troops killed a senior Hamas leader in Hebron.

Abdullah Kawasme was held responsible by Israel for attacks in which some 50 Israelis were killed.

The killing of Kawasme followed last Friday's shooting near Ramallah in which Israeli American Zvi Goldstein, 47, was killed, and his parents and wife injured.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell met wih Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon last week. [Isranet photo]

Speaking Sunday in Jordan, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed concern that Israel's killing of Kawasme could impede progress on the U.S.-backed "road map" for peace.

"It is still important to remain committed to moving forward," he told a news conference in Jordan, after members of the "Quartet" – the United States, Russia, European Union and United Nations – met to discuss ways to keep the road map on track.

Israeli security sources said Sunday night that the United States had clarified that Powell's remarks were not a condemnation of the Israeli action, the daily *Ha'aretz* reported.

The World Economic Forum, held in Jordan this past weekend, gave U.S. officials a platform for maintaining a presence to advance implementation of the road map.

The U.S. assistant secretary for Near Eastern affairs, William Burns, who took part in the meeting, was expected to visit Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) this week.

U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice was also expected to visit the region this week or this weekend.

Powell's remarks came two days after he called Hamas an "enemy of peace," and said the PA must do more than just negotiate a ceasefire with the group, but must "end violence and the capacity for violence."

Powell, who met separately last Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, said he stressed to Abbas that Palestinian terrorism must end.

"Violence and terror is not the way to build a state," he said, adding that the sight of their own forces maintaining security might give Palestinians "confidence that organizations such as Hamas and other terrorist organizations perhaps do not have the right answer."

Kawasme, one of the most senior Palestinian militants in the territories, was shot by Israeli special forces when he tried to resist arrest, according to army officials.

But Palestinian sources said he was standing outside when he was shot by the undercover troops, reports said.

On Sunday, Sharon called the killing a "successful and important" operation whose purpose was to ensure the security of Israelis. Speaking at the weekly Cabinet meeting, he said Israel would engage in such operations as long as the Palestinians do not assume security responsibility in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

If the PA is unable to take such responsibility, "we will act to safeguard Israeli security," Sharon was quoted as saying.

Sharon's statements came amid reports that Israel and the Palestinians were close to agreement on a proposal to transfer security responsibility to the PA in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Bethlehem.

Under the proposal, Israel would give the Palestinians three to six weeks to organize.

Observers have suggested that a deal would hinge on progress in ceasefire contacts between the PA and Palestinian groups, primarily Hamas.

Abbas has said he will not use force against Hamas to stop terror.

But Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz, an open critic of the road map, has accused the PA of using the ceasefire efforts as a way to disguise their lack of commitment to take genuine action against terrorism.

Mofaz was quoted as telling the Cabinet on Sunday that Israel would ultimately have to "launch an active" war on Hamas.

It was not immediately clear how the latest killing would affect the diplomatic efforts.

Ducking international criticism for its policy of targeted killings, Israel said its focus was on "ticking bombs," and reiterated its position that it will continue to defend its citizens as long as the Palestinians do not take security responsibility and crack down on the terrorist infrastructure.

Israel has described Kawasme as the "father" of terrorist attacks and pointed to his responsibility for the deaths of Israelis in recent strikes, including a June 11 suicide bus bombing on Jerusalem's Jaffa Street, a May bus bombing in the city's French Hill neighbourhood and a March bus bombing in Haifa.

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All resumes must be received by Friday, July 18, 2003. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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June 16

• The Knesset approved a statement by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on the "road map" for peace. MKs voted 57-42 to approve Sharon's approach to seeking a peace accord with the Palestinians.

June 17

• Israel reportedly agreed to limit its "targeted killings" of Palestinian terrorists to those seen as imminent threats. The agreement was worked out between U.S. national security advisor Condoleezza Rice and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's special aide Dov Waisglass as part of an effort to salvage the U.S.-brokered "road map" peace plan.

• Noam Leibovitz, 7, was killed when Palestinian terrorists fired on the car she was travelling in near Kalkilyah.

June 18

• A 17-year-old Palestinian who planned a suicide bombing was given a relatively light two-year sentence by an Israeli court because he is a minor and because he turned himself in after Israel imposed a closure on the West Bank that prevented him from getting his explosives belt.

June 19

• A suicide bomber killed 63-year-old Avner Mordechai at the entrance to a grocery store in Moshav Sdeh Trumot, near Beit She'an in northern Israel.

• Violence against Israel is legitimate resistance, not terrorism, said Nabil Amr, a minister with the Palestinian Authority. "There is no text anywhere that says that the Palestinian people's resistance is terrorism," Amr said.

June 20

• An Israeli citizen was killed, and three people injured, two seriously, in a shooting attack near the West Bank community of Ofra. Among those injured in the attack were an elderly American couple in Israel visiting family.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Birthright increases scrutiny of participants

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Birthright Israel is increasing its scrutiny of participants after several were removed from the country for supporting a pro-Palestinian group that backs armed struggle against Israel.

Three American Jews have been ordered out of Israel in the last few months after Birthright organizers found they joined the program under false pretenses. The removals preceded stepped-up security screening by Israel of young foreigners after two terrorists were linked to the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a Palestinian-led group of foreign volunteers.

Gideon (Gidi) Mark, international director of marketing for Birthright Israel, acknowledged that "three people were detected who were suspicious and we sent them home immediately.

"We did not feel they really came for the purposes they declared," Mark said. "There were some rumours and as far as I know they immediately admitted they had other plans."

Birthright is a four-year-old program that brings young Jews to Israel on an all-expense paid educational and cultural trip. The program, which is designed to enhance young people's solidarity with Israel, is a joint partnership between the government of Israel, a number of Jewish philanthropists and diaspora communities. Participants must be between 18 and 26 and cannot have visited Israel on a previous tour.

In an article last month, the Israeli daily, *Ha'aretz*, reported that Laura Gordon, a 20-year-old American Jew from Pittsburgh, arrived in Israel last December as part of a Birthright group and within months, had become a spokesperson for the ISM.

Gordon told *Ha'aretz* that "some people, when they heard back in the [United] States, said I had betrayed Birthright by doing this, but Birthright does not come with a stipulation that you must espouse certain values."

While participating agencies have been asked to step up their vigilance in screening applicants, representatives of Birthright's Canadian operation said they have been doing so as a matter of course.

Elizabeth Sokolsky, vice-president of education and operations for Birthright in Toronto, said "every single applicants is interviewed before they are accepted."

Organizers generally meet with each applicant for up to 45 minutes during which they discuss a number of issues related to the trip and ensure people's goals are consistent with the Birthright agenda. "Trip organizers are sensitive and careful during interviews if anything red flags them," she said, adding that Birthright Canada has never run into an applicant who was attempting to misuse the program to enter Israel.

"This has definitely not been an in issue with Canadian kids," she said.

"Here in Canada, the system is very hands-on, direct system and would weed out people going there under false pretenses," Sokolsky added.

Israeli journalist David Bedein told *The CJN* that ISM volunteers hoped to enter Israel under the country's security radar by joining groups such as Birthright.

He said the ISM's Web site advises its volunteers to "have a really good story about why you are coming [to Israel] and not to mention anything about ISM, or knowing, liking or planning to visit Palestinians."

Bedein also claimed to have met, by chance, an Arab member of a Jewish-Palestinian friendship group in Florida who was well-known to security services in Israel and who was planning to enter the country as part of a federation mission.

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International anti-Semitism conference a milestone

By RUTH E. GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

VIENNA — There was no escaping the irony. Sixty-five years ago, Adolf Hitler stood on a balcony in Vienna's Heldenplatz and triumphantly addressed hundreds of thousands of cheering Austrians after Nazi Germany annexed Austria into the Third Reich.

Last week, within earshot of that balcony, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe held the first-ever international governmental conference exclusively about anti-Semitism.

The two-day meeting brought together nearly 400 delegates from the 55 member states of the OSCE, an international body founded in 1995 that grew out of the Cold War era's "Helsinki process" of human rights monitoring and conflict resolution.

The forum produced no concrete actions or resolutions. But the very fact it took place and recognized anti-Semitism as a unique form of prejudice that needs to be addressed on its own in an international context made it historic.

"We are making a statement that the time of denial is over," Hebrew University professor Robert Wistrich said.

Even more important, delegates said, was the prospect the issue would be addressed on an ongoing basis, thanks in part to an offer by Germany to hold a followup session next year in Berlin.

Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, who headed a large U.S. delegation that included Jewish leaders and members of Congress, said he was "delighted and heartened" by Germany's invitation.

"It would be a shame to take a historic conference like this and to turn it into a one-off event," he said. "And what could be more historic than organizing a first meeting in Austria and following it up in Berlin?"

The conference stemmed from a decision by the OSCE foreign ministers' meeting last year and will be followed by another meeting this fall on discrimination, racism and xenophobia.

The United States pushed for the meeting – at times in the face of reluctance by some European states, who insisted anti-Semitism should be addressed along with more general human rights and discrimination issues.

This remains the European Union's position. Its delegate repeated that "the EU stresses the importance of addressing racism, xenophobia, discrimination and anti-Semitism under a common, unified approach, using the experience and initiatives on the various issues to support action across the board."

The conference format left little room for debate on issues that were emotional and at times highly politicized.

Members of government delegations and non-governmental organizations gave brief statements on specific areas of concern: legal and institutional mechanisms to combat anti-Semitism; and the role of governments, civil society, the media and education.

History loomed large as speaker after speaker referred to the ghost of Hitler and the legacy of the Holocaust. Several Jewish delegates referred to how their own families were persecuted.

But present dangers – and future uncertainties – loomed even larger.

In effect, the conference became a forum to describe pernicious new mutations of what Giuliani termed "the Western world's oldest and most persistent species of hatred."

This included what many described as a new form of anti-Semitism that, while drawing on traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes, has increasingly shifted the target of hatred to Israel as the collective embodiment of the Jewish people.

This was linked partly to fallout from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and partly to an increasing identification of Jews and Israel with the United States in a confluence of anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism and anti-Americanism.

Speakers described a spike in violence against Jews and Jewish institutions in some countries since the start of the latest Palestinian intifadah, many of them attacks carried out by disaffected Muslim youth.

They also described a wave of hate mail and anti-Semitic Web sites, and a demonization of Israel in the media and the political arena.

This, speakers said, was accompanied by an erosion of post-Holocaust taboos that allows criticism, even legitimate, of Israel's actions against the Palestinian intifadah to legitimize traditional anti-Semitic expression.

Canadian MP and human rights lawyer Irwin Cotler described an "old-new escalating global and even lethal anti-Semitism carried on the new superhighway of the Internet."

The world has "seen the emergence of Israel as the collective Jew among nations," he said. "Traditional anti-Semitism rejects the right of Jews to exist in the Diaspora. The new anti-Semitism rejects the right of Israel and the Jewish people to live in the family of nations."

Part of this, he said, was an ideological anti-Semitism "that masks itself under the banner of anti-racism. In this form, Israel becomes 'racist' and Zionism is 'racism,' and Israel emerges as the enemy of all that is good and the embodiment of all that is evil."

Using this reasoning, he said, "the dismantling of Israel becomes held out as a moral imperative."

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT GERMAN PENSIONS FOR WORK IN GHETTOS (ZRBG)

Did you live in a ghetto during World War II? Did you voluntarily work while you were living there? If so, you may be eligible for a German pension.

In June 2002, the German parliament passed a law deeming periods of voluntary work in a ghetto during World War II to be periods of contribution to the German pension system.

These periods can be used to qualify for a German old age or survivor's pension, which are known as "ghetto pensions". (*Gesetz zur Zahlbarmachung von Renten aus Beschäftigungen in einem Ghetto,* or ZRBG).

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Vous pouvez utiliser ces périodes pour être admissible à une pension de vieillesse ou de survivant allemandes, aussi appelées pensions de ghetto (*Gesetz zur Zahlbarmachung von Renten aus Beschäftigungen in einem Ghetto,* ou ZRBG).

Si vous pensez être admissible à une pension et que vous n'en avez pas encore fait la demande, veuillez communiquer avec nous. Pour être admissible à des paiements rétroactifs jusqu'en 1997, vous devez présenter votre demande avant le **30 juin 2003.**

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- ❑ avoir travaillé volontairement;
- ❑ avoir été compensé *de quelque manière* pour ce travail.

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Shakshuka delivers a tasty performance

By LINDSY GLADMAN
Special to The CJN

Entering the new Distillery Historic District in Toronto is like walking down a remote backstreet toward an underground club in a small Italian town in the middle of the last century.

In the district during last month's first Distillery Jazz Festival, I entered the Cointreau Cabaret of the 150-year-old Gooderham and Worts distillery for a performance by the band Shakshuka. Pillars blocked the view of the stage in many places and tables were pushed together so closely that people were obliged to move their chairs when another patron passed by.

The cold, unfinished feeling of the venue was quickly warmed by a heartfelt performance by a band with a strange and tasty name. Shakshuka, an Israeli dish made of eggs and vegetables, is the interestingly appropriate name given to this musical stir-fry of European and Middle Eastern culture.

Though off to a late start, the band quickly captured the audience's attention. Their first few songs were full of fresh energy and appeal. Using both modern and traditional instruments from different continents, the band blended early Jewish romance poems and mystic prayers with jazzy inflections.

The opening tune was a soothing Sephardi romance with Judeo-Spanish lyrics sung in a soaring voice by Aviva Chernick.

The band continued with peaceful prayers, adding a soulful element slightly reminiscent of synagogue choirs who reach the members of the congregation through poignant renditions of traditional prayers.

Popular songs like *Shebachim Yerushalayim*, the song for the protection of Jerusalem, elicited clapping from the mostly Jewish audience, while their rendition of *Shalom Aleichem* included an enchanting flute solo calling for the peace of the Sabbath to be brought both into Jewish homes and out into the world.

Shakshuka offers a funky orchestral sound using instruments such as the oud and flamenco guitar played by Aaron Lightstone and various Middle Eastern and Brazilian percussion devices played by Itay Keshet and Eldan Cohen. Some of these include the darabukka, an Egyptian hand drum widely used in Arabic, Sephardi and Mizrachi music, and the tablah, a small hand-held drum.

Other members of the band include Tamar Adams on vocals and percussion, Hartly Wynberg on bass, Angela Hammar on flute and Chris Mckhool on violin. The group has played as a trio and a quartet in different configurations in the past, and when asked if they will return to the stage as eight members together, Lightstone said: "We've worked too hard [as an octet] to stop at one gig."

The band's Sephardi roots are evident in both the Hebrew and the Arabic lyrics and the spirited sound that makes you want to get up and belly dance. Its members have been influenced by such groups as Habrera Hatuvit and Al Ol Ensemble.

Lightstone said he hopes Shakshuka will soon "break out into the world music scene." Keep your eyes and ears peeled for this jazz band.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

FRINGE THEATRE FESTIVAL OFFERS 900 PERFORMANCES IN 12 DAYS

Fringe Theatre Festival: Toronto's Fringe Theatre Festival presents 125 plays from across Canada and around the world – more than 900 performances in more than 20 venues in the Annex and Fashion District neighbourhoods. July 2 to 13. Fringe Hotline, 416-966-1062. www.fringetoronto.com. Offerings include:

• *Sixty with More Lies About My Weight*, written and performed by **Susan Freedman**, is a comic look at families, diets, shopping, facelifts and forgetting. St. Vladimir's Theatre, 620 Spadina Ave., Venue 2.

• *Zigazig ha!*, a play by **Dan Hershfield**, focuses on a Jewish comic named Linus who tries to figure out his relationships with women, but can't decide whether he prefers fantasy, companionship or the thrill of the chase. Hershfield has thoroughly reworked the play since its first production at the McGill Drama Festival in 2000. St. Vladimir Theatre.

• *Purpose*, a philosophic comedy written and directed by **Phil Pivnick** and presented by Fourth Wall Productions, tells the story of two characters seeking out their creator as well as the answers to some of life's most important questions. Helen Gardiner Phelan Playhouse, 79A St. George St.

• Awe Theatre presents *Sugar and Spice and Everything Nasty*, a play for children, starring children, on the theme of bullies. Written by **Janice Israeloff** and directed by **Michael Smith**. Palmerston Library Theatre, 560 Palmerston Ave. (at Bloor). Adults $8, children $5. July 5 to 13 at various times. Fringe Hotline, 416-966-1062.

* * *

Klezmerists at Mezzetta: The Downtown Toronto Jazz Festival presents clarinetist **Martin van de Ven** and guitarist-pianist **Brian Katz** in concert. Just back from their fourth European tour, the dynamic duo perform selections from their CD *Collected Stories*, a melange of klezmer, Balkan, Israeli and jazz music. Mezzetta, 681 St. Clair Ave. W. June 26, 9 p.m. Katz is joined at Mezzetta on June 27 by Juno Award-winning jazz guitarist **Rob Piltch**; the guitar duo perform jazz standards and original compositions. Reservations for both shows, 416-658-5687.

* * *

Casting Call: Markham Little Theatre seeks non-Equity actors for a non-paying production of **Roger Karshner's** *The Man with the Plastic Sandwich*, to be directed by **Mark Nathanielsz**. Roles include Walter, a middle-aged, conservative man recently unemployed; Ellie, a 20-something, athletic, free-spirited woman; Haley, a 60-ish sophisticated former business executive; and Lenore, a mid-30s prostitute, jaded yet optimistic. Audition dates are July 3 and 6, with rehearsals to start July 10 for a September opening. 905-294-3338.

* * *

Synagogue Sounds: Pink Floyd, The Beach Boys, Crosby Stills Nash and Young and **The Byrds** are among the musical influences that affected the sound of *Searching For My Voice*, a CD by Allan Soberman containing a dozen liturgical selections from *Adon Olam* to *Aytz Chaim*.

The son of a cantor, Soberman brought a fresh sound to these familiar tunes by repeatedly overdubbing his voice to produce a choral effect. "I just kept on layering and layering and layering," says Soberman, whose CD is available at select Jewish stores and online at www.sobermanmusic.com. He performs a singles brunch at Adath Israel Synagogue on June 29.

* * *

Names in the News: Operatic tenor **Ben Heppner** and arts volunteer and philanthropist **Joan Goldfarb** both received honorary law degrees from York University this month.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• **Kathleen Rea** of REAson d'être Productions and **Karen Kaeja** of Kaeja d'Dance present VIVID 2003, an evening of new choreography. Winchester Street Theatre, 80 Winchester. $18 door, $12 advance. July 2 to 5, 8 p.m. 416-545-1515. www.kathleenrea.com

• The Celebrate Toronto Street Festival transforms five major intersections along Yonge St. into a free festival with performances by local, national and international artists. Festival subway stops on the Yonge line are Dundas, Bloor, St. Clair, Eglinton and Lawrence stations. July 4 to 6. Free admission. 416-338-0338, www.toronto.ca/specialevents.

• Sounds Write Productions Inc. has released *Debbie Friedman Live in Concert*, a DVD and VHS video of a 2001 performance. Preview an excerpt at www.debbiefriedman.com/video.htm.

* * *

At the Galleries

• *Bawdy Language*, an exhibition of erotic photographs by **Beverley Abramson**, is on view at the Arta Gallery until July 4. Reception, June 28, 5 to 8 p.m. 55 Mill St. in the Distillery Historic District.

• **Tootsie Halbert's** multi-media works involve ceramic, jewelry, textiles and painting on layered paper. At A Show of Hands Petroff Gallery,1016 Eglinton Ave. W., until June 30.

• True Love of Nature is a show of watercolours and acrylics by **Esther Etigson**. Open house, 163 Gailcrest Circle, Thornhill (east of Bathurst and Clark Avenue) Sunday, June 29, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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5. Contest closed to entries at close of business, Friday, June 27, 2003.
6. Final Draw of *Judy & David* Party (value $1012.00) and the *Marriott Hotel* package (value $299.00) will take place Monday, June 27, 2003.
7. Odds of winning depends on the number of entries.
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9. *The Canadian Jewish News* employees and their immediate family are not eligible.
10. Potential winners will be selected at random, contacted by phone and must correctly answer a time-limited, skill-testing question.
11. Prizes must be accepted as awarded.
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Arts & Travel

Klezmer band raises funds for Argentine Jews

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

To support the plight of Argentine Jewry the Canadian Coalition for Argentinian Jewry hosted a concert featuring the South American duo Klezmer En Buenos Aires.

The coalition — a group of 13 synagogues and organization raising awareness to Argentina's economic depression — recently took over Toronto's Walter Hall with a blend of music, dedication and fund-raising requests.

"We organized this evening because we don't want to see this sadness continue," said Enrique Tabak, an Argentine Jew on the event's planning committee. "Too many Jewish schools and community centres have closed. Wages are one-quarter what they used to be. Now we have to help our brothers and sisters."

The program notes supported Tabak's dire picture. More than 50,000 Argentine Jews live below the poverty line. Around 70 per cent of Jewish-run businesses have closed. Seeing the need for immediate action, fundraising group Ve'ahavta is coordinating the money transfer (and arts evenings such as the klezmer concert). As of publication, Ve'ahavta has raised more than $10,000.

After two honours were bestowed in the first half-hour — to the late human-rights activist Renee Epelbaum and Temple Emanu El — the sold-out 500-seat hall erupted in delight as Klezmer En Buenos Aires took the stage, their only Canadian stop before heading to New York.

Klezmer En Buenos Aires, together for 22 years, displayed the unity of two expert musicians. On piano in the opening numbers, Cesar Lerner danced his fingers over the keys as ferociously as Marcelo Moguilevsky flew over flute holes.

Both musicians multi-tasked, since Lerner switched to accordion for some toe-tapping folk tunes, and his partner dabbled with clarinet, harmonica and "Jewish scatting" (how else to describe "ya-da-dy-dy-da-dy-dy"?)

Every klezmer concert should invoke emotion as well as energy, and the wide-smiling duo satisfied the crowd on both counts. The slower summery tunes were dipped in the melancholy Argentina is surely facing today; the quicker melodies punched notes into the air on time with Moguilevsky's foot stomps.

In several songs the crowd got the message and clapped a steady beat.

Lerner — garnering laughs for his physical comedy between tunes — moved to an African drum to play softly behind Moguilevsky's wooden flute lead. The upper-register notes gave off a rural feel, the joy of a simpler life behind staccato bursts.

The two musicians often traded glances, nodding sharply to dive into a new time signature, twitching the neck to signal a song's end. The improvisation sounded more seamless than some professional jazz outfits, and Klezmer En Buenos Aires never failed to enjoy their time on stage. They slapped their knees as percussion, clapped hands between piano chord strikes, and kibbitzed with the audience like the evening was an intimate gathering of close friends.

In fact, the evening was framed in that mood: friends asking friends to help other friends.

A rounded portrait of a jazzy Woody Allen

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

That Woody Allen's movies are suffused with appealing music is hardly coincidental.

Allen, a director, screenwriter and actor, is a devotee of New Orleans-style jazz and an accomplished clarinetist. For many years now, he and his band were a weekly fixture for 25 years at Michael's, a New York City pub, until it closed in 1996.

This facet of Allen's persona is caught by Academy Award-winning documentarian Barbara Kopple in her 1998 documentary *Wild Man Blues*, to be broadcast by TVOntario on Thursday, July 3, at 10 p.m.

In this revealing and entertaining film, which is nearly two hours long, Kopple follows Allen, his Korean-born wife, his sister and his entourage of musicians on a frenetic tour of Europe that takes them to Paris, Madrid, Geneva, Venice, Milan, Turin and London.

And while the jazz they thump out is quite alluring, the real attraction of *Wild Man Blues* is its rounded portrait of the normally camera-shy Allen.

What emerges from the film is that Allen is not completely confident about his musical abilities. But he and his band improve by the performance as they pump out a rhythmic blend of blues, ragtime and parade music.

Concert-goers appreciate their efforts. Yet, as Allen himself wonders, is he shamelessly trading on his fame as a filmmaker? That question is never quite answered.

Born Allan Stewart Konigsberg, Allen became obsessed by New Orleans jazz as a teenager. Describing its effect on him, he gushes, "It's like taking a bath in honey or something."

But as bouncy as the jazz may be, the high notes of the film are sounded when it focuses on Allen in a variety of modes.

He breakfasts with his much younger wife, Soon-Yi, who sensibly urges him to compliment his musicians on their last gig. He talks with his mother on the phone, and finds their conversation "gruelling." He rides a Venetian gondola, and it looks like a scene from one his own films. He poses for a swarm of paparazzi, whom he tolerates.

He mixes at a reception where awed fans approach him. He exercises on a treadmill, which he dismisses as a "disgusting invention."

He appears at a photo-op with an Italian mayor, but refuses a request from a fan to pose for a picture. He wades into a sea of well-wishers, but longs for his monastic writer's life.

Soon-Yi cuts him down to size when she acknowledges that she hasn't seen some of his most important movies. She adds that one of his lesser films, *Interiors*, is "long and tedious."

Back in New York after the exhausting tour, Allen chats with his parents.

Mischievously candid, his mother chides him for not having "completed tasks" as a youth, reminds him that he was "helped along" to stardom and admits that she would have preferred a Jewish daughter-in-law.

When discussing the Hebrew school he attended, Allen dismisses it as a "time-wasting" experience.

In the end, Allen comes across as self-absorbed, sardonic, remote and, horror of horrors, boring. He is clearly more than just famously neurotic.

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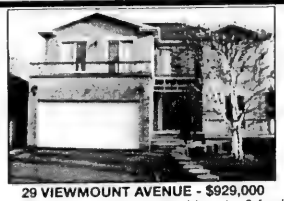

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1ST AD! CEDARVALE!! 4 NEW 3 BDRM HOMES!
Only $639,000! Superb new semis, 2,050 sq. ft. Fam rm. B/I gar. CAC. Fin bsmnt, Nov. '03 OCC. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

IMMACULATE UPDATED 4 BDRM HOME
Prime location. $$$ spent on renovations and upgrades! Finished basement + sauna. $499,000. Bess Tong* 416-226-1987

1ST TIME BUYER! CENTRAL AREA TOWNHOME
Sunny 3 bedroom, renovated family size condo/townhome with walk-out to patio. Mary Anne Talbot* 416-785-1500

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

$4,950,000 BAYVIEW - OLD COLONY
A masterpiece 8,000 sq. ft. on 100 x 327'. 4 garage. Tennis court. Sharon Bobkin*/Janie Jesin* 416-226-1987

$1,895,000 BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS
This a stunning and elegant home. Maple and limestone. High ceilings. Sharon Bobkin*/Janie Jesin* 416-226-1987

$1799,000 "OWEN 2 YEARS NEW"
Dramatic 5 bedroom stone & stucco residence, hardwood & limestone floors. Sharon Bobkin*/Janie Jesin* 416-226-1987

$1,689,000 RAVINE - BAYVIEW & YORK MILLS
Two storey, 4 bedroom, 4,700 sq. ft. Solarium addition. 3 garage. 100 x 190'. Sharon Bobkin*/Janie Jesin* 416-226-1987

VENDOR FINANCING! OWEN SCHOOL - SHANE BAGHAI
Custom 5+1 bdrm, upgraded dream home. Just move in! Super lot, 4 car gar! Now $1,399,000. Maurice Gherson* 416-488-2875

$399,000 STEELES/BATHURST - 4 BDRM, 3 BATH, BKSPLT
Double garage, main floor laundry, 3 walkouts, enclosed porch, quiet street. K. Alpert* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

86B ELLERSLIE AVE! 3 STRY, 3+1 BDRM, 3 BATH!
$515K! Luxury new townhome facing park! 2 car parking! Nanny suite! Loaded! Move in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

YONGE/EGLINTON PERFECT PENTHOUSE
Fabulous 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Large eat-in kitchen. W/o balcony. 2 underground parking spots. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

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Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. (Village) is pleased to welcome Cari Cogan* and David Shiewitz*, to our sales staff. We wish them every success.

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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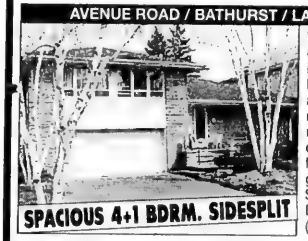
Magnificent custom-built home on gorgeous lot! 2 years new, total renovation & addition, designer finishes, 4 + 1 bedrooms, family room, fin. bsmt. Asking $769,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Well-maintained executive home in prime central location close to all amenities, main floor family room, lovely garden, 55 foot frontage, double garage. Asking $849,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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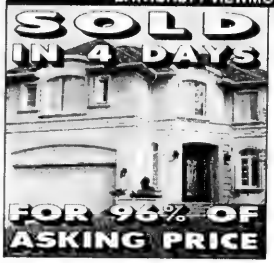
BATHURST / VIEWMOUNT



Magnificent custom-built home! Approx. 4,700 sq. ft + finished basement, quality upgrades throughout. 5 + 2 bdrms., family room, library, dream kitchen, marble counters, cornice mouldings, 2 heating / A/C zones, heated kitchen & bathroom floors. Offered at $1,349,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE / WILSON — NEW LISTING!
Charming detached 3 + 2 bdrm. bung. on 42.5 X 132 ft. lot. Hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, sep. entry to in-law suite. Priced for immediate sale at $349,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

• • •

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — EXCLUSIVE
New custom-built home on 50 x 103 ft. lot. 4 bdrms., 4 baths, 3 fireplaces, family room, finished basement. Finest details & quality finishes! $699,000. Call Richard Cash, Sales Rep., (416) 787-1712.

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COMMERCIAL PLAZA FOR SALE
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REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

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Fab 4 bdrm home with 2 bdrm basement apt with sep entry! Main flr den & family room, extras galore! On approx 1/4 acre lot! Close to all! *Ted Waxman

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YONGE-CLARK $359,900
Lovely freehold luxury townhome in luxury development! Master bdrm has sitting room, walk-out bsmnt. Formal living & dining room. Over 2,000 sq. ft. *Saryl Spector

• • •

LANGSTAFF & DUFFERIN - FAB STARTER!
3 bedroom semi, walk-out basement, appliances, air, main floor family room, eat-in kitchen, close to all amenities! *Ted Waxman

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CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

BATHURST-CENTRE $223,900!
Luxury 2 bdrm condo about 1,250 sq. ft.! Eat-in kit, hardwood flrs throughout! Appliances, air. Steps to everything! **Mark Waxman

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ANTIBES DRIVE - GREAT LOCATION!
Large 2 bedroom condo with wraparound balcony, 12th floor view, 2 baths, hardwood floors under carpet. *Saryl Spector

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Executive townhouse, offering $282,000, move-in condition.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

50 ARTREEVA DR
$1,600 income from basement alone!! Oversized bungalow. $399,000. Vendor wants it sold!

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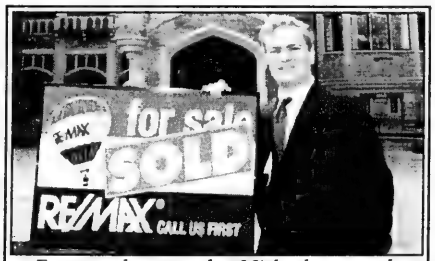

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HOMES

Bathurst/Clark – Lovely Starter Home, 2 Storey, 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, finished basement, family room with fireplace, close to shul and shopping. Asking $329,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Just Listed, charming bungalow, 3 bdrms, 2 baths, finished basement with income potential, updated windows and broadloom, hardwood floors, close to shul, transit and shopping. Asking $369,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Stunning Custom Home, 1998 construction, 4 bedrooms, 6 baths, finished basement with rental potential, Approx. 3,200 sq. ft., 40x132, loaded with extras, imported Italian glass tile, hardwood floors, California shutters, built-in shelving, sub zero fridge, interlock etc. Asking $799,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Spacious backsplit, centre hall plan, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, family room, eat-in kitchen, 50 x 132 lot, finished basement, double garage. Asking $684,900.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Glencairn – Just Listed! Elegantly decorated and in pristine condition, established building, highest floor, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, approx. 1,210 sq. ft., 10 foot ceilings in main area, whirlpool tub, SW exposure, rooftop garden terrace, 2 parking spots and locker, close to shuls, transit and shopping. Asking $319,900.

RENTALS

Bathurst/Eglinton – Renovated 2 bedroom suite, approx. 1,100 sq. ft., central location, available immed. Asking $1,295/month.

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These and other listings at www.hararihomes.com
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6-plex, 5 x 3 bedrooms, 1 x 1 bedroom, retrofit.

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First time offered, spacious triplex, 2-3 bedrooms, bath in suites, plus 1-2 bedrooms, balconies, garages plus parking, good income, great location, don't miss!

LAWRENCE/AVENUE RD
6-plex, 2-3 bdrm, 2-2 bdrm, 1-1 bdrm, 1-bachelor, balconies, garages + parking, good income, fully rented, well maintained.

BATHURST/SHEPPARD
3-bedroom, 2 baths, living and dining combined, finished basement, garage, large lot.

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BATH-CLARK. Bright, spacious det 4 bedroom, 4 baths, fin bsmnt, 2 car gar, $359,000. MUST SEE. **S. MAGED,** NEXT REALTY **905-709-9797.**

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Royal LePage Partners Realty

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10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Townhouse in exclusive New Westminster area. 2100 sq. ft., 3 bed, 3 bth. Fin. bsmnt. + many upgrades. $385,000. 905-771-9416.

PRIVATE SALE - 82 Palm Dr. Open House 12 noon-4 pm, Sun., June 29. Beautiful 6 room bung., dble. drive, bsmt. apt. + rec. rm., near Clanton Park shul. Call 416-633-2524.

Bath./Finch, 2 storey detached, 3 bedrm,, sep. bsmnt. entr., huge lot, TTC. 416-482-3309.

Chaplin Estates, 2350 sq. ft. entertainers' delight, prof. decorated, near Toronto's finest schools, 3 bdrm., 1 office, 3rd flr. loft, beautiful pool and gardens, leaded glass and wood trim, second storey deck, paneled din. rm., breakfast rm. facing pool, fin. bsmnt., sauna, 2 baths, great location. $829,000. 416-889-2419.

Bathurst/Lawrence, lrg. 3 bdrm., 2 storey houe, lrg. eat-in kitch., fin. bsmnt w/separate entrance. 416-789-5371.

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Bath./Clark, 4 bdrm., fam. rm., fin. bsmnt., 3 bath, 2 car gar. July 15th, $2350/mo. 905-737-2857.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Conservatory, 1 bed+den, close to shul, shopping, etc. 905-881-7448.

Townsgate, upgr. corner unit, approx. 1400', outdoor terrace over 2000', hrdwd flrs, marble, 4 pkg. magnif. view. 416-898-0185.

3000 Bathurst, lge. 2 bdrm. + den, 2 bth., indoor prkg., close to all amenities. 416-787-6886.

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BATHURST/STEELES
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Forest Hill, magn. 3 bdrm., 2 terr., 2½ bths., lge. sep. living/dining rm. eat-in kit. Agents welcome. 905-731-0892.

NORTH YORK. 1-2-3 bedroom condos avail. Appls. **416-661-1041 G. BARON RLTR.**

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate. 1550 sq. ft., 2 bed., 2 bth. 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371, 416-224-2837.

Bathurst/Wilson, large 2 bdrm., $1400/mo inclusive, 2 full bath, 416-365-8003 days, 905-771-9727 evenings.

Bathurst/Lawrence, 2 bdrm., 2 baths, pkg., 5 appl., locker, 24 hr. sec., avail. immed. Sabbath elev. $1500/mo+. 416-630-5462.

Bathurst/Neptune, 2 bdrm., 2 bth., lndry. ensuite, TTC at door, 10 min. walk to subway, Yorkdale and shul. $1350.mo. Call 416-782-5685.

Cedarvale, 3 bed, 4-plx. apt., main flr., lux., newly reno'd., laund., prkng., storage, N/S, N/P. $2,000+. 416-504-2685.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Bathurst/Steeles condo, own bedroom & bathroom. Shared kitchen, laundry, locker & parking. Call 647-294-9314.

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Bath./Lawr., bright, reno'd, 1 & 2 bdrms. + liv. rm., a/c, pkg., July 1st. Call 416-898-0185.

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82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

BEAVERTON, July.Aug., wkly./-mthly., lux. 4 bd. a/c, waterfrt, home 2½ bths, city water, furn., tropical sunsets, no pets or smkg. Lynn 416-964-1228.

BELLE EWART, spacious 4 bedroom, furnished, walk to shul. 416-633-3151.

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St. Maarten - The Atrium Resort, deluxe 2 bdrm. apt. avail. Dec. 20-27, sleeps 6, $3325/Cdn. Deluxe 1 bdrm apt. avail. Dec. 27-Jan. 3, sleeps 4. $2030/Cdn. Beachfront restaurant on premises. 905-731-7396.

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

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IT'S A GIRL!
Leichner - Naomi & Josh & big brother Jonah are proud to announce the birth of their daughter & sister, ***Sarah Madison***, born June 11, 2003 at 8:28 pm, weighing 7 lbs., 11 oz. Congratulations to Saba Yochai and Safta Doreen Kojokaro, Bubbie Ruth & Zaidy Harry Leichner, Aunt Lauren, Uncles Malcolm & Jason, Aunt Nicole & great-grandparents Shendal & Joe Reichman. Sarah is named in loving memory for her great-grandmother Sarah Freedman.

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330 OBITUARIES

COHEN, Walter – on May 22, 2003, late of 428 Glencairn Ave.
VAINER, Leib – on May 23, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BLAU, Alexander – on May 23, 2003, late of 10 Tichester Rd., #402.
WAXMAN, Percy – on May 24, 2003, late of 29 Rockford Rd.
KWASNIEWSKI, Morris – on May 23, 2003, late of Terrace Gardens.
HALBERSTADT, Martin – on May 24, 2003, late of 17 Crossen Dr.
ISENBERG, Carl – on May 23, 2003, late of 6200 Bathurst St., #11.
BAUM, Genia – on May 25, 2003, late of 6200 Bathurst St.
MANDEL, Ida – on May 25, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
STARKMAN, Ida – on May 26, 2003, late of 48 Timberlane Dr.
MAYER, Anita – on May 26, 2003, late of 100 Canyon Ave., #504.
TOBIAS, Yetta – on May 29, 2003, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
STEIN, Samuel – on May 28, 2003, late of 10 Edge Cliff Golfway.
HERTZ, Norman – on May 28, 2003, late of 110 Promenade Circle.
GOLDMACHER, Norman – on May 28, 2003, late of 2 Neptune Dr., #204.
LEPIDUS, Celia (Tzippy) – on May 28, 2003, late of 382 Horsham Ave.
FRANCOZ, Louis – on May 29, 2003, late of 10 Senlac Rd.
FINKELSTEIN, Harry – on May 30, 2003, late of 7601 Bathurst St.
WASSER, Leonard – on May 31, 2003, late of 84 Hedge Rd.
GARA, Eva – on May 27, 2003, late of 60 Ashbrdge Dr.
GOLD, Rose – on June 1, 2003, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
ELITE, Violet – on May 31, 2003, late of 536 Huron St., #308.
GERSTEIN, Doreen – on June 1, 2003, late of 1629 Houston Ave.
EINES, Martin – on May 25, 2003, late of 288 Wilmington Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

ROSENTHAL, Margaret – on May 27, 2003, late of 88 Erskine Ave., #190.
HERMAN, William – on May 29, 2003, late of 6079 Montevideo Rd.
BOCKLER, Rose – on June 3, 2003, late of 12 Bronte Rd.

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Pardes Shalom Cemetery
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BAYT Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IRWIN DANZIGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 29th, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Sunnyside Lodge Section
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330 OBITUARIES

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Community Four Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVID PHILLIPS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 6th, 11:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section BBB
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JADZIA LAPIDES ז"ל
will take place
Friday, July 4th, 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Chenstochover Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
WILLIAM ROBINS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, July 6th, 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DAVID BERDUGO ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, June 29th at 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Shomer Israel Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend
Mishmara will take place at Minyan Sepharad Synagogue 475 Patricia Ave. on July 2nd at 8:00 p.m.

336 CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late
JADZIA LAPIDES ז"ל
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Arts & Travel

Father's music is his son's muse

By JULIE TRAVES
Special to The CJN

Most fathers and sons bond at the ballpark or the movies. But Moshe and Mike Hammer spend their quality time onstage. On a Sunday evening recently, the father-son duo joined forces for a unique performance at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto.

The setting is spare, the lighting intimate. To one side stands the compact Moshe Hammer, holding his well-travelled violin. To his right is Mike, his 31-year-old son, at the ready in front of his workspace: a blank canvas and a table crammed with jars of paint and brushes.

At Moshe's first coaxing of Bach's *Partita in E Major*, Mike simply listens. A note. Two notes. A careful dab to the left. But soon the tune swells. Now the brush swirls: paint streaks above, below, across. Step in step with one another, father and son create a visual ballet on stage. In a crescendo of shape, colour and sound a new work of art is born before the eyes and ears of the audience.

As four paintings emerge from four pieces over the course of the evening, the audience murmurs with interest. The red canvas set out for Beethoven's moody *Moonlight Sonata*, for instance, elicits whispering between an elderly couple: "What does Beethoven have to do with red? It's a moonlight thing. I thought it would be purple, or gray, or blue."

First performed in Toronto with pianist Andrew Burashko and moving to Amsterdam in August, the idea for "Beethoven Meets Pollock" came to Mike in January while watching his father perform.

"I looked up at the stage and I could see myself painting there. The next day I asked him," Mike says.

It was an easy sell. A close family, the Hammers have always shared their art. When his children – Mike and his younger sister Maya – were babies, Moshe would let them stay up to hear him play with his chamber orchestra pals. The kids would also sit at the stairs and listen to their father teaching in the basement rec room.

In the Hammer household, instruments and inspiration were always close at hand.

Of course, Moshe's children didn't always appreciate what their dad did at the "office."

"Mike must have been 14 when for the first time he found out that I was quite good at what I was doing," Moshe says. "He mostly listened to rock and roll and he came to me and said, 'If you were in rock and roll we'd be rich!' So true."

Born in Hungary and raised in Israel, Moshe settled in Canada in 1970, first in Calgary and later in Toronto. Trained by world-renowned violinist Jascha Heifetz amongst others, Moshe performs all over North America, Europe and beyond. He splits his time between solo work, teaching and chamber music.

Mike turned to his own art in 1997, following studies in psychology and teaching at Queen's University. Though he focuses mainly on studio painting, Mike had painted live to music a number of times before he approached his dad.

Naturally, planning a show with his father was something altogether new. As Mike puts it: "There were a few times where we butted heads over ideas. But we always managed to work through those, talk through them. Eventually he would come around and see that I was right." He laughs, "I say this in jest."

Moshe also acknowledges that hanging the family shingle outside a concert hall creates special challenges.

"We are not the first father-son team to work together," he says, "but because we are both in the arts it was fascinating how discussions went and of course some father-son things came up. In the end, working with Mike for months on this has added more depth to our relationship. It will probably be one of the concerts that I'll remember on my deathbed. It had so much energy and love."

The Hammers' work succeeds not only at bridging two generations, but in closing the gulf between art and audiences of all ages. The effect of the Hammers' show is neatly paralleled by Moshe's comments on artistic collaboration:

"It's like a good dinner party. Something happens that evening, you come away feeling that something inside you has shifted or grown or you ate something more than just food."

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Ex-major league pitcher would rather rock on

By HARVEY ROSEN
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — Former major league pitcher Scott David Radinsky has embarked on a most unusual post-baseball career.

The former White Sox, Dodger, Cardinal and Indians' reliever is today enjoying a lifestyle that an inordinate number of young people would literally crave. He is the lead singer of a well-known punk rock band, Pulley.

According to one sports Web site, "The L.A. Dodgers are one of a couple of teams that would like Radinsky to come out of retirement, but his loyalty to his bandmates in Pulley would not allow him to walk away from their current European tour which had been scheduled for months."

The 35-year-old native of Glendale, California would, of course, be in demand since left-handed relievers are in short supply these days. His last major league stint was a very brief one with Cleveland in 2001. At the time, he underwent Tommy John elbow surgery due to arm trouble. In addition, earlier in his career he suffered from Hodgkin's Disease.

Radinsky's punk rock career was well-known to *Winnipeg Free Press* music maven Bartley Kives. "Radinsky has sung with three California punk or punk-pop bands that rate their own footnotes in pop music history," explained Kives.

"In the 1980s, Scott's old band Scared Straight penned the skate-punk anthem *Skate to Live*. In the '90s he played with Ten Foot Pole, a popular punk-pop band before abruptly quitting and joining Pulley.

"Radinsky also founded a skate park called Skate Lab in his hometown of Simi Valley, California," continued Kives. "It's safe to say baseball is this guy's third love after skateboarding and punk rock."

Kives' final observation was substantiated by an article by Jon Regardie in the June 1999 issue of *L.A. Magazine*. Radinsky professes to detest baseball, except during the fleeting hours he actually plays.

"It's a world I do not feel comfortable in and have a hard time adapting to," notes Scott. "It's eight months of pretty much being by myself and dealing with the B.S. I hate."

The Jewish reliever was a late bloomer. He didn't start playing organized baseball until the 11th grade. He was drafted in 1986 by the White Sox and missed the entire 1994 season while being treated for the lymphoma.

In 1996, Scott located a group of friends who had played punk rock with him over the years, many of whom had also been kicked out of other bands. Together they formed Pulley.

Radinsky, indeed, had a fairly impressive record in his 11 major league seasons as a reliever. He appeared in 557 games, pitched 481.2 innings, struck out 358, won 42 games and lost 25, and had an ERA of 3.44.

Small wonder the door is still open for the 6-3, 215-lb. leftie should he yen to leap off the stage and into the bullpen once again.

POST PATTER:

• The Atlanta Braves have recalled pitcher Jason Marquis after optioning him to Richmond of the International League. The Jewish right-hander, whom the Braves had been counting upon, was sent down after issuing 10 walks in 14 innings and compiling an ERA of 6.57.

• Defensive lineman Noah Cantor has left the British Columbia Lions to play for the Toronto Argonauts for the upcoming CFL season.

• Adam Corrin, captain of the 2003 Manitoba champion St. John's Ravenscourt Eagles, was named the Winnipeg High School Hockey League's A division most valuable player.

• Former NHL tough guy Mike Hartman still can't get hockey out of his system. In mid-March, he signed with the Charlotte Checkers of the East Coast Hockey League. The 36-year-old played 397 games in the NHL and scored 43 goals along with 35 assists. Total penalty minutes of 1,388 defined the Jewish skater's career.

Blue Jays' Paul Godfrey sees similarities between Toronto, Israel

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Toronto Blue Jays President and CEO Paul Godfrey believes there are similarities between the media's portrayal of daily life in Israel and how news outlets around the world see Toronto in the wake of SARS.

While Israelis carry on with their normal routines despite terror attacks, Torontonians remain cautious and on alert for the disease. Nevertheless, most residents are not under quarantine.

"I'm sure there are people who are frightened to go to Israel because they hear it's a place where there are a lot of bombings and a lot of lives lost of innocent people," said Godfrey. "There's a natural reluctance."

Likewise, he said, "there are a lot of people the further you go away from Toronto thinking there are people wearing masks in Toronto to protect themselves from SARS. There's a perception that maybe we're an old-fashioned leper colony here."

Paul Godfrey

As a former publisher of the *Toronto Sun*, Godfrey recognizes the power of the media and the tough job ahead getting people to gather in large crowds to watch the Jays, despite the fact they're an exciting team that went 21-8 in May, a franchise record for one month.

Already this season, the Blue Jays have lost thousands of potential tickets sales and inquiries into group packages have suffered a significant decline.

But Godfrey and the ball club have done their part to show the world Toronto is open for business, offering all unsold seats to fans for $1 a piece on April 29, packing SkyDome with more than 48,000 people. Four nights in which all upper deck and 200-level outfield tickets sold for $2 each also provided a significant boost to sagging attendance figures.

While Godfrey is doing what he can to help Toronto recover from the hit to tourism from SARS, he also plans to support Israel by visiting again in the near future.

"It's time for another trip," said Godfrey, who was named Canada's honorary chef de mission for the 2001 Maccabiah Games, but could not attend after the event was initially called off and then went ahead. "A number of people have encouraged me to go, and I intend to go in the next couple of years."

He's hopeful that they'll also give him a rain check for a future Maccabiah Games honour in 2005 or 2009.

B'nai Brith's 1998 Man of the Year remains very involved in various charitable endeavours, serving on the board of directors and the executive committee at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and the board of governors at Mount Sinai Hospital.

He also launched the Herbie Fund, which helps bring terminally ill children to Toronto to receive medical treatment unavailable in their home country.

Three years ago, Godfrey established a foundation in his family's name to ensure continuation of a tradition of giving back to the community.

At the time, Godfrey had just left *The Sun* after 16 prosperous years. Later in 2000, he was named to his present position with the Blue Jays, an organization he helped bring to the city 24 years ago when he was chairman of Metropolitan Toronto.

The club is currently playing its best ball of his three-year tenure and contending for a championship may once again be a reality in the foreseeable future.

"I knew that things were headed in the right direction the minute we hired [general manager] J.P. Ricciardi," said Godfrey, referring to Ricciardi's hiring following the 2001 season. "J.P. has been just the right thing for the Blue Jays. We're already beginning to see the fruits of his labour."

Maccabi picnic a family fun day

Maccabi Canada is inviting current and past athletes, coaches and supporters to a family picnic day on Sunday, July 13, at Camp Robin Hood in Markham.

Designed as a fun experience for the entire family, festivities start at 10:30 a.m. and run until 4:30 p.m., rain or shine. Participants can enjoy all camp services, including the swimming pool, canoes and the climbing wall. Sports include basketball, beach volleyball, tennis, baseball and soccer.

For details, call Jay Bacher at 416-226-0035.

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Recommended Reading

FICTION AND POETRY

• ***A Good Man***, by Cynthia Holz, Thomas Allen, HC, $34.95.

"Written with power and precision… a clear-eyed, passionate examination of heroes, victims, villains and survivors… An uncensored landscape where the truth shifts, the story changes, depending on who's telling it, and the memories, and sometimes the lies, by which we define ourselves are unmasked." – Author Eliza Clark

• ***The Heretic***, by Lewis Weinstein, Terrace Books, SC, $29.95.

A powerful, thoroughly absorbing work of historical fiction set during the years preceding the Spanish Inquisition. Examines the roots of Christian anti-Semitism and the religious intolerance of the Church.

• ***No Sign of Ceasefire***, edited and translated by Warren Bargad and Stanley F. Chyet, Skirball Cultural Centre, SC, $41.25.

This excellent collection of contemporary Israeli poetry portrays issues – some unique to the Middle East and some universal – that challenge modern society in that country.

NON-FICTION

• ***Terrorist Hunter***, anonymous, HarperCollins , HC, $39.95.

This is a fascinating account of an Iraqi-born Jewish woman who fled with her family to Israel, and later to the United States, from Saddam Hussein's cruel regime. This remarkable woman has managed to infiltrate Arab terrorist groups and thus acquire vital information in the fight against terrorism.

• ***Soul Searching***, by Yaakov Astor, Feldheim, SC, $24.99.

The author, a respected scholar, discusses what he believes to be modern-day, scientific proof of the existence of an afterlife and the immortality of the human soul according to Jewish tradition.

• ***Real Jews***, by Noah J. Efron, Basic Books, HC, $42.95.

This shocking discussion of secular versus haredi Jews in Israel is necessary reading for those interested in Israeli politics and society and the future of the Jewish state. According to this Bar-Ilan University professor, some of the anti-religious fervour and political advertising in Israel is no less violent than traditional European anti-Semitic hatred and propaganda.

• ***The Creation According to the Midrash Rabbah***, by Wilfred Shuchat, Devora Publishing, HC, $39.95.

For the first time, the original Hebrew text of the Midrash Rabbah is presented with a solid English language translation and a new groundbreaking analysis and interpretation of this master biblical commentary in one definitive work.

YOUTH

• ***The Night Spies***, by Kathy Kacer, Second Story Press, SC, $8.95.

This engaging, inspiring novel, based on true events, is the latest contribution by the award-winning Toronto author to the Holocaust Remembrance Series for Young Readers.

• ***Thirty-one Cakes***, by Loren Hodes, Hachai Publishing, HC, $15.95.

A sweet story that demonstrates the importance of the mitzvah to return lost items to their owners. Beautiful illustrations by Harvey Klineman. Ages 3-8.

Recommended Reading is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

BAKED RATATOUILLE TERRINE

1 lg. eggplant, peeled & diced
coarse salt, optional
1 tblsp. extra virgin olive oil
1 lg. onion, sliced
4 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup shredded fresh basil
1/4 cup minced fresh parsley
1 tblsp. balsamic vinegar
1 lb. tomatoes, peeled, seeded, chopped
1 red & 1 yellow bell peppor, roasted & peeled
1/3 cup chopped olives
2 tsps. capers
3 med. zucchini, sliced paper thin
1 cup crumbled feta cheese
2 cups bread chunks, crusts removed

Heat oven to 425°F.; grease 8" high baking dish.
Heat olive oil. Sauté onion, garlic, basil & parsley about 7 mins. Add balsamic vinegar, turn heat to med.-high; stir 1 min. Add eggplant, tomatoes, bell peppers, olives, capers. Simmer, uncovered until mixture is very thick.
Line prepared dish with zucchini slices, covering bottom and sides, overlapping pieces so dish is entirely covered. Sprinkle feta cheese over zucchini on bottom. Spoon over vegetable mixture. Cover evenly with bread. Cover dish loosely with foil; bake 50 mins. removing foil 5 mins. before end of cooking time. Cool on rack for 10 mins. Invert serving plate and place it on top of dish. Holding both together, flip dishes to that dish is inverted on serving plate.Carefully lift dish. Serve at room temp. Yield: 8 servings.

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Confused Student

About Teens

Dear Confused Student,

I know that right now it feels as if you are the only one with this problem, but in reality many students do not get accepted into university the first year they apply.

When your friends begin to discuss university, try to change the subject or explain to them that you would feel more comfortable if they did not talk about it in front of you. It may seem as if it is all they want to talk about at the moment, but it is only because it is something new. Eventually they will tire of the topic and then you will not feel so left out.

As for your plans for next year, there are a number of options from which to choose. The first is to go back to high school for another year. This will give you an opportunity to upgrade some of your marks and give you a better chance of getting into university next year. Remember that acceptance is often based on extra-curricular activities and community involvement in addition to grades. So try to be active in your school.

Another option you have is to look into a co-operative education program. Many schools offer programs that let students work while earning high school credits. This will give you work experience, and it may help to give you an idea of what you want to do with your life.

You also have the choice of taking night or summer school courses and working during the day. This can help with the financial aspects of university when you do go.

Remember, it is important to keep everything in perspective. You have your entire life to go to university; going one year later will not make any difference in the long run.

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

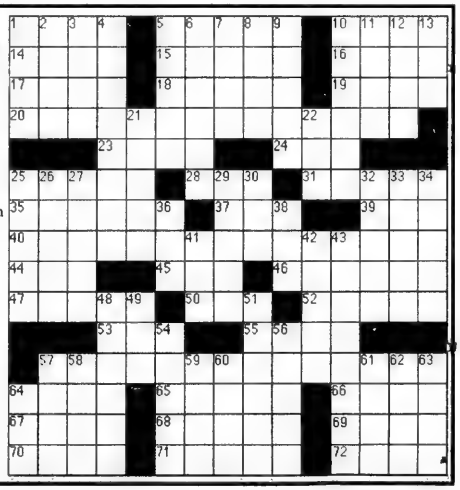
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 38.)

Summer at the Shore
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. ____ one outta da water's a bum!
5. Rustic maiden, beloved by Daphnis
10. "____ an arrow in the air"
14. Medicinal plant
15. ____ of Masada, or Tsippori
16. Rosh, in French
17. Table-top mountain
18. NFL running back Smith
19. Irish girl's name
20. You can bring shade to the shore with these
23. Starters for chemical compounds with 6 of a kind in them
24. Mineo or hepatica
25. Backs of necks
28. What you're in if you repeat yourself too much
31. What cool dudes look for at the shore
35. Egyptian deity
37. Crepe utensil
39. Merate starter
40. Famed Coney Island landmark (2 words)
44. Robe color for head shepherd, often
45. Consumed
46. Manner of publ. speaking
47. Eater, in Yiddish
50. Dadaist
52. Finish 'cl' with this and you have something to wear
53. Latin for force or vigor
55. Small river islands
57. Mark Spitz (U.S.A.) and Eva Szekely (Hungary), Jewish athletes
64. Related or comparable to
65. Tarheel state's initials, spelled out
66. Here infant Moses sported in a basket of reeds
67. ___ jockey
68. Computer game giant
69. ___ a line in the sand
70. Tennis champ
71. Do this to marshmallows in a picnic by the shore
72. States

Down
1. Mary had a little one
2. Away from the shore wind
3. Cubs' Sammy
4. Instructors
5. Crucible, in Cannes
6. Army vehicle, now popular SUV
7. Arm or leg
8. Class A joke or person
9. Kefauver
10. "Streetcar" Stanley's spouse
11. Zeus' spouse
12. Elevator inventor
13. Bo Derek
21. Shout in children's tag game
22. Canad. retriever
25. Andre Le ____, Versailles gardens
26. Fireplace leavings
27. Piper and -`a-terre
29. Kind of echelon
30. Dew, in Dimona
32. Where we swim and play volleyball and tan!
33. Happen as a result
34. Fats for the bird feeders
36. It waters the shore
38. Born as
41. Airport abbreviation
42. Small towel or a fabric
43. These are what you run fast on tip-toe over
48. Exhibit, as a quality or trait
49. Edge, say, of whitecaps
51. Leave these at home if you don't want to be bothered
54. Way to apply sunblock
56. Advice on how to ease sunburn (2 words)
57. Water ___
58. Make-A-___-Foundation
59. Entrance preposition
60. University level sports orgn.
61. Look! in Spanish
62. Shore fun activity
63. Bastes
64. ___ Louise Huxtable



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This Week

National

Conference brands Israel as 'illegitimate state.' *Page 3*

Liberal MPP votes with Tories to pass tax credit. *Page 6*

On Campus

KESHER helps Canadian students connect with Argentine Jews. *Page 24*

Business Profile

No sleight-of-hand involved in running magic shop. *Page 30*

Sports & Leisure

Roger Neilson remembered for his love of Israel. *Page 38*

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Report calls for justice for Jews from Arab lands

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A report on the fate of Jewish communities in Arab lands may draw greater attention to an often ignored episode of Middle Eastern history at a time when the Palestinian refugee claims are under discussion.

That's the hope of one of the authors of a legal report that calls for redress for up to a million Jews and their descendants who were forced out of their homes by Arab governments.

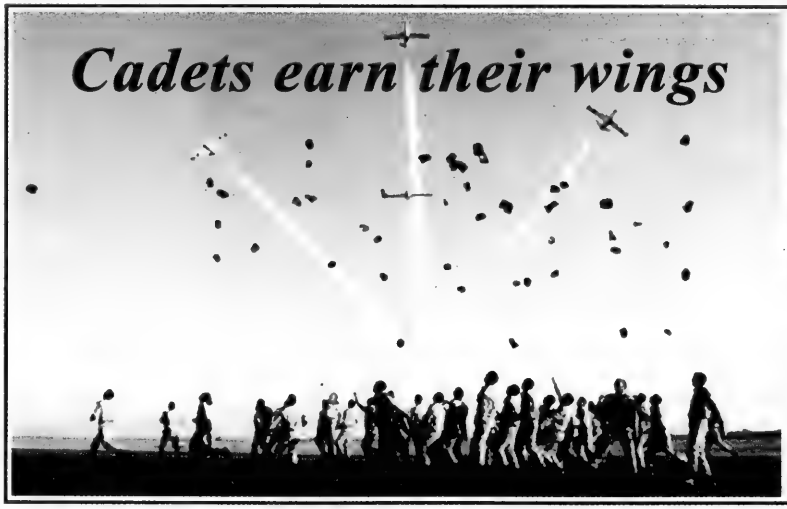
Winnipeg lawyer David Matas believes the claims of Jewish refugees must be addressed as an issue of fundamental human rights. The claims of Palestinian refugees are high on the agenda in any discussion of Mideast peace, yet the experiences of Jews is currently given short shrift, Matas said.

"This is not just about the peace process," he said. "It's about getting justice."

Matas, along with Montreal native Stanley Urman, is author of *Jews from Arab Countries: The Case for Rights and Redress*. The report was prepared for Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC), an international organization that is lobbying for recognition of the rights of Jews who were displaced from their homes in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Yemen and Aden in the 1940s and 1950s.

Continued on page 25

Cadets earn their wings



A new crop of Israeli air force cadets celebrated their graduation last week by tossing their hats in the air during an honour fly-by. Inset, a 1967 photo of Maj.-Gen (Res.) Mordechai (Moti) Hod, who died on the weekend at the weekend at the age of 76. He was a graduate of the first IAF pilots course and was commander of the air force during the Six Day War.
[Israel Sun photos]

The CJN wins Rockower Award

LOS ANGELES — For the eighth consecutive year, *The Canadian Jewish News* (*CJN*) has won a Rockower Award for Excellence in Jewish Journalism.

At the annual conference of the American Jewish Press Association (AJPA) held here last week, *The CJN* received second place honours for excellence in editorial writing in 2002 among member newspapers whose circulation is more than 15,000.

The Rockower Awards were created in 1980 for the AJPA through an endowment by Philadelphia philanthropist I. Budd Rockower. Their purpose is to promote the development and improve the quality of Jewish journalism. The AJPA membership extends to publications, their staff, freelance contributors and other individual members across North America and in Israel. All are eligible to compete in the annual competition.

The *Jewish Western Bulletin* of Vancouver took home two awards for the category of newspapers whose circulation is less than 15,000, including a first place distinction for editorial writing.

Shabbat: Korach
Candlelighting: 8:44
Havdallah: 9:49
Greater Toronto Area

Leon Uris gave Jewish history wide appeal — please see page 27

The News in Brief

CANADA

B'nai Brith App'ts

TORONTO — As part of the expansion of its Montreal operations and the launch of its Canada-Israel Public Affairs Committee in Quebec (CIPAC-Q), that replaces the Canada-Israel Committee's defunct Quebec operations, B'nai Brith Canada said last week it appointed former federal Tory cabinet minister Gerry Weiner as CIPAC-Q's director of public affairs. It also named Bill Surkis, former executive director of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, as its Quebec regional director, and recent McGill University graduate and Hillel activist Yoni Petel as community outreach co-ordinator and campus support officer.

Thrift Shop Grant

TORONTO — UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Jewish Venture Philanthropy fund has awarded $100,000 to Jewish Family & Child Service to expand its Just a Second Shop. The money will support management training and facility improvement at the second-hand clothing store.

ISRAEL

Assimilation Conference

RAMAT GAN — Rabbis, scholars and leaders of the major streams of Judaism met at Bar-Ilan University last week for a two-day conference on fighting assimilation titled "Rabbis and the Challenge of Assimilation: Historical and Contemporary Approaches." Bar-Ilan's Rappaport Center for Assimilation Research hosted the second annual event.

Fundraising in Libya

SAN FRANCISCO — Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat has reportedly raised $2.5 million (US) from Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi for suicide bombings. The money will fund terror attacks by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, the *San Francisco Chronicle* has reported.

Immigration Drops

JERUSALEM — Immigration to Israel is in a "tailspin," Immigrant Absorption Minister Tzipi Livni said last week. Livni said her ministry must examine potential immigrants' attitudes to make Israel appear more appealing to them. Nearly 7,700 immigrants arrived in the first five months of 2003, heralding a dramatic drop from the 35,000 who arrived in 2002. Ongoing violence, a poor economy and cuts in immigrant subsidies are blamed for the decrease.

WORLD

New Award Unveiled

NEW YORK — The family of philanthropist Charles Bronfman has unveiled a new $100,000 (US) prize for "emerging" Jewish leaders. The award, created and funded by Bronfman's children to honour his 70th birthday, will go to an individual or group under 50 that has made a mark on Jewish life. Details are available at www.thecharlesbronfmanprize.com. Nominations close Oct. 31.

Insurance Law

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down a law requiring California insurance firms to disclose their Holocaust-era policies. The court ruled 5-4 that the Holocaust Victims Insurance Relief Act, passed in California in 1999, interfered with the president's conduct of foreign policy. The law bars European insurers and their U.S. affiliates from doing business in the state if they refuse to publish a full list of all policy holders between 1920 and 1945. The law was passed to make it easier for Jewish descendants of Holocaust victims to obtain payments.

Skinheads Charged

BERLIN — Three members of a German skinhead rock band were charged last week with forming a criminal organization that promulgated hate through their songs. A German prosecutor said they were trying to foment "Aryan revolution." The title song of one album called for bombing Israel. The men, arrested in a 2001 anti-Nazi crackdown, face up to five years in jail.

Jewish Leader Sues

BERLIN — A German Jewish leader being probed for possible involvement in drugs and prostitution sued the Berlin Justice Department over allegedly illegal searches of his home and office. Michel Friedman's lawyer said prosecutors carried out a "public hanging" by leaking details of the case.

CJC Honours Controversial Kazakh President

OTTAWA — Canadian Jewish Congress honoured the president of Kazakhstan last week with a dinner on Parliament Hill for promoting harmony between his Asian republic's small Jewish minority and its Muslim majority, but Ottawa played down his visit because of his human rights record.

Nusultan Nazarbayev, whose rights record has been criticized by the U.S. State Department and Amnesty International, was to meet privately with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham in Ottawa, but there were to be no formal public events because it was not a state visit, Chrétien's office told the *Ottawa Citizen*.

The CJC dinner was to be attended by ambassadors from Muslim countries, as well as the deputy head of mission from the Israeli embassy (since Ambassador Haim Divon is on an Ottawa-sponsored tour of the arctic), CJC executive vice-president Jack Silverstone said.

At this point in Mideast affairs, it's important to recognize Nazarbayev's "efforts to foster religious understanding," Silverstone told the *Citizen*, adding Nazarbayev's work has been praised by the Pope and Muslim leaders.

Alex Neve, head of Amnesty Canada, told the *Globe and Mail* he hoped CJC officials would raise human rights issues in talks with Nazarbayev, who has been in power since 1991.

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'Right of return' conference denounces Israel, PA

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A "right of return" conference held at the University of Toronto late last month called for a one-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, attacked the international peace plan known as the road map, denounced the Palestinian Authority and branded Israel as an "illegitimate" state.

Calls for one-state solution

The conference was sponsored by the Palestine Right to Return Coalition, referred to in Arabic as Al-Awda, and was hosted by the University of Toronto Arab Student Association.

Among the scheduled panelists listed on the conference's Web site were pro-Palestinian activist and Concordia University student Samer Elatrash, anti-globalization protester Jaggi Singh and John Clarke of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty. One of the keynote speakers was Dr. Salman Abu-Sitta, a London, England-based former member of the Palestine National Council.

Toronto city councillor Olivia Chow was scheduled to be at the Al-Awda Awards Dinner on Saturday night and give a talk there, but "she was sick" and did not attend, said her assistant Matthew Lee.

Al-Awda describes itself as a broad-based, non-partisan, global democratic association of grassroots activists lobbying for the inalienable right of Palestinian refugees to return to their former homes in what is now Israel.

Rejecting a two-state solution, the premise of current diplomacy to resolve Israel's dispute with the Palestinians, Al-Awda claims that the legal basis of the right of return is enshrined in two documents: United Nations resolution 194, passed Dec. 11, 1948, and article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

At the close of the conference, billed as Al-Awda's first annual convention, a delegate predicted that Israelis will be forced "to budge," to accept a one-state solution some day.

(None of the individuals who spoke at the closing session identified themselves before speaking.)

According to Al-Awda, the first Arab-Israeli war created almost 800,000 Palestinian refugees.

Al-Awda says that more than 3.7 million such refugees are registered with the United Nations and that about 2 million unregistered refugees live in countries and regions "within a very short distance of their original homes and lands."

Another delegate described Israel, rather than Israelis, as "the enemy." He implied that Israeli Jews would be permitted to live in a Palestinian state that supplanted Israel.

Al-Awda's Web site (www.al-awda.org) claims that Israelis would not have to be displaced for the right of return to be implemented.

"A study of the demography of Israel shows that 78 per cent of Israelis are living in 14 per cent of Israel and that the remaining 86 per cent of the land in Israel is mostly land that belongs to the refugees."

Delegates passed a resolution rejecting the road map, saying it suppresses the human and national rights of the Palestinians and tries to end the intifadah.

Excoriating the Palestinian Authority, led by President Yasser Arafat and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, one delegate declared, "We don't recognize the self-elected and self-proclaimed Palestinian leadership."

Another delegate charged that the PA "compromises" Palestinian rights.

The delegates, most of whom were Arabs and appeared to be in their 20s and 30s, defined Israel as a "racist," "apartheid," "squatter" and "illegitimate" state without any right to exist.

They concurred that the phrase "Zionist colonization," rather than the word "occupation," should be used to describe Israel's presence in the Middle East.

"Occupation," a delegate argued, implies recognition of Israel.

Delegates agreed that the phrase "Palestine/Israel," which peace activists in Canada and the United States often use, is unacceptable because of its implicit recognition of Israel.

Continued on page 15

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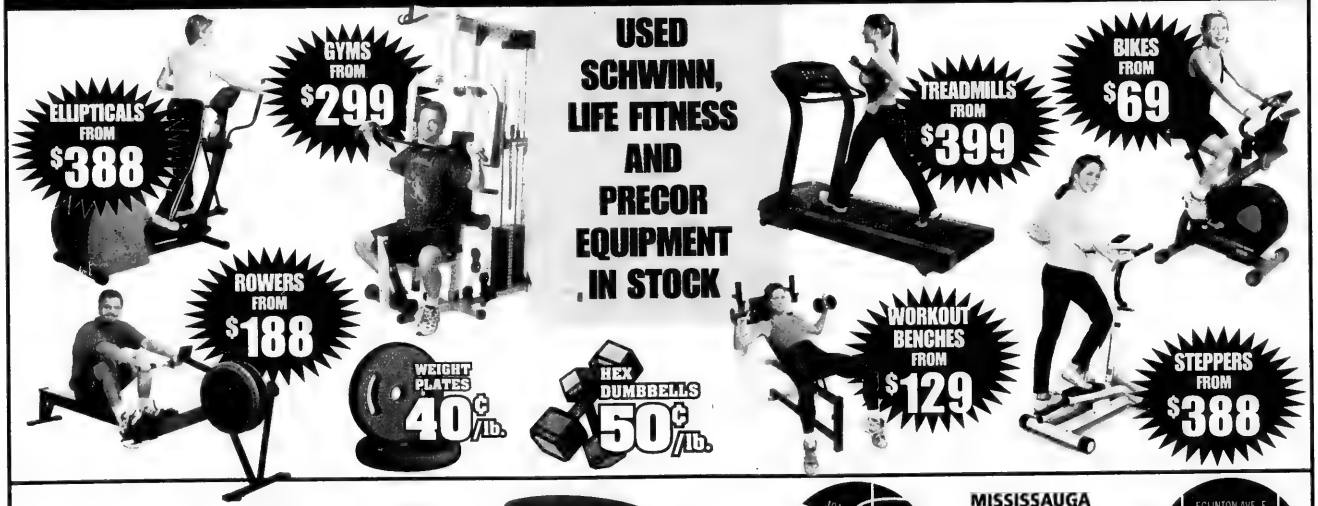

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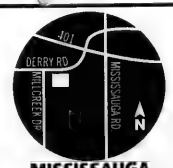

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Greater Toronto Area

Stratford's Ottawa sisters

On May 8 in this space, I wrote about the positive impact the parents of Susan Schulman, the director of *The King and I* at this year's Stratford Festival, had on the artistic path she would eventually follow.

There are more such stories about Stratford artists to be told.

Lynn and Robert Gould moved from Montreal to Ottawa early in their young married and professional lives, with a young toddler, Jennifer, in tow. In Ottawa, they eventually had two more children, Adrienne and Jonathan, all born four years apart and during the same week of the year as Jennifer.

From the editor's desk

Lynn is an interior decorator with an "extremely artistic flair," as daughter Adrienne told *The CJN*. Robert is a lawyer by vocation, but a singer and a thespian by avocation who always performed magic tricks around his children, often recruiting them to serve as his assistants for his neighbourhood magic shows.

The Goulds' home, merely metres from their shul, Machzikei Hadas, was a veritable greenhouse of song and dance in which their three young flowers eventually blossomed full of self-confident colour and artistry.

Indeed, all three Gould children chose lives in theatre. Jennifer and Adrienne are integral members of the acting cast at Stratford Festival of Canada. Jonathan is presently plying his profession in New York.

The CJN recently spoke with the two Gould sisters who, for the first time in their professional careers, are in the same production, Lerner and Loewe's *Gigi*.

Jennifer plays the title role of Gigi as well as that of unlucky, forlorn La Esmeralda in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Both roles are demanding. She performs seven shows a week this season, her fifth at Stratford. But she takes it all in energetic stride. She loves her work and her life in all its multifaceted, fulfilling individual and familial dimensions.

Jennifer's family ties are very close. She immediately conveys to the inquiring writer the sense of gratitude she feels to her parents. When she was 10 years old, she told *The CJN*, she and her father auditioned and both won roles with the Orpheus Operatic Society in Ottawa in its production of *Music Man*.

That was the initial taste of theatre that Jennifer would imbibe ever after. After she obtained a degree in fine arts from York University, she apprenticed at Stratford, where she has performed in a number of productions, including *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Filumena*, *Camelot*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Amadeus*.

Adrienne is in her fourth season at Stratford. She studied fine arts in North Carolina and spent about a year in New York before finding her way to Stratford at the invitation of the late Al Waxman, who cast her in the role of Margot in *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Her credits at Stratford, which include roles in *The Merchant of Venice*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Tempest-Tost*, are similarly impressive.

The sisters delight in each other's achievements and rightfully so because they are both very talented.

Jennifer is very strong in the role of Gigi. She executes with elegance and charm the transformation of the young teenager from innocent, churlish waif to more experienced, maturing debutante. Her "porcelain beauty," as described by one writer, is highlighted to the great advantage of the production. The spotlight illuminates her enchanting presence on stage. Her singing is robust and her exchanges with other characters flow lightly, smoothly.

Adrienne's role in the production is a less dominant one but more acrobatic: that of a dancer and of Madame Laverne. But her presence on stage is at times electric, especially in the last large ensemble dance scene where at one point, she stands on one leg, effectively doing a fully vertical splits, the other leg tagging the shoulder of her dance partner. Of her younger sister's abilities, Jennifer proudly notes that Adrienne has always been "very gumby-ish" and athletic.

There are difficulties, of course, with the story of *Gigi*. It is a tale about a young courtesan. It does not hold up well today. Indeed, we suspend our moral framework to focus on and appreciate the sheer spectacle and theatre of the tale.

That spectacle is a colourful romp of exquisite costume, choreography and song. The five key roles of Gigi, Gaston, Honoré, Mamita and Alicia are performed with great confidence and clarity. The interplay between the sisters Mamita and Alicia is a delight. Patricia Collins as Aunt Alicia is superb, perfectly exaggerating the aristocratic character to fit the role of Gigi's great-aunt's wise and wizened mentor.

The beautiful flowers that grew from the seeds Lynn and Robert Gould planted some three decades ago are on display at the Stratford Festival. It is a garden from which all of us can learn as parents and take delight as reviewers.

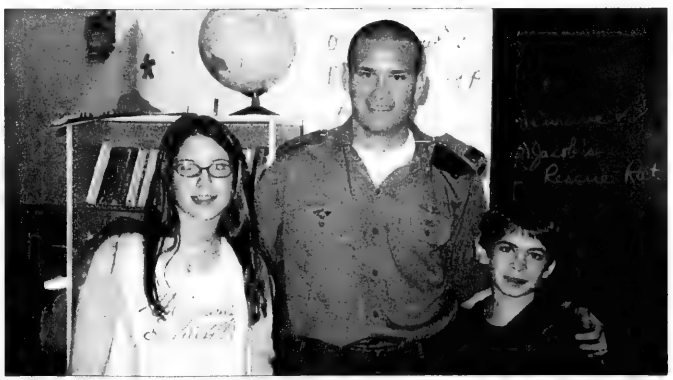
Adrienne and Jennifer Gould

* * *

Change is difficult to undertake and difficult to write about. Beginning in July, Gil Troy will write in the monthly space that Morton Weinfeld has occupied so sagely for these past eight years. We owe Prof. Weinfeld a great debt for contributing so ably to *The CJN*.

—*MBD*

SeeJN



SOLDIERS MEET STUDENTS: **Israel Defence Forces soldiers recently visited Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto to talk firsthand about their experiences in the army, life in Israel and their feelings on visiting Canada. Seen here are Leo Baeck students Jessica Gottlieb and Zak Mandel sharing a special moment with their guest.**

Film analyzes breakdown of Oslo peace process

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Review

The Oslo peace process, which lasted from 1993 to 2001, is the subject of *Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in Israel*, a chilling but factually incomplete documentary.

Relentless had its Canadian premiere at the Bloor Cinema recently. It was produced by HonestReporting.com, which describes itself as a "Web site dedicated to ensuring that Israel receives fair media coverage."

The issues the film raises are timely, given Israel's current talks with the Palestinians over the road map, the U.S-sponsored peace plan.

The one-hour movie, directed by Wayne Kopping and Brian Spector, offers a fleeting overview of the Arab-Israeli conflict from 1947 – the year the United Nations presented, and the Arab world rejected, the Palestine partition scheme – to the present.

In the main, however, this visually strong film concentrates on the breakdown of the Oslo talks, a diplomatic framework that aimed to give Israel and the Palestinians a creative way out of the cycle of bloodshed and despair.

Like Henry Kissinger's diplomacy in the post-Yom Kippur War era, Oslo was a step-by-step process designed to build mutual confidence and trust through interim accords.

A two-state solution was not Oslo's explicit objective, but everyone understood this would be the final outcome if talks succeeded.

Once the thorny issues, from permanent borders to Palestinian refugees, were settled, Israel and the new Palestinian Authority would supposedly coexist in harmony.

Of course, this grand bargain depended on the degree to which both sides honoured their commitments. The Palestinians were expected to disown, denounce and crack down on violence and terrorism, stop incitement and internalize their formal acceptance of Israel.

Israel, primarily, was expected to make a series of mutually agreed upon withdrawals from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, populated mainly by Palestinian Arabs, but also by Jews living in settlements.

Relentless claims that while Israel basically lived up to its obligations, the Palestinians essentially violated them.

True enough. The Palestinians broke many of their solemn promises. No sooner had the 1993 Declaration of Principles been signed and sealed than Palestinian gunmen opposed to peace began killing Israeli civilians and soldiers. And from 1994 onward, Hamas and Islamic Jihad resorted to suicide bombings to undermine Oslo. Rarely did the PA rein in the terror.

In addition, the Palestinian media demonized Israel and Jews, while Palestinian schools and mosques poisoned untold minds.

And as *Relentless* shows conclusively, PA President Yasser Arafat played a disingenuous role in mobilizing Palestinian masses against the idea of real peace while earnestly proclaiming his desire for peace.

The film acknowledges Israel was "not perfect" in complying with Oslo, citing as an example the building and expansion of settlements. But this important aspect of Israeli policy – which the United States, Canada and others have consistently described as unilateralism and thus an obstacle to peace – is only glossed over.

According to *Relentless*, Israel ceded all lands required of it, but in fact, Israel did not carry out the third withdrawal. And when Israeli spokesperson Raanan Gissin says that Israel ceded 42 per cent of the West Bank to the PA, he neglects to mention that the PA gained full control of only 18 per cent of the territory.

For some reason, Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's prime minister during a pivotal phase of the Oslo experiment (1996-1999), is left out of the picture. Is this a glaring oversight or a deliberate omission? Whatever the case, this yawning gap damages the film's credibility.

Relentless claims the PA did not amend its national covenant. In actuality, the PA revised the covenant, not once but twice.

The film asks rhetorically: What do the Palestinians want? The answer: Israel's elimination.

This is an over-simplification. Some Palestinians do seek Israel's destruction. But what about pragmatic Palestinians, such as Mahmoud Abbas and Sari Nusseibeh, who are working tirelessly for peace? Are we to think Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is knowingly, though naively, negotiating with Palestinians who reject a two-state solution?

Hate charges laid for CDs

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Toronto police have laid hate-promotion charges after seizing a large number of compact discs from a 21-year old who was selling them at a concert in January.

Police attended a concert in Etobicoke on Jan. 11 at which several "white supremacist skinhead bands" performed, police said in a statement. At the conclusion of the show, police seized the CDs, which contained music by "hate rock" groups.

Charged is Mark Roy of Toronto, who faces 15 counts of wilfully promoting hatred. Roy is scheduled to appear in court July 16.

Canadian Jewish Congress applauded the police service's hate crimes unit for its diligence in monitoring the hate performances.

"The hate crimes unit has shown us that hate laws in this country are being used and every effort is made to ensure that hate material will not be distributed," said Frank Bialystok, chair of community relations for CJC's' Ontario region.

Det. James Hogan of the hate crimes unit declined to comment on the case or provide additional details.

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Liberal MPP votes with Tories to pass tax credit

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Liberal MPP Monte Kwinter voted with the government last week as the Ontario legislature passed the bill entrenching the private school tax credit in law.

Bill 53 passed by a vote of 51-36. Kwinter (York Centre), who had been criticized for voting against the measure when it passed first reading last month, was the only Liberal or NDP MPP to support the bill.

His vote earned him a standing ovation from the Tories in the legislature last Wednesday.

A vocal supporter of tax relief for faith-based schools but not other private schools, Kwinter voted against his own party, whose leader, Dalton McGuinty, has promised to kill the credit should the Liberals form the next government.

Monte Kwinter

"First readings are procedural and [voting along party lines] is automatic," Kwinter told *The CJN*. "I have always had concerns about how the government has handled this. I don't support funding of elite or private schools that have no standards or don't disclose them, but I've always supported [relief] for faith-based schools."

Kwinter said he voted against Bill 53 on first reading "because I don't want [the government] to think I buy into everything they've done." He said he voted with the Tory government to pass the bill because "I felt I had to be counted in the end."

Asked how he reconciles his views with his leader's pledge to repeal the credit, Kwinter said, "Well, first, we have to win the election. After that, it will be important to have someone at the table to present the other side."

The bill places the Equity in Education Tax Credit back on its original schedule.

When introduced in the 2001-2002 budget by former finance minister Jim Flaherty, the measure – a milestone in the Jewish community's fight for government funding of Jewish day schools – entitled parents of children in private and faith-based schools to a tax credit of up to $700 per child, or 10 per cent of the first $7,000 of tuition fees. The credit was to rise 10 per cent per year, and be worth up to $3,500 per child annually by 2006.

A year ago, Premier Ernie Eves announced the province could not afford that and froze the credit at 10 per cent for two years. But in March, he reversed the freeze, meaning the credit, as intended, will be worth 20 per cent of tuition for 2003. Bill 53 entrenches the move in law and fully implements the credit's rise through to its maturity.

"We're very pleased Monte Kwinter saw the justice in the tax credit," said Yisroel Janowski, founding president of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools, who was in the legislature to witness the vote.

"It's unfortunate that others in the Liberal party didn't come to a similar realization."

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CD-ROM looks at Islamic extremists

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Radical Islamic groups are turning to the Internet to raise money, recruit suicide-bombers, send encoded messages and offer hate-motivated games to children.

Extremist groups such as Al Qaeda are using the Internet in a very sophisticated manner, said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Center.

In fact, they are making "far more sophisticated use of the Internet than white supremacists. They're head and shoulders above that," he said.

Rabbi Cooper was in Toronto and Ottawa recently to launch the latest version of the centre's annual CD-ROM compilation of hate groups. This year's CD-ROM, Digital Hate and Terrorism 2003, focuses heavily on the efforts of Islamic radicals to market their cause to a wider public, he said.

More than 4,000 problematic sites were examined by centre researchers and that number was pared down to a more manageable sampling of 200 Web sites on the CD. One group, Jihad for Muslims, infiltrated Yahoo clubs to get Web access, Rabbi Cooper said, adding that what's particularly troubling is the site sponsors were probably aware they would be quickly shut down by the Web host. (Yahoo removed them after one day.) It appears they used the site to spread secret messages to supporters through the use of steganography, embedding secret codes in the text.

Another Islamic group advocates creation of a universal Islamic caliphate, but the group goes beyond simple rhetoric. "It went so far as to make death threats against 10 prominent Jews in Denmark," Rabbi Cooper said.

The CD-ROM also lists a Web site that extols Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden and the 19 suicide bombers who attacked New York and Washington. The site also provides children with video games that start with prayers and move on to an animation of the interior of a jetliner crashing into the World Trade Center towers.

Yet another Web site, attributed to the Palestinian Information Centre, features an eagle pulling flesh from a human skull: "We will use the skulls of Zion's sons to build a bridge to Heaven," the site reads.

"This call for suicide bombers, issued by the terrorist Hamas organization, was made not from its base in Gaza but by supporters in Sweden," the CD-ROM notes.

White supremacists continue to use the Internet as well, focusing on "leaderless resistance" to mainstream society, but they have also put out feelers to join forces with radical Muslims in a limited way. Though the two sides do not share operational links, they subscribe to the maxim that "my enemy's enemy is my friend," with the result that the racist National Alliance has held demonstrations at the Israeli embassy in Washington in support of the Palestinian "right of return." During Ramadan, David Duke, the former Klansman, was an honoured guest in Bahrain where he spoke on the U.S. responsibility for the 9/11 attacks, Rabbi Cooper said.

Canadian law enforcement and intelligence units deserve "high grades" for their monitoring of terrorism and hatemongers, but Rabbi Cooper said he questioned whether the legislative branch – which was slow to ban Hezbollah as a terrorist organization – fully understands the danger.

"I'm not sure a lot of Canadians get it, and see a clear and present danger to our society and our values," he said.

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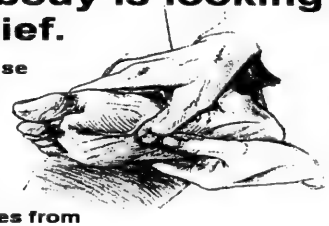
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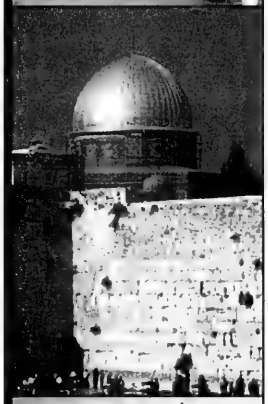

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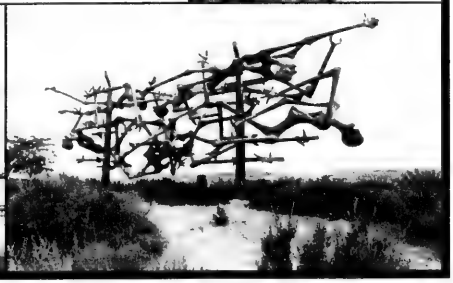

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Only wariness

A majority of Israelis support their government's willingness to test Mahmoud Abbas' bona fides and that of the Palestinian Authority's (PA) in their professed intention to police their own people. The decision to withdraw IDF forces from Gaza and imminently from Bethlehem is part of that test.

But though there is support by the majority for their government's decision, there is certainly no accompanying sense of optimism. There is, rather, profound wariness. Israelis bear no illusions when it comes to the true intentions of Hamas and their kindred fellows.

For his part, Abbas is trumpeting as a great achievement the three-month "ceasefire" against attacks on Israelis he arranged with the radical Palestinian Islamists. He is obviously hoping that it will displace the need to "dismantle the terror infrastructure" as he promised he would.

Not to be left behind in the dust of these rolling developments, Yasser Arafat proclaimed a six-month ceasefire of all Fatah actions against Israelis. In so doing, of course, he proved yet again the naked hypocrisy of every peace nostrum he has uttered in the past and the brazen fraudulence of every denial of responsibility for violence against Israelis that emanated from Fatah or its related thugs. (Indeed, we note that the Fatah-created Al Aksa Martyrs Brigade was not included in the ceasefire declaration.)

Israelis will soon know if Abbas and the PA are truly intent on finding an accommodation with them. The test will be in Abbas' efforts to eliminate terror– not in his pronouncements.

Did we fail our friends?

It is a poignant cri de coeur. In the essay on the following page, Martin Lockshin and Rachael Turkienicz eloquently plead with us to "consider the ethical aspects of the [SARS] tragedy and to think about them in a Jewish way." Underpinning their plea was the way some of us may have behaved towards friends and neighbours who were unfortunately caught up in the SARS quarantines. Trapped and immobilized by our own fears, did we fail them? In some cases, alas, we did.

We may have added to their sense of isolation rather than help to dissipate it. We may have extended their feeling of woe rather than diminish it.

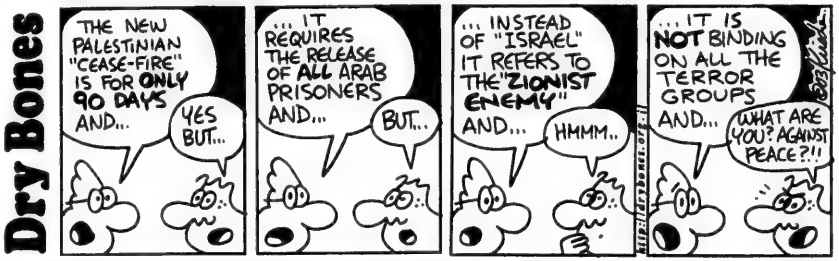
Our friends and neighbours are our community. And our sages have always taught that "he who shares in the community's trouble will also share in its consolation."

But by failing our friends, we failed our community. We did not share in the trouble that was theirs, but never theirs alone. In truth, it was ours as well, although some of us did not see that.

Quarantine should never have been ostracism. Where it was, it was wrong. We must all reflect upon and learn from our own behaviours.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.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Understanding Tikkun Olam

In his column "Frank Ekstein: a godly atheist," Avrum Rosensweig writes that any Jewish atheist who aids his fellow man is practising tikkun olam (*CJN*, June 5). Like other progressive Jews, Rosensweig believes tikkun olam is a major tenet of Judaism.

However, if you open a siddur to the second paragraph of the *Aleinu* prayer, where the concept of tikkun olam is defined, you will find that the paragraph, but for four Hebrew words, is a prayer for the kingdom of God, and even those few words speak of the injunction "to mend the world under the Almighty's sovereignty." Without God at its centre, it is not tikkun olam but secular humanism.

The first principle in Judaism is belief in God. The Torah commences, "In the beginning, God created…," or as commentators interpret it, the beginning of wisdom is belief in God as the Creator. The Torah ends with the word "Israel," whose last syllable means God.

Many Jews who embrace tikkun olam are hostile to traditional Jewish values. Last year, one of the men in a prominent Jewish same-sex union, claimed that when the Reform movement sanctioned such relationships, it performed an act of tikkun olam. Similarly, many secular Jews who show solidarity with the Palestinians but are heartless to the Israeli victims of evil Palestinian suicide bombers, latch on to only one "mitzvah" – tikkun olam.

Jacob Mendlovic
Toronto

* * *

Tuition fees unavoidable

I recently read the response by Sheldon Carr, president of Associated Hebrew Schools, to the concerns of many Associated parents ("Associated responds to fee increase," *CJN*, Letters to the Editor, June 5). Unfortunately, Carr just does not get it. Parents can no longer afford exorbitant tuition fees. Insults and old clichés will not make the situation any better.

The philosophy "that no Jewish child should be denied a day school education for financial reasons" is constantly repeated. If this is the case, why is tuition set beyond the reach of the average family? Subsidies are offered, but only for parents willing to beg for funds. Parents are told to make sacrifices and forgo holiday trips, summer camp, RRSP contributions and parties, yet such expenses are deemed acceptable for parents who are prepared to bare their souls to tuition committees. Parents who refuse this humiliation are referred to as "uncommitted Jews."

Carr mentions that UJA Federation funding has been frozen for more than a decade, placing the burden on parents who pay full fees. Why has he waited until now to advise parents of this shortfall?

Most of the $800,000 in "budget cuts" are a direct result of reduced enrolment and pre-planned reductions. What about the new programs that were introduced at a cost of $3.7 million (over $2,000 per student)? How much do existing programs cost? How many students attend each program? What is the cost per student?

Tuition fees have increased $1,800 over a five-year period, an increase of approximately 25 per cent. Whose income has gone up 10 per cent, let alone 25 per cent in the past five years?

It is nice that Associated is the envy of many other communities, but at what cost? Parents cannot afford to pay for programs that benefit small segments of the population. They cannot afford to subsidize programs they are not using. They cannot afford to educate other parents' children. Parents have been trying to tell this to school administrations for years, as evidenced by the reduced enrolments. Ignoring these warning signs has resulted in the loss of thousands of students from the day school system. How much longer must this continue?

David Shainhouse
Toronto

* * *

Questions for Emmanuel Anati

Your recent articles about Mount Sinai highlight the need for every Jew to know ancient as well as modern Jewish history ("Locating Mount Sinai," *CJN*, June 5 and 12).

Unfortunately, Emmanuel Anati is barking up the wrong mountain. Deuteronomy (2:1) tells us that Mount Sinai is an 11-day journey from Kadesh Barnea. At a rate of 20 to 30 miles per day (average rate on foot in the desert), the two locations are 200 to 300 miles apart.

The location of Kadesh Barnea is well-known and not disputed – the central Negev. Har Karkom is also in the central Negev, only a short distance away.

Anati's work is facinating and reveals the pre-history of the Negev, 1,000 years before the Israelites arrived, but tells us nothing about Mount Sinai.

Joe Greenbaum
Hamilton, Ont.

Emmanuel Anati responds

The question asked by Joe Greenbaum has a precise explanation on pages 52 and 53 of the book The Riddle of Mount Sinai. *A map is included! The 11-day journey from Kadesh Barnea to Mount Sinai by the way of Mount Seir has been surveyed in the field. In the Bible, there are several good hints about the location of Mount Sinai. All of them are discussed in the book.*

Emmanuel Anati
Centro Camuno Studi Preistorici
Capo di Ponte, Italy

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

SARS, quarantine and Jewish ethics

By MARTIN LOCKSHIN and RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Toronto is still reeling from the recent outbreak of SARS. The Jewish community has not been spared. While the names of SARS victims are not being released, the latest official statistics (the day this article was written) showed 35 deaths from SARS in Toronto. We personally know of five Jews who have died from SARS, and there may have been more. In a city whose population is less than four per cent Jewish, at least 14 per cent of the fatalities have been Jews. No wonder the Jewish community feels so affected by this tragic problem.

Like everyone else, when Jews in Toronto talk about SARS, they talk about their fears and their trust or lack of trust in the medical and public health systems, as well as the sadness and uncertainty engendered by a surprising epidemic such as this in the 21st century. Some Jews actually discuss the theological significance of SARS. Sadly, though, we have heard very few Jews in Toronto discussing the ethical issues. This is a plea to our community to consider the ethical aspects of the tragedy, and to think about them in a Jewish way.

In the last few weeks, both of us have attended the funeral of more than one SARS victim. One of our families (Rachael's) has undergone tremendous challenges over the last month as a result of SARS. Several family members became infected with the disease after visiting a local hospital. Others were quarantined as a precautionary measure to ensure they had not also been infected. Thank God, the immediate family are now all healthy and SARS-free, but some were critically ill, and some extended family members were, tragically, lost forever.

By and large, the support from the Jewish community, both in Toronto and internationally, was overwhelming and tremendously comforting. Many people expressed concern through letters, cards and e-mails, while others called. Food was delivered to quarantined homes, some accompanied by cards and some anonymously. Toys were also delivered so that quarantined children could escape their thoughts for a few hours when they were unable to leave the house. People were praying, wishing the quarantined and the ill well, sending positive thoughts and offering, again and again, to help. In short, over the last few weeks, the family saw some of the most moving and caring behaviour possible. They are overwhelmed and touched that people could be – and were – so kind. Their behaviour was exemplary.

And yet, as with most things in life, there is another, less pleasant side to the story. While many people were eager to reach out, others shied away when time came for personal interaction. One relative, a small boy who was never in quarantine, developed an ear infection and his parents could not find a doctor who would agree to treat him. One cousin who never became sick and whose precautionary quarantine had been over for some time sat shivah for her father without a single visitor. Some of the children in the family were verbally accosted by strangers who grilled them to learn the details of their losses.

In several cases, quarantines were unofficially "extended." People who had never been ill but had been in precautionary quarantine were asked to stay home from work or to keep their children out of school, perhaps indefinitely, beyond the period determined by the health authorities.

We hope this article will stimulate a discussion about how people should behave toward their friends and neighbours after quarantine.

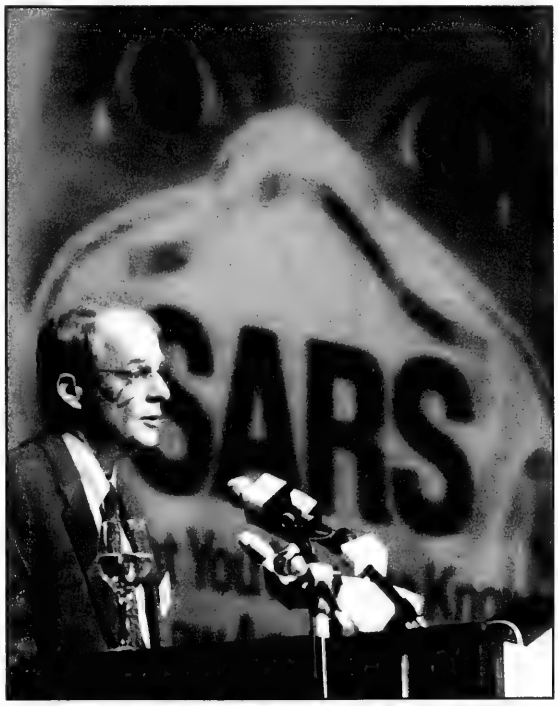
What does Judaism teach us about risk management? Rabbinic tradition teaches us that one of the most important mitzvot is the biblical requirement "*venishmartem me'od lenafshotechem*," of taking care of our bodies, which were entrusted to us from God, and refraining from doing anything to endanger our health. From that point of view, we can understand that there might be, in theory, Jewish grounds for taking an extremely cautious approach to SARS and going far beyond the requirements of the public health authorities.

Is there anything unethical about the decision of frightened Torontonians to stay away from Blue Jays' games, to avoid movies and theatre, to refrain from riding the bus and to keep their children away from those venues as precautions to ensure they don't contract SARS? Probably not. Does Jewish law require or recommend such behaviour? Hardly. People who wish to be especially fearful and cautious are not contravening Jewish law, but they are also not behaving in an exemplary manner. Jews are required to fear God, fear our parents and fear sin, but not to fear death or contagion. Much as that may be an initial human response, it is not the response of our tradition.

> Judaism expects us to support the values of our nation in the face of our fears

With all of the importance of *venishmartem me'od lenafshotechem*, we know of no serious scholars of Jewish law who have ever suggested that Jewish law forbids airplane flights, riding bicycles on Steeles Avenue or slalom skiing. All those activities involve danger, and yet we all assume the benefit derived from them outweighs the danger involved. No one advocates taking blind risks, but we proceed with our activities with reasonable precautions.

Compare our SARS predicament to the issue of travel to Israel. We are all sadly aware that there is danger involved in travel to Israel today. Still, our community leaders urge us – quite correctly – to travel to Israel despite, or perhaps even because of, the danger. (Both of us have visited Israel in the last two months and one is on his way back in the next few weeks.) We know there is much to be gained for both travellers and Israelis from visiting Israel now, and we believe the benefit outweighs the risk. No expert can predict when and where a catastrophe might strike. So we take reasonable precautions and we book our trips. Judaism expects us to support the important values of our nation in the face of our human fears, understandable as they might be.



SARS REPRIEVE: Dr. James Hughes, the director of the United States National Center for Infectious Diseases, speaks at the World Health Organization's (WHO) first global conference on severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on June 17. Health officials from around the world gathered for the two-day meeting, certain that the worst of the disease was over but already girding for the next viral epidemic. [RNS Reuters photo by Bazuki Muhammad]

What then can Jewish ethics say to the Toronto Jew who is trying to decide how to respond to families touched by SARS? To us it seems that the required Jewish approach is clear.

If an individual Jew wishes to take a more stringent approach to the mitzvah of *venishmartem me'od lenafshotechem* by refraining from flying on an airplane, or from riding a bicycle or skiing, that is well and good. But there is no Jewish justification for a person who says that he or she, as part of the observance of *venishmartem me'od lenafshotechem*, is entitled to marginalize and stigmatize anyone.

Scholars of Jewish law have noted that in fulfilling the mitzvot of helping those in need of help and of not standing idly by while our neighbours suffer, the helper must be willing to risk some amount of danger. For example, the mitzvah of trying to save another person's life must, logically, apply even in cases where there is some (albeit smaller) danger to the rescuer's own life if he or she tries to help.

Sadly, due to the necessary precautions involved in containing SARS, many families in this city have found themselves mourning alone. Technically, Jewish law was followed as closely as possible, but spiritually, these mourners could not avail themselves of the personal contact that, Jewish law teaches us, is a crucial part of the healing process. Once the period of isolation has passed, the community, its institutions and its leaders must not neglect to address this gap. Fear must not stop our community from offering people a way to be welcomed home and an opportunity to heal.

Let us hope the model of those generous and giving people who reached out to the families of SARS victims will inspire all of us to better behaviour. Let us hope, in particular, that the models of these individuals will be noticed by Jewish institutions and their leaders, who will then teach other Jews what Judaism requires of us all.

Judaism does not abandon us to our human fears. It guides us to respond to them on a higher level.

Martin Lockshin is director of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University. Rachael Turkienicz teaches at York and is a regular columnist for The CJN.

Opinions

Taking time to listen

I listened in fascination as he told his story. I had heard bits of it before, usually as anecdotes that gave added perspective to one or another of the current issues we often discussed. But on this particular night, his narrative was much more than a succession of disparate memories. It was his uninterrupted recollection of a sequence of events that would so permanently change the course of his life and forever define who he was and where he came from.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

He began by talking about his teenage years in Romania during the early 1940s, about how the normalcy of peacetime was irrevocably shattered as the German army moved in. The comforts of home were soon replaced by more than two years of deprivation and hardship in a forced labour camp. He actually didn't elaborate too much on what happened there, nor on what conditions were like under Communist rule after the Nazis were driven out.

Instead, he seemed to prefer to move on to the next phase of his unfolding saga, jumping ahead to the fall of 1947 when, with the help of the Zionist movement, he was able to reach Bulgaria and there board a freighter filled with 8,000 other Jewish refugees bound for Eretz Yisrael. He well remembers the cramped and difficult voyage through the Bosphorous and Dardanelles and their subsequent diversion to Cyprus by Royal Navy destroyers that had intercepted their ramshackle vessel as it entered the Mediterranean.

What followed was further detention behind barbed wire, this time under the British. The 17 months he spent in that displaced persons camp were intensely unpleasant and demoralizing, but what always seemed to sustain him, despite such adversity, was his conviction that, sooner or later, the political tide would turn and that he, and tens of thousands like him, would eventually be able to find their rightful refuge in Israel. He was right.

Shortly after arriving in Haifa, in February 1949, he moved to the Tel Aviv area. There he met a beautiful young sabra – now his wife of 52 years. He and one of his brothers were later able to re-unite with their sister and aging father and, in 1951, the family came to Montreal, sponsored by their uncle, who had already immigrated to Canada decades before.

Regrettably, space does not permit me to relate more than just a small segment of what my father-in-law told me about his remarkable journey. But perhaps the value of his account is not so much in the recording of it as it is in just listening to it. For therein lies one of the most time-honoured principles of learning: the oral record, passed on from one generation to the next.

Standing on guard

A few mornings ago, I went to a supermarket near my home to do some grocery shopping for the weekend. What could be more banal? In Israel, it's anything but. In Jerusalem, such an outing can be a death-defying act, or worse.

Arriving at the entrance to the grocery store in the Kiryat Yovel neighbourhood, an armed security guard greeted me dryly. "*Yesh l'cha neshek?* [Do you have a gun?]," he asked me robotically. All the while, he guided his handheld metal detector across my torso and legs, before doing a thorough hand-search of my knapsack.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

He was risking his life. In a way, so was I. In that very spot, just over a year ago, another security guard blocked a Palestinian suicide bomber from entering the store. In so doing, Haim Smadar, 55, was blown to pieces along with a teenage shopper when the female terrorist detonated her explosives.

"The alert response of the security guard prevented a much greater tragedy," said Jerusalem Police Commander Mickey Levy, shortly after the attack. "He saved many lives."

Sadly, this was but one of many such incidents in recent years in which a security guard thwarted a far worse atrocity and in the process was killed or severely wounded.

"Yesh l'cha neshek?" These days this is one of the more frequently asked questions in Israel, where Palestinian violence has led many people to carry guns. Several times a day, I answer no to security guards and then prepare for the inevitable frisking. As startling and invasive as this search would be to most people in Western countries, it's perfectly normal in Israel's abnormal reality.

Throughout the country, especially in the main cities, security guards are everywhere. In Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, their inspections have become a necessary nuisance and standard procedure at the entrance to bars, cafes, restaurants, nightclubs, cinemas, bus stations, hotels, supermarkets, shopping malls, office buildings and even hospitals.

We have Palestinian mass murderers to thank for that. Security guards have become one of the defining images of a society under siege from terrorists. They are a testament to the more than100 attacks that Palestinian suicide bombers have carried out in Israel since September 2000, mostly on civilian locations, not counting countless other planned attacks that the army and police have aborted.

Israelis have long been accustomed to security guards posted at high-risk, sensitive sites. But now they guard places where once no one would have believed they would ever be needed. Alas, with Palestinian terrorists hell-bent on killing as many Israelis as possible, every place where people frequent is a potential target.

As a result, the security guard business is thriving. The country's 300 security-guard companies can barely keep up with the demand. If the job is virtually the same at every location, the guards on duty vary widely. Standing at entrances like human scarecrows, some are armed with automatic weapons while most pack pistols in holsters or clipped to their belts. Many wield hand-held metal detectors, and the odd one also has a can of mace.

Some guards look neat, others disheveled. Their uniforms differ according to the firm that employs them. Some are spiffy, with well-ironed shirts and vests sporting logos and crests. The attire of others is austere and ruffled. Many are new immigrants from Russia or Ethiopia. While some are young, fit and well-trained, many are not.

Despite their differences, security guards all face the same risk and poor work conditions. Amid reports of widespread mistreatment of guards by their employers, the Knesset Interior Committee looked into the matter last month. Committee Chairman Yuri Stern said that every day Israelis entrust their safety to security guards who risk their lives for a pittance. He decried the shameless exploitation of those who, like human shields, are often the first and last line of defence against Palestinian suicide bombers.

Alexander Bukin, a representative of the Security Guards Association, told the committee that most companies pay the guards less than the minimum wage, impose on them an excessive work schedule and abuse their basic rights. He said guards must put in nearly 300 hours a month to earn a living.

Surely, for their vital role and often life-saving acts of courage, security guards deserve a lot better. Surely, our security is worth it.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Accepting Israel as a Jewish state

At the June 4 Aqaba summit meeting meant to officially kick off the "road map" to the latest Middle East peace process, U.S. President George W. Bush's speech included a specific reference to the recognition of Israel as a Jewish state. A number of Arab leaders and commentators responded angrily, and, once again, the concept of a Jewish state was labelled as racist and unacceptable.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

However, Bush was merely restating the obvious. The United Nations recognized the legitimacy of a Jewish state on Nov. 29 1947, when a two-thirds majority adopted Resolution 181. Under this partition framework, what remained of mandated Palestine (after the British split off a large part to provide a home for the Hashemite family in what became Transjordan) was to be divided into two states – one for the Jews and one for the Arabs. So why all the fuss, more than 55 years later?

The reason is that this issue remains at the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the deep-seated rejectionism that fuels the continuing terror campaign. The real obstacles to peace are not settlements, occupation, refugees, borders or even the conflict over Jerusalem – these are just symptoms and expressions of much deeper but well-hidden causal factors. When all the rhetoric and propaganda are finally stripped away, the primary problem is the Arab rejection of the concept of Jewish sovereignty in Israel.

For decades, the Arab states simply rejected Israel's legitimacy across the board and called for its destruction. More recently, they have become more sophisticated. Some Arab countries, beginning with Egypt and Jordan, have formally and officially accepted Israel's right to exist. However, in most cases, their rejection of Zionism as the "national liberation movement" of the Jewish people has not changed. The clearest evidence was provided three years ago, at the Camp David summit, when Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat rejected any terms – particularly regarding a solution to the dispute on refugee claims and on Jerusalem – that would have meant acceptance of Israel as a Jewish state.

Instead, the propagandists continue their intense efforts to delegitimize the concept of Jewish independence. Arab governments, the United Nations and hundreds of NGOs (funded generously by the European Union and the Canadian government, as well as by well-intentioned but ignorant donors) publicize the absurd claim that a Jewish state is inherently racist. This claim was at the core of the infamous UN World Conference against Racism that took place in Durban, South Africa, in September 2001.

In contrast, no one uses terms such as "racist" or "apartheid" with respect to countries around the world that are officially Muslim, including Egypt, Jordan, and, of course, the Islamic Republic of Iran. There is nothing illegitimate about a country in which the calendar is Jewish, Saturday is the official day of rest, kosher food is generally available and the main language is Hebrew. But for hard-core anti-Israel and anti-Semitic constituencies, Jewish sovereignty is simply unacceptable.

Another excuse used in the attempt to justify rejection of Jewish sovereignty is based on the difficulties this poses for the Arab minority. However, by the same token, Islam's status as Egypt's official religion should be nullified by the presence of a substantial Coptic Christian minority. Similar situations exist in Syria and other Muslim countries. And in North America and Europe, non-Christians minorities are able to make adjustments in a dominant Christian culture. In these societies, under the façade of multiculturalism, the calendars are Christian, as are many other facets of daily life. In other words, this is another excuse for rejecting Israel as a Jewish state.

When Bush pulled back the curtain at Aqaba by talking explicitly about the recognition of Israel as a Jewish state, he exposed this elaborate ruse. Bush and his advisors understand what the Clinton and Peres-Beilin teams failed to consider – that no peace plan can and will go anywhere without acceptance of Jewish sovereignty. In order to avoid a repetition of the Oslo disaster, any road map to peace must begin with a plan to end Palestinian and Arab rejectionism.

The Kirshner File

Henry Ford: an apostle of anti-Semitism

Henry Ford, the American magnate who revolutionized the automobile industry and whose main claim to fame is the inimitable Model-T, was a man driven by conspiracy theories. Not content with mouthing off his cockamamie theories in private, Ford wilfully disseminated them through the medium of the malevolent *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a preposterous Russian tract that claimed Jews were plotting to take over the world and enslave Christians.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The *Protocols*, as well as *The International Jew*, a series of venomous essays inspired by that Czarist forgery, were published in the pages of *The Dearborn Independent* – a newspaper owned by Ford – in the 1920s, a decade of escalating anti-Semitism in the United States.

Threatened by a potentially crippling boycott, Ford eventually closed *The Dearborn Independent*, issued an abject apology and denied that he was hostile to Jews. But, as Neil Baldwin observes in *Henry Ford and the Jews: The Mass Production of Hate* (HarperCollins), Ford never really jettisoned his anti-Jewish views.

Baldwin's rambling but intriguing book, which is based on archival correspondence, previously unreferenced oral history transcripts and unpublished Ford family memoirs, plumbs the depths of Ford's bizarre affinity with anti-Semitism.

Born in 1863 and raised on a farm, Ford was a product of "the social atmosphere of the time," as one of his friends recalled. As an adolescent, he devoured *The McGuffey Reader*, a popular schoolbook featuring William Shakespeare's Shylock and traditional scriptural interpretations condemning Jews for not accepting the gospel of Jesus. As an adult, he was exposed to the Populist political movement, which attributed American railway scandals and economic depressions to the "Rothschilds across the water."

Another major influence was David Starr Jordan, the first president of Stanford University and author of *Unseen Empire*, which claimed that European Jewish bankers controlled the fate of the world.

Detroit, Ford's home and site of his immense River Rouge manufacturing plants, seemed in sync with his thinking. The city was populated by ethnic minorities but dominated by an Anglo Saxon elite and turned increasingly xenophobic in the 1890s. By 1921, the Ku Klux Klan chapter in Michigan was the largest in the United States.

In common with right-wing populists such as Tom Watson, Ford was obsessed by the spectre of Jewish bankers, who, he theorized, "caused" World War I. "I can't give out the facts now, because I haven't got them all yet," he told a visitor in 1915, "but I'll have them soon."

True to his word, Ford found a way to publicize his rantings by purchasing a rural broadsheet. Edwin Pipp, the first editor of *The Dearborn Independent*, promised it would be "an instrument of goodwill." Administered by Ford's parochial secretary of German ancestry, Ernest Gustav Liebold, it drew on a stable of writers. But the star of the staff was doubtless Billy Cameron, an anglophile who held that the British, rather than the "modern Hebrews," were the "chosen people."

Beginning in May 1920, *The Dearborn Independent* launched the first of 91 successive articles entitled *The International Jew: The World's Problem*. The essays, published in book form in 16 languages, including German, described Jews as perpetual and baleful aliens and warned the "proud Gentile race" to wake up and arm itself against "a long-despised race."

Serializing the *Protocols*, *The Dearborn Independent* informed readers that the objective of Jews was to wear down Christian societies by "dissensions, animosities, feuds and famines." A dyed-in-the-wool anti-Semite who never doubted its so-called verities, Liebold said, "If the *Protocols* had not been authentic, we never would have published them. We took the *Protocols* at their face value." Norman Cohn, a historian who has written about the *Protocols*, believes that *The Dearborn Independent* had a marked impact. As he put it: "*The International Jew* probably did more than any other work to make the *Protocols* famous."

Needless to say, the libellous material printed by Ford's rag aroused the anger and indignation of the Jewish community, most of whose leaders preferred quiet diplomacy to resolve the issue.

In this spirit, Louis Marshall, an illustrious lawyer and president of the American Jewish Committee, dispatched a telegraph to Ford in which he accused him of "palpable fabrications." Marshall received an immediate reply. The Dearborn Publishing Company rudely rejected his plea to stop the inflammatory articles.

Leo Franklin, a Reform rabbi, Ford's neighbour and one of the few Jews who knew him personally, decided to approach Ford. Like some Jews, Rabbi Franklin was of the view that Ford was either unaware of the articles in question or that he was "the victim of evil advisors."

Yet, as Baldwin points out, Ford was fully abreast of the situation. "Everything that was being done was being done because of Mr. Ford's wishes in carrying out the idea of revealing to the public the facts pertaining to Jewish activities," Liebold said.

When Rabbi Franklin asked for a retraction, Ford refused. Incensed, the rabbi returned a customized Model T he had recently received from Ford as a gift. He also sent Ford a stiff letter complaining that the articles were poisoning "the minds of the masses against the Jews." Liebold chastized the rabbi, hoping he would come to realize that "Mr. Ford's position is correct."

Henry Ford

To add insult to injury, Ford, through a spokesperson, subsequently reiterated his belief that the articles provided a service. "Let there be no ambiguity about the… articles in progress," the statement declared. "They are 'lessons' for the American public to 'learn,' not 'attacks as has been commonly misconstrued. We do not hate the Jews."

Ford may actually have believed his own lies. In his heart of hearts, he may have thought he did not have a prejudiced bone in his body. After all, his chief architect was Albert Kahn, a German Jew who had designed his factories. Kahn, however, was disillusioned after reading *The Dearborn Independent*, so much so that he avoided meetings with Ford and trips to his plants.

In 1921, Ford suddenly ordered his newspaper to cease publication. His reasons were clear. He feared a Jewish boycott of his cars and wished to buff up his image. But in his memoirs, published in the following year, Ford insinuated that Jews exerted an insidious influence in America. In an interview with *Collier's Magazine*, Ford denigrated Jews and used such choice phrases as "these Jew financiers." Shortly afterward, *The Dearborn Independent* endorsed university admission quotas for Jews.

Nathan Strauss, the co-proprietor of a department store chain in New York, could no longer bear these calumnies. In 1926, he issued a public challenge to Ford to stop his "campaign of slander." But to no avail. In 1927, under the moral persuasion of nationally syndicated columnist Arthur Brisbane, Ford decided "to discontinue absolutely and permanently… all articles such as those that had given offense to Jews."

The upshot of it all is that he issued a public apology and shut down *The Dearborn Independent*.

The apologetic letter, written by Marshall, was somewhat disengenuous. After suggesting that his managers had failed to keep him fully abreast of its contents, Ford described Jews as "fellow brothers" and asked for forgiveness. He then closed the newspaper.

But had Ford changed? Not according to Baldwin. Jottings in his private papers from the 1930s, deposited in the Ford Motor Company Archives, strongly indicate that Ford's dislike of Jews remained constant. One entry reads: "The Jew is out to enslave you."

And yet, for appearances' sake, Ford pretended he had reformed himself. In an essay in the December 1933 edition of *The American Hebrew*, Ford declared, "I am not a Jew hater."

Less than five years later, on his 75th birthday, Ford accepted a special medal from Nazi Germany, the highest honour given to "distinguished foreigners." Ford also continued to lunch with Charles Coughlin, the Detroit priest whose weekly radio sermons stirred up anti-Semitism, and maintained that reports concerning Germany's anti-Semitic policies had been exaggerated.

Ford's grandson, Henry Ford II, who succeded his father Edsel as president of the firm, took bold steps to disassociate Ford from the whiff of anti-Semitism and supported Jewish charities at home and abroad.

In a final break with the past, Ford was the sole sponsor of the television debut of Steven Spielberg's film, *Schindler's List*.

How ironic.

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WE WISH OUR GRADUATING CLASS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THEIR FUTURE EDUCATION

Jewish Life

Time for some summer reading

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

We've come to our third annual summer reading review, replete with my own subjective fancies.

The God of Old, by James Kugel: I suppose it is a commonplace that all individuals and cultures view reality through their own particular prism. But journeying through this book truly reminds the reader of how different the experience of God was for biblical man compared to what it is for us, interpreting as we do through layers of Greek thought and mystical flight. Prof. Kugel convincingly shows the thin line between the material and spiritual, and the not totally unexpected shock of encounter for many characters with a God who often intrudes into the ancient world.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

Wrapped in a Holy Flame, by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi: For those who like their traditional spirituality wrapped in Jewish renewal garb, this stimulating look in to chassidic storytelling and parable construction is just the ticket. All the old favourites are here from the Baal Shem Tov to Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav, all presented in Rabbi Schachter's inimitable New Sage panache.

By His Light and *Leaves of Faith*, both by Aharon Lichtenstein: At times tendentious, Rav Lichtenstein's writing style is an acquired taste, but worth the struggle. A fiercely intelligent representative of a certain kind of fusion of Torah and secular studies, Rav Lichtenstein focuses on the primacy of Torah study and yet the beauty available in much of creation. Cardinal Newman and Dostoevsky are invoked in the same breath as the Rambam and numerous talmudic citations.

One People, Two Worlds, co-authored by Ammiel Hirsch and Yosef Reinman: Here a confession is in order – I did not particularly like this book, filled as it is with sometimes screeching and fairly predictable rhetoric on both sides. The real story here is an editor's attempt to induce a Reform and a haredi rabbi to engage in an e-mail correspondence together, with the nostalgically liberal hope of creating "dialogue" or even a bridge between two realities. But as the title infers, neither man truly seems to understand or acknowledge the sharp critique of his opponent, and instead both remain focused on delivering their set speeches. I include it here as a cautionary tale about trying to generalize about what constitutes "Orthodox" or "Reform." Indeed, I found that neither rabbi spoke for me.

Finally, a rather breezy but fairly stimulating effort by Nathan Lopes-Cardozo, simply titled *Thoughts to Ponder*. Although the book self-consciously does not set out to delve deep below the surface, it is driven by Rabbi Cardozo's creative and often courageous pronouncements on a wide spectrum of matters, from pluralism to Beethoven, Spinoza to Moses' identity crisis as he emerges from an Egyptian palace to face his Jewish future.

Alas, none of these volumes will vie just yet with Harry Potter in a commercial sense, but each has some rewards for the persistent explorer. Happy reading.

Hair covering an individual choice, BAYT seminar told

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to the CJN

Ahava Spillman was adamant. "I will never cover my hair," she used to say. "I'd do anything else… but there was not a chance."

Years later, she now often finds herself defending the practice from beneath a gorgeous red sheitel (wig).

"Hair is very powerful," Spillman said, at "A Hair Affair," a recent adult education event at Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue. Originally, the women-only evening was to feature Lynne Schreiber, journalist and editor of the anthology *Hide and Seek: Jewish Women and Hair Covering*. When Schreiber – who's expecting a baby – cancelled due to SARS, organizers thought of bailing out.

Instead, they called Spillman, who lives nearby, to help shed light on this emotional subject.

Spillman's talk drew on her own experiences, positive and negative, such as when one of her male students at Seneca College, where she teaches English and communications, walked up and yanked her sheitel – hard.

Not sure how to respond, Spillman decided to act as if it was her real hair. "I said 'Ouch!'… Miraculously, it didn't move." The student shook his head: "I knew it wasn't true."

Apparently, somebody in the Jewish community who knew her had told him she wore a sheitel, and he put the rumour to the test.

"I was not a happy person," Spillman said. Not that she's not proud of her sheitel. "My colleagues know… but [with] only 14 weeks in a semester," she said she doesn't generally explain it to students.

Hair covering in a secular world is just one of many topics in *Hide and Seek*, a collection of essays written from a variety of perspectives, both emotional and scholarly.

Spillman read selections, such as one by a woman who was originally offended that women had to cover their hair "to save men from sin." Another woman writes of how proud and excited she was the day after her wedding when her mother-in-law shaved her head.

Spillman's audience was a microcosm of opinion on hair covering: many came with hair completely uncovered, but others wore hats, scarves or sheitels – long, short, curly, straight and everything in between.

The origins of the debate, Spillman explained, lie in a brief Talmudic passage describing the punishment of a suspected adulteress, saying "the priest should uncover the head of the woman." From this, rabbis deduced that women's hair must have customarily been covered – or else uncovering it wouldn't have been humiliating.

That's it, said Spillman. "Because of 10 words, something that's defined who you are… you brush it; you curl it… and then you get married, and the next day, you do something else."

From 10 words, different opinions emerged, and different practices from one woman to another. Some cover only on Shabbat, some only in synagogue. Some uncover at home, while others would never even go to sleep bare-headed. And many, like Spillman, eventually go from being totally opposed to being wholehearted supporters.

Spillman divided listeners into smaller groups, and many issues emerged from these conversations. One group wondered whether head covering made sense if a sheitel looks better than a woman's own hair. From her own experience, Spillman said it feels different inside the sheitel, and the group discussed who women should be covering their hair for – others or themselves.

The last chapter of *Hide and Seek* lists reasons why Orthodox women decide against hair covering. Just because a woman has been raised Orthodox, Spillman said, shouldn't make one assume it's an easy decision, or that she's made it without careful thought.

Hair covering is always an individual choice, she said. "People take it on for different reasons."

For those interested in trying a new look, the evening featured wigs and hats in many colours and styles.

One woman, a brunette, grabbed a long, blonde sheitel and modelled it to friends' cheers. "I've always wanted to be a blonde," she said.

As with mikvah observance, in previous generations, hair covering wasn't discussed. Now, women are reclaiming it, making it a thoughtful part of their own Judaism, Spillman said.

"It's very personal, very feminine… very us," she said.

Jewish Life

An absorbing tableau

***Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, by Ross King, Random House, $42.50.**

Pope Julius II, known as "Il Terribile," was impatient and tyrannical. A man of indomitable will, he was also one of the great art patrons in the history of the Roman Catholic Church. Engaged in rebuilding St. Peter's Basilica, he demanded financial help from bishops throughout Europe and spent more than 70,000 gold ducats in the church's planning and construction.

Books
Bernard Baskin

He was especially eager to remodel the Sistine Chapel, and in 1508, he commissioned Michelangelo Buonarroti to cover the 10,000-square-foot ceiling with scenes and characters from the Hebrew Scriptures. Having completed his much-celebrated statue of David, Michelangelo had begun carving what he hoped would be his magnum opus, an immense and ornately sculpted tomb for the pope. But early into the project the pope's patronage was withdrawn and a papal injunction forced the artist to his destiny working on the 65-foot ceiling.

Michelangelo was reluctant. He considered himself a sculptor rather than a painter. Moreover, he was inexperienced in the difficult art of fresco painting.

For the next four years, he would labour over the vast ceiling. The result was one of the greatest masterpieces of all time.

Once, in an argument about the progress of the work, the pope struck Michelangelo with his staff and threatened to have him thrown from the scaffolding. On another occasion, when Julius sneaked a look at the work in progress, Michelangelo "repelled him by hurling planks at his head. Julius angrily fled the scene, bellowing curses and leaving Michelangelo to contemplate the possible repercussions of his outburst. Fearing for his life, he escaped through a window and bolted to Florence."

Though one may envisage Michelangelo as an aging, dissatisfied man, he was actually only 37 when the ceiling paintings were finished, and unlike his patron, who died a few months later, he had yet more than half a century to live.

Julius, while pleased that his dream had come true, was not entirely satisfied with the work. He objected to the muted colour scheme and thought Michelangelo might still improve his work by touching it up with lustrous colours, particularly gold. This suggestion the artist rejected, saying that the prophets and holy men, while they were rich in spiritual wealth, were not so in material goods.

A deft writer and diligent researcher, King debunks much of the Sistine Chapel mythology. Michelangelo did not actually spend four years painting the ceiling on his back, for example, as he and his assistants developed scaffolds that allowed them to stand. Also, Michelangelo did not work alone; his assistants provided plenty of help.

This work is an absorbing tableau of how the Sistine Chapel was created by a grudging genius against a background of intrigue and upheaval in 16th century Rome.

Baseball and Judaism

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Question: What is God's favourite sport?Answer: Baseball. Because the Torah begins (in English) "In the big inning." **[http://scheinerman.net/judaism/humor/riddles.html]**

Although Judaism may be a bit older than baseball, the religion and the sport have much in common – at least if you do a search on the Internet. Despite occasional friction between the two, there are far more references to their unique bond and even to the lessons rabbis have derived from the game. Today, Judaism and Baseball on the World Wide Web. (Special thanks to Elliot Katz for suggesting today's topic.)

For Neil Rubin, the timing of the start of the baseball season says it all. "Funny how it always coincides with Passover, which is about our birth as a nation with one focus – reaching the Promised Land [the World Series], and about coming from the evils of Egypt [a dark, wet winter]." And then there are the personal memories of Baltimore's Memorial Stadium. While everyone else was feasting on soft pretzels and Coke, Rubin munched on matzah and macaroons. "If you can keep the faith on opening day, we all agreed, you can be a Jew anywhere, any time." **[http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0398/rubin032998.html]**

Half a century ago, even the Lubavitcher Rebbe taught a lesson thanks to baseball. The Rebbe asked a visiting bar mitzvah boy about his favourite game. When he responded "baseball," the Rebbe explained the special lesson for a boy coming of age. "In your heart you have a big field. The two sides are the yetzer tov [the good inclination] and the yetzer hara, [the negative drives]. Until now, they played kids' stuff, but from now on the game's for real. Remember, just as in baseball, the side that plays best will win. If you only want to, you can always overcome your yetzer hara." **[http://www.lchaimweekly.org/lchaim/5757/474.htm]**

Rabbi Richard D. Angler of Boca Raton's Congregation B'nai Israel sees many parallels between Judaism and baseball. Both are "sophisticated:" you can't expect to appreciate baseball or Judaism right away. And both are firmly rooted in history. Just as "every baseball game is part of every other baseball game that has ever been played… We say that when a Jew is born, we are already 4,000 years old… Judaism, like baseball, like family, like everything of value in life works best when we make the long-term commitment to it." **[http://www.cbiboca.org/rda/101196.html]**

Yosef Abramowitz is a true believer in the Boston Red Sox. But it was with some apprehension that Abramowitz joined his father and his six-year-old daughter for their first three-generation baseball outing. Let's just say that things didn't go quite as planned until the game was over and Aliza confronted a bit of reality outside of Fenway Park, far from her own Jewish neighbourhood. **[http://www.jewishaz.com/jewishnews/980911/yosi.shtml]**

For all the heart-warming associations between Judaism and baseball, Rabbi Rami Shapiro saw nothing pleasant a few years ago, when the Florida Marlins hosted a playoff game against the Atlanta Braves on Yom Kippur. Rabbi Shapiro was distressed when he heard about fans trying to decide whether to attend the "Great American Pastime" or the "Great American Fast-time." And he wasn't pleased with Jews who tried to have the best of both worlds by trying to get the game time changed. "This is a mistake. Judaism asks us to make choices all the time. The choice is always the same: do I choose for holiness or selfishness? To get the Marlins to eliminate this one choice [even if that were fair or possible] simply misses the point. Serious Jews must make serious choices. And sometimes those choices call for personal sacrifice…" **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?B39012405]**

When David Bedein read Rabbi Shapiro's plea, it brought back some old memories. Many years before Bedein became Jerusalem bureau chief for the Israel Resources News Agency, he was a Phillies fan in his hometown of Philadelphia. In 1964, young David took an afternoon detour on the second day of Rosh Hashanah to take in a game at Connie Mack Stadium. You'll have to read the entire piece to find out exactly what happened, but let's just say there was no joy in Philly that year… and David has always felt responsible. **[http://israelbehindthenews.com/Oct-13.htm#Baseball]**

Next week, the conclusion of our double-header as we look at some great Jewish players and dabble in Kabbalah, baseball-style.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Shayne Smith: A teen like any other, but not quite

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

Shayne Smith would make any parent proud.

He's won a national sports championship, is a volunteer, has endlessly flowing energy, is a captivating public speaker who motivates others, met the Queen, had tea with Nelson Mandela and is playing telephone tag with World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) super babe, Trish Stratus. He worships – and resembles – rapper Eminem and is obsessed with video games, but hates vegetables.

When you chat with him, Shayne Smith seems like any other 14-year-old who loves sports, rap music, video games and girls.

This year, the Don Mills Collegiate student was named one of 10 Ontario Junior Citizens of the year, an award that recognizes outstanding young people who help define and strengthen their communities.

"It's very hard for me to judge if I deserve it. It [community involvement] is not something special, it's just something I do," the teen says, sitting on a chair with one of his prosthetic legs standing near a wall several feet away.

Smith is, as he puts it, "differently abled."

At four months of age, he was infected with meningococcal septicaemia – an infection of the blood stream. The doctors gave him a two per cent chance of survival. He pulled through, but in the battle for his life, he lost his legs below the knees, his left arm and part of his right hand, and endured multiple skin grafts.

Smith has not allowed his "limitations" to hold him back, and at 14, he has accomplished more than most achieve in a lifetime.

"I consider myself so lucky. What keeps me going is the fact that I am alive. I had a near-death situation and I made it through that. The way I see it is that I can live through anything," says the teen, who has met lots of famous people but says Trish Stratus is his favourite because he's "in love with her."

Smith's motto is: "You never know what life is going to throw at you, so you have to live life to the fullest."

And the self-labelled "gifted rapper" has done just that.

Teenage Shayne Smith proudly displays a plaque for his award as one of 10 Ontario Junior Citizens of the Year, earned for his outstanding community involvement.

He is a point-guard with the Variety Village Rolling Raptors, a team that recently captured the Canadian National Mini-Wheelchair Basketball Championship. In a few weeks, he plans to try out for the Canadian National Sledge Hockey Team.

"He's energetic, very adaptive and friendly," says his basketball coach, Jeanette Lambert, adding that Smith has the talent to eventually play on Canada's National Wheelchair Basketball Team.

Smith's athleticism and character have developed immensely, thanks in large part, he says, to the Variety Village Sport Training and Fitness Centre, which opened in Toronto in 1981 to serve children with special needs.

Smith joined Variety when he was eight years old. He was introduced to wheelchair basketball and now plays there twice a week, swims, and acts as one of its ambassadors by speaking at large events. He also participated in the outreach program, doing demonstrations at schools and speaking to other children.

"They have given me life. I would be at home playing video games, doing nothing if it wasn't for Variety," says Smith, who was recently picked by Vince Carter personally, as one of Carter's Mr Big Heroes, after the two shot hoops together at the Air Canada Centre.

His family is also vital to him.

"Not only is she mom, dad, brother, sister, doctor, taxi driver. She does everything. She doesn't have to get up to help me get ready for school. She doesn't have to come home from work a little bit early to get me to practise," but she does, says Smith of his mother Joanne Milner. He quickly adds that his grandmother, Shirley, who lives with Smith and his mom, is "awesome" and that "he would do anything for her."

His mom says he's a child who makes being his mom easy, because of his attitude.

"As good a basketball player as he is, there are certain things he can't do. Daily living is hard for him… He teaches me stuff every day. You just have to be thankful for the life you have. He is always so positive," Milner, a South African native explains.

In public, people often stare at him, but Smith says, "It can't be easy for them looking and seeing someone who looks different. What people see is hard for them to understand.

"It's also because I'm so sexy," he adds with a smile.

He says he's proud of his religion, adding that all his friends know he's Jewish, and that he has a circle of "buddies" from different cultures.

His academic marks, his mother says, are improving and he hopes to win an academic and athletic scholarship to play wheelchair basketball in Illinois or Texas. But for now, when he's not rapping, playing or talking to others, he will simply continue "loving life."

"If you love life, you're set," he says.

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United Synagogue head tackles Conservative issues

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

When people hear that Judy Yudof keeps kosher, they often tell her they didn't know she was Orthodox. That scenario illustrates one of the challenges she faces as president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism: educating people about what it means to be a Conservative Jew.

Yudof, 58, was in Toronto recently to attend the Ateret Kavod award reception honouring Ron and Heather Hoffman. She then met with lay leaders in Montreal before returning home to Austin, Tex.

Judy Yudof

The first woman to head the congregational arm of the Conservative Movement, which represents 760 congregations, Yudof made headlines early this year in the Jewish media for a letter she was working on – but has never actually sent – asking the movement's rabbis to reassess the halachic status of gays and lesbians.

Speaking about lower-profile initiatives like organizing task forces on services offered by United Synagogue to its members, and determinating congregational dues, the organization's Canadian region president, Paul Kochberg, said Yudof is "forward-sighted. She's implemented some really good strategies to improve the efficiency of the organization in delivering its services."

In person, Yudof is down-to-earth in both manner and appearance. Sans makeup – she has yet to change clothes for the evening's event – she is calm and matter-of-fact as she explains that the letter that received so much publicity is still in her computer. The executive council of the Rabbinical Assembly voted independently to bring the issue to the movement's committee on Jewish law and standards, she said.

Although Yudof has been criticized for introducing what could be a divisive issue, she said she has confidence in the rabbis on the law committee. "This may be naiveté, but I just can't believe that the whole future of the Conservative movement rests on [whether] we develop a different attitude toward how we regard homosexual members of our community… I feel there's a whole lot more to religion than this."

The most-discussed implication involves the ordination of openly gay students as Conservative rabbis, which is currently prohibited. Before she began drafting the letter, it was brought to Yudof's attention several times that there was discomfort over that policy, she said. Likewise, she heard that people were disturbed over United Synagogue's policy of not hiring openly gay people in role model positions, although she said the same policy applies to people who do not observe Shabbat.

Yudof stressed that ordination does not fall within the purview of United Synagogue, but rather is up to the rabbis.

Other issues she's taken on since becoming president in February 2002 include increasing collaboration with other arms of the movement such as the Rabbinical Assembly and the Jewish Theological Seminary; "growing" the movement; and creating "Shabbat communities" where the Sabbath brings people together to celebrate.

A move away from Conservative Judaism toward modern Orthodoxy among some observant Conservative young people is also a concern, she said.

"The United Synagogue runs some of the most outstanding youth programs anywhere. We turn out kids who become extremely knowledgeable and committed." When they find a group of like-minded peers in the Orthodox movement and not in their own synagogues, it's "sad for the Conservative Movement… It's not a loss to the Jews, because these young people go on to have wonderful families and to transmit values of Judaism, but we see it as a loss to the Conservative Movement, because the same energy and excitement doesn't get transmitted to their contemporaries within the synagogue. I don't have an easy answer."

Yudof changed her own level of Jewish observance years ago when she became a regional leader in the Conservative movement, she said.

As a child in Philadelphia, Yudof's home was not observant, but she has "cameo memories" of visits to her grandparents' Orthodox synagogue.

She became involved in synagogue life after moving to Austin in 1971. At the time, she was pregnant with her oldest child. The family has lived in Austin ever since, except for a recent five-year stint in St. Paul, Minn., when her husband Mark, was president of the University of Minnesota.

Conference denounces both Israel and PA

Continued from page 3

As one delegate put it: "Palestine is unique and should never be wedded to colonialist Israel."

Yet another delegate claimed that the phrase "Zionist entity" rightly sums up Israel. "As soon as you say Israel, you recognize Israel. We should use the phrase Zionist entity."

In what passed for a compromise, delegates said that the word "Israel" should only be used in reference to "atrocities" committed by Israel against the Palestinians.

Tables outside the conference room displayed brochures published by the pro-Palestinian International Solidarity Movement (ISM), which sends volunteers to Israel to protest its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Last March in what the Israeli army has called an accident, American ISM volunteer Rachel Corrie was killed trying to prevent an army bulldozer from demolishing a Palestinian home in Gaza.

The ISM calls for Israel's withdrawal from the territories and its "immediate compliance" with United Nations resolutions pertaining to the right of return. It also supports the right of Palestinians to engage in armed struggle against Israel.

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Familes gather to reconnect with their pasts

Descendants of early Jewish Canadian meet in Michigan

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Sixty descendants of one of the first Jewish settlers in Canada met for the first time at Fort Michilimackinac in northern Michigan at the end of May.

Ezekiel Solomons, who arrived in Canada from Austria in 1761, ran a lucrative fur trading post in the Great Lakes area, said lawyer and historian Sheldon Godfrey. It was Godfrey's book *Search Out the Land: The Jews and the Growth of Equality in British Colonial America 1740-1867*, co-written with his wife Judith, that inspired Solomons' descendants to contact each other and plan a reunion.

"By and large, this [era of North American Jewish history] is not taught in schools," said Godfrey, adding it is generally taught that Jews only started to come to North America after the pogroms in the late 1800s.

"This is absolutely not the case. Jews were here right from the beginning," he said. "It's as much our country as anyone else's."

Godfrey said one of the most interesting things about the reunion is that aside from he and his wife, who were honorary guests, none of the attendees was Jewish. Many were members of the Catholic clergy and some belonged to Métis, Ojibwa and other aboriginal groups.

In British North America, there were virtually no Jewish women, so Solomons, like many other Jewish settlers, married outside his religion and raised his children as Catholics, Godfrey said.

Brother Thom Smith, a Franciscan friar in Indian River, Mich., started researching his roots after a plaque was excavated at Fort Michilimackinac, 20 miles from his parish.

The plaque commemorated Michigan's first Jewish settler (northern Michigan was part of Upper Canada until the British lost the territory in the War of 1812). Smith said he was fascinated to learn that Solomons was his direct ancestor.

Through Internet chat groups and genealogy sites, Smith managed to get in touch with numerous members of the Solomons family. Most live in or around Sault Ste. Marie, but others were found in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Florida.

Smith said exploring his Jewish heritage helped him to learn more about Christianity.

"We're finding our roots as individuals and as Christians," he said.

Through learning about Judaism, Smith said he gained a deeper understanding of the Old Testament and the Hebrew roots of many of the prayers he sings at mass.

> *Solomons married outside his religion and raised children as Catholics*

Smith said he was also inspired by Solomons' commitment to his faith and tolerance of other cultures.

"He was able to stay faithful and lead a religious life, but let his wife and kid have their own way," he said, adding that when Solomons' home was excavated, the chicken bones and other food remnants indicated he had managed to keep kosher throughout his years in Canada.

Solomons also trekked through the wilderness to Montreal to attend High Holy Day services each year, Godfrey said. When the Montreal shul no longer held services, he went all the way to New York City, where he died in 1804.

"We know how important God was on his journey," Smith said.

Irwin Lyons, 95, was the oldest guest at the Rotenberg reunion, which he attended with his wife, Katherine. Inset: sisters Michelle (left) and Sherri (right) Rotenberg met some of their relatives for the first time. [Lauren Krugel photos]

Rotenberg family members meet for the first time

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Before their first reunion on June 21, most members of the Rotenberg family had never met each other.

Ranging from age 17 days to 95 years, each of the 81 guests was in some way connected to nine brothers and sisters who at the turn of the century immigrated to Canada from the Polish shtetl of Ivansk.

Belle, Nathan, Freda, Mary, Sam, Dora, Muggs, Percy and Sol Rotenberg had 40 children between them. Three generations later, there are 155 living Rotenberg descendants around the world.

Lisa Matthews decided she wanted to bring her family together three months ago. "It was a humongous amount of work," the spirited interior designer said.

> *'We had some wild times'*

For the reunion, Matthews compiled and printed a gigantic five-generation family tree. She compiled a family cookbook and a directory of phone numbers and birthdays for guests to take home. She also collected family photographs for a video slide show.

"It's wonderful. I'm glad I put the effort forth," she said.

Judith Rockert, daughter of Belle Rotenberg said it's "invigorating, just extraordinary" that she had the opportunity to reunite with her first cousins'.

She said many years ago, they formed a "cousin's club."All 40 first cousins would gather every so often in Toronto, Detroit or Windsor to catch up.

"We had some wild times," said Rockert, who said she was the baby of the group.

The reunion did not come without its obstacles. Matthews said many out-of-towners chose not to come to Toronto because of SARS, although some relatives from Sherbrooke, Que., Arizona, Costa Rica, Midland, Ont., and Atlanta came to meet and reunite with relatives.

Two-and-a-half weeks before the reunion, Matthews' sister Lesley gave birth to her daughter Alexandra at Mount Sinai Hospital, where she was one of five new mothers who came in direct contact with a SARS patient. Lesley, her husband Sid and their newborn baby ended their quarantine just in time for the reunion.

Matthews said she did not want this to be a typical family reunion. One activity she planned was "human bingo." Guests had to find other family members who had certain attributes, such as "was born before 1930" and "has had a bat mitzvah."

"I didn't want it to be just a bunch of people in a room. I wanted to mix everybody up," said Matthews.

For the kids, Matthews planned an arts and crafts activity. They decorated paper plates as members of their family and hung them on a hanger to make a family tree mobile.

"That way, the kids have an idea that they're part of something bigger," she said.

Each guest also received a colour-coded name tag to let others know which of the nine Rotenberg lines they came from.

After the video slide show, Matthews received a standing ovation for her hard work. "It was my 15 minutes of being a rock star. It was nice to feel appreciated," she said.

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Fixing the world, 1,000 blankets at a time

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to the CJN

Tikkun olam means many things to many people. To some, it's feeding the hungry or meeting Third World medical needs. For the sisterhood craft group of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, tikkun olam begins at home – and brightens the lives of children across Canada.

Six years ago, the craft group joined Project Linus, an international organization named for the Peanuts cartoon character and his famous security blanket created by Charles Schultz. Project Linus has a simple goal: to provide handmade blankets for children in hospitals and shelters, for whom security is a rare luxury.

Fast-forward to 1,000 blankets later – 1,000 individual works of art knitted or crocheted by the craft group's volunteers, who put in long hours each day.

"We started with 10 people," says member Marian Brody. "People brought their friends." The group now has between 20 and 30 members at any given time.

Noreen Kasman says that as the number of blankets grew beyond the group's expectations, "somebody said maybe we'll make a party when we get to 1,000."

Which is just what the group did at Beth David Synagogue June 17.

"I'm on number 296," says Esther Robinson, 90, who keeps a journal of her own contributions, with brief comments on each blanket she's created. "It's so easy, and it's for a good cause."

Initially there was some discussion about whether the group could support Project Linus's sending of blankets to organizations such as the Scott Mission, a Christian non-denominational agency in Toronto that seeks to give spiritual as well as physical sustenance to the poor.

But Kasman says, "We decided that we didn't care; these kids are homeless... if they needed to have a blanket to comfort them, that was fine with us."

The group also decided, as a sideline, to contribute dozens of hats and scarves to Toronto's Native Men's Residence (NaMeRes) to be distributed to the homeless during the winter months.

"But we don't count those," Kasman says.

Each blanket is designed by the individual, and members are happy to donate their time and creativity.

"I don't know what I'd do without this," Robinson says.

The only difficulty, Kasman says, is in paying for the yarn. The group has searched repeatedly for donations.

"We wrote to several companies, three or four manufacturers, and got no response," Kasman says. "Even if they gave us a gift certificate... we would buy their yarn, and we spend hundreds."

But the expenses are quickly forgotten when members talk about thank you notes they've received from families as far away as the Yukon and Nova Scotia, although most of the blankets remain closer to home, going to children at the Hospital for Sick Children or Scarborough Grace Hospital.

From left: Marian Brody, Noreen Kasman and Esther Robinson with one of 1,000 Project Linus blankets.

"Kids love them," says Robinson.

"The kids and the parents," Brody adds. "It's so great that kids leave the hospital with one of these."

Each blanket comes with a tag bearing the name and address of Beth David Sisterhood, rather than the name of the participant who created it.

"The thought that someone whose child is ill and got a blanket took the time to write a 'thank you' is very moving," Kasman says. "To open that envelope is just incredible.

"One letter was from a 12-year-old girl... who had a kidney replaced. I thought it was very touching, that a nearly teenager would write a 'thank you.'"

Sometimes recipients who are not Jewish are thrown off by the synagogue's name. The group has received several letters addressed, "Dear Beth."

But all the thanks are precious to them. Robinson keeps a photograph the group received of a man holding a child wrapped in a blanket with a crocheted rose peeking out from the design.

"That's my signature," she says. "I crochet a rose onto each one."

For Kasman, 1,000 blankets is just the beginning. "That was something we thought we would aim for."

By now, the group is past 1,040.

"Hopefully, this is never-ending," she says. "We don't like having idle hands."

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Shaarei Zion moves to temporary home at Beth Tikvah Synagogue

Shaarei Zion Congregation, which has held Orthodox services on Shabbat and Yom Tovim for 20 years at Associated Hebrew Schools' Leslie Street campus, has moved to temporary quarters at Beth Tikvah Synagogue and will daven there starting this coming Shabbat.

Beth Tikvah, a Conservative shul, is located at 3080 Bayview Ave., south of Finch Avenue. It's approximately three miles from Associated's branch on Leslie, north of Cummer Avenue.

The move became necessary due to the sale of the Leslie Street property to the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College, said Shaarei Zion President Jack Saunders.

"We spent the past year looking for a site that would suit our congregation for the long term. However, we were unsuccessful," he said.

"Our membership has been contracting in size for a number of years, making it difficult – if not impossible – for us to make the kind of large rental payment that a more commercial location would charge. And, of course, being an Orthodox shul, we needed to find a location within walking distance of our present site."

Saunders said Shaarei Zion is "very grateful" to Beth Tikvah "for providing us with a home this summer in their staff room."

Saunders, who said the agreement between Shaarei Zion and Beth Tikvah is for an initial three-month period, hopes the new location attracts more congregants.

"There may be some people not currently attending for whom this venue is closer for them, making it more convenient for them to join us on Shabbat and Yom Tov. We certainly could use an influx of new members, because we do struggle now to reach a minyan."

Shaarei Zion moved to the Leslie Street location in 1983 from a temporary structure on Goldenwood Road, near Leslie and Steeles Avenue.

U.S. fund brings 27 Israeli campers to Canada

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Twenty-seven Israeli youngsters will attend Jewish summer camps in Canada for six weeks this summer thanks to a grant from a San Francisco-based foundation.

The Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund has committed $1.2 million (US) to help more than 200 young Israelis attend North American camps. In Canada, camps Ramah and Shomria are beneficiaries of the funding through the Foundation for Jewish Camping in New York. They will receive 60 per cent of the camp fee for each camper, and travel costs will be covered as well. They are currently raising funds to cover the extra 40 per cent.

A Goldman Fund press release said the program was initiated in response to violence in the Middle East that "prevent[s] American youth from going to Israel." But Ora Merin, shlichah for Hashomer Hatzair, the secular Zionist youth movement, and education director for Hashomer Hatzair's Camp Shomria, said that was not the case for her organization.

"We still have a group going to Israel," Merin said. Sixteen teenagers will participate in the group's annual leadership program for Grade 10 students. Although that number is smaller compared to the 40 students who took part two years ago, Merin said the youth group has a smaller contingent of Grade 10s this year. Only two are not going, she said.

Counsellors trained to deal with the issues

Shomria, located near Perth, Ont., will host a total of 25 Israelis, and 16 through the Goldman program. The students, who are in Grades 7, 8 and 9, are all residents of northern Israel.

"It's very important for me that the Israelis go home with wonderful memories," said Merin. "I want there to be friendship between the Israeli and Canadian campers that will last forever. I hope all the kids will learn much more about Israel, that Israelis are regular people who have fun, like music, love and hate like everyone else. And I hope they'll be anxious to go to Israel."

For a good *mifgash*, or encounter, said Merin, the campers need to share work and live together and learn about each other over an extended period of time.

She expects the first week will be taken up with ice-breakers and team-building exercises before campers tackle tougher issues like why the non-Israeli Jews live here rather than in Israel, what rights they have to voice opinions on Israel, and what they will be doing at the time their Israeli counterparts begin army service.

Counsellors have been trained to deal with the issues, and each group has at least one Hebrew-speaking counsellor.

"We're all one nation of Jewish people," says Merin. "We share the same faith."

Camp Ramah, in Utterson, Ont., will host 11 Israeli campers, age 14 and 15. Last year the camp, which is affiliated with the Conservative movement, brought in Israeli campers who were injured or had immediate family members injured in terror attacks, said director Michael Wolf.

In Ramah's case, bringing Israeli kids to Canada is an attempt to compensate for a decrease in the number of youth visiting Israel, although this year 23 Canadians are going to Israel with Ramah. Last year there was only one.

"A lot of our campers who automatically went to Israel weren't going the last few years, so we wanted to bring Israel to them," Wolf said.

U of T prof Na'amat's woman of the year

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Women's organizations have been critical in sustaining Israel as a community, says University of Toronto professor Janice Gross Stein.

Janice Stein

"It is striking to me to see the role that women have played during periods of extraordinary stress," she said at a recent Na'amat Canada dinner honouring her as the 2003 Woman of the Year.

Stein, the Belzberg Professor of Conflict Management in U of T's department of political science and the director of its Munk Centre for International Studies, is also chair of the research advisory board to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and chair of the advisory board to the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development.

She said that women in Israel are often the first to respond after an emergency. "Organizations such as Na'amat supplement social services by providing support for families, and maintaining community based institutions."

From the early beginnings of the state, she said, Israel has had this enormous advantage, which is why it can sustain itself even during war.

"When we compare tanks and guns, Israel does not have a great advantage, but when we compare social service institutions it has a huge advantage over its neighbours, and that is what makes the critical difference."

Women's organizations are developing in Arab countries, she said, and they are now taking on an essential role.

"When hospitals are inaccessible, women are providing health care, and they are going into high schools to teach non-violence as a way to solve problems."

When the bombs stop and young men choose to live for their state, and when the "broad middle class in both societies reclaim political power, I think that the history of this period will be rewritten.

"The important and largely untold story of women, and what they are doing in Israel and in Palestine [will be told]. These women are sustaining their societies in the midst of crippling, crushing violence.

"Eventually, it will be these women that reach across the divide and allow us to write a different story," she said.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Monday, July 7, is deadline for July 17. Please note: Since *The CJN* does not print an issue on July 24, the July 17 issue will list events occurring between July 17 and July 30. Monday, July 21, is deadline for July 31. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, July 3

CROHN'S AND COLITIS

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada invites the public to join **Dr. Gabor Kandal**, gastroenterologist at St. Michael's Hospital, for a discussion about living with and treating Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. An opportunity to ask questions will follow the presentation. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at The Old Mill, 21 Old Mill Road. Free. For information and to RSVP, call 416-920-1212 ext. 2.

Sunday, July 6

WOMEN'S BOOK REVIEW

The Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, will discuss *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by **Amy Tan**, 1:45 p.m. For location and details, call **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

JEWISH HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Jewish Healing Project is sponsoring a Healing Service, 3-4 p.m., at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., led by **Rabbi Reuven Tradburks** of Kehillat Shaarei Torah and composer/arranger **Ken Rabow**. An opportunity to experience hope, comfort, faith and support in the face of whatever difficulties you are experiencing. Wheelchair accessible, no fee, all welcome. For information, call 416-944-3359.

DOCS AND TALKS

The Rosh Chodesh Group of the Beach Hebrew Institute invites women to a viewing of the fourth video from the 10-part series *Judaism: A Quest for Meaning*, followed by a lively discussion. Bring a dairy snack or dessert to share. 7-9 p.m. at 109 Kenilworth Ave. Wheelchair accessible, except washrooms. Free. For information, contact **Dianna James** 416-763-2799 or **Sandy Winch** 416-691-9939.

THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

The Aish Cafe presents rabbis **Dan Rand** and **Dovid Zauderer** in a lively debate 8-9:30 p.m. For information, contact **Michal** at 905-764-1818, ext. 225, or visit www.aish20s.com.

Other news

ORILLIA COUNTRY SHUL

For the 13th year, **Leslie** and **Anna Dan** will be conducting Shabbat morning services in their country home during the months of July and August. The following congregational leaders are scheduled to conduct services. July 5, **Cantor Tom Schwartz**; July 12, **Rabbi Shmul Veffer**; July 19, **Elliott Malamet**; July 26, **Rabbi Michael Dolgin**; Aug. 2, **Stuart Hytman**; Aug. 9, **Rabbi Jordan Cohen**; Aug. 16, **Rabbi Debra Lansberg**; Aug. 23 **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**; Aug. 30 **Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld**. 151 Creighton St. in Atherley. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. For directions, call 705-327-7069.

BILLIARDS NIGHT

Adath Israel Young Singles, 21-35, is holding a billiards night, Thursday, July 10, at 9 p.m. at Heroes Sports Lounge and Billiard Hall, 1600 Steeles Ave. W., Unit 6. $10 at the door.

55+ LOVE CONNECTIONS

Take a chance and meet someone special at an event full of fun, friendship and food. The Bernard Betel Centre presents an evening of 18-minute quick dating for Jewish singles 55+. Sunday, July 13, 7-9 p.m. $10. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. For information and registration, call **Ruth Cohen** 416-225-2112, ext. 105.

Continued on page 21

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Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies
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Unlikely Heroes will highlight unknown stories of extraordinary men and women who exemplified the highest level of courage and human dignity during the most desperate days of the Holocaust. The film is produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Moriah Films, a two-time Academy Award winner.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003
Patron Cocktail Reception 5:15 p.m. @ Windsor Arms
Feature Premiere 7:30 p.m. @ Cineplex Varsity Theatre
Tickets: 416-864-9735 ext. 21

What's New

Continued from page 20

WOMEN'S YARCHEI KALLAH

Emunah Women of Toronto, Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women, and Canadian Friends of Nishmat present three days of learning, Tuesday, July 22, to Wednesday, July 24, with **Chana Henkin** on the topic King David and His Sons. For information, call 416-789-4883 or check out www.mekorot.ca.

JOHN LOFTUS ON POLLARD

Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital presents **John Loftus** speaking on The Truth About Jonathan Pollard. Wednesday, July 23. General admission $18, tax receiptable sponsorships available. Proceeds to the new Children's Medical Centre at Laniado Hospital, Netanya, Israel. For information, call 416-785-8956 or e-mail friends@laniado.ca.

VENDORS WANTED

Na'amat Canada is looking for vendors for their craft and gift sale Monday, Oct. 13, at the Bayview Village Shopping Centre. Interested parties should contact 416-636-5425 or **Rosalie Nowell** 905-881-8161 in the evening.

CARTRIDGES FOR ISRAEL!

Help Israel Ink promote business in Israel. As an initial project, Israel Ink is collecting used inkjet cartridges in North America to provide an Israeli kibbutz with the raw materials required to carry out their recycled inkjet cartridge business. Drop off your ink cartridges at a participating synagogue, school or other institution. In Toronto, you can drop off ink cartridges at the Bathurst JCC in the box located near the information booth. For information, go to their Web site, www.israel-ink.com.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

The Canadian Cancer Society hosts the Living With Colorectal Cancer Support Group meetings, a free service for cancer patients, their friends and family. Sessions are held at two locations, the second Thursday of each month in Central Toronto and the fourth Thursday of each month in North York. Meetings run from 7 to 9 p.m. Call 416-485-0222 for details, to register and to confirm dates.

JEWISH INFO SERVICE

Moving? UJA-Federation-Jewish Information Service has listings of basement apartments, rooms or shared space. For immediate assistance, speak to one of their experienced volunteers at 416-635-5600.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Bayview Support Network at the Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre needs volunteers with personal cancer experience to offer peer support to cancer patients and caregivers in the chemotherapy and radiation areas and to staff the patient library and playroom. If you can help one morning or one afternoon a week, call **Gaye Duncan** at 416-480-5000, ext. 1065. Comprehensive training is provided.

The Aphasia Institute at Leslie Street and York Mills Avenue has volunteer openings for a lunch counter manager and lunch counter assistants. For information, contact Volunteer Services 416-226-3636, ext. 26.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday dances July 5, 12, 19, 26; Casino Rama, July 9, 23; Casino Niagara, July 10, Aug. 28; July 13, Stouffville Flee Market; Aug. 14, Cruise and casino. Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. July 3 is lecture about The Association for Israeli Soldiers; July 10, Noa Dori concert at Leah Posluns Theatre; July 17, bingo; Tuesday, July 22, day trip with cruise; July 31, movie. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Summer classes begin the week of July 7 and end Sept. 19. Registration at the first class:

Advanced Watercolour Painting, Mondays, 1:30-4 p.m. with **Jean Rodak** and **Bilha Morgan**. Beginners Watercolour Painting, Tuesdays 9:30 a.m. to noon. Pottery, Wednesday and Friday morning 9:30 a.m. to noon. Also offered: Gentle Fitness I and II, Low Impact Fitness, Vigorous Fitness, NIA and Osteofit I and II.

Diner's Club, an opportunity to have a hot kosher lunch in an informal setting. Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Back Auditorium. $6.50 includes entertainment. Reservations must be made by Tuesday of each week. Call ext. 110.

Lifelong Learning Institute: Great Religions: Part 2 with **Hugh Innis**, Tuesday, July 8, 15, 22 and 29. 10-11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. For information call **Barbara** ext. 134.

Israeli Film Festival with **Bill Stern**. Watch Israeli movies with English subtitles. Wednesday, July 15, through Friday, July 17, 1-3 p.m. in the auditorium. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. July 8, Israeli movie; July 15, picnic; July 22, lecture; Wednesday, July 30, all day Israeli festival. For information call **Anna**, ext.110.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Come see the new pool! Summer memberships available.

DIG/DUG @ the Koffler Gallery with the seven exhibiting artists: **Isaac Applebaum, Adam Brickell, Adrian Fish, Simon Glass, Katherine Knight, Arthur Renwick & bh yael**. Moderated by guest curator **Vid Ingelevics**. Admission free.

Limited openings in the summer prenatal course. Class meets for two intensive Sunday sessions, July 20 and 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a break for lunch. Cost is $136 + GST per couple, and includes 2 complimentary BJCC health club passes. To register call ext. 390.

Attention former Chai Dancers. The Chai Dancers will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on Aug. 27. If you are a former Chai dancer and would like to participate, call ext. 364.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR JF&CS: **Michael Miller became the president of Jewish Family and Child Services at the annual general meeting in June. Seen is immediate past president Cecile Zaifman passing the gavel to Miller.**

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY LUNCHEON: **The New Ben-Gurion Associates recently hosted a luncheon with guest speaker Alan Dershowitz of Harvard University. All funds raised from the event go to student scholarships at Ben-Gurion University. Seen are, standing, from left: Elliot Kohn, Mitchell Oelbaum, Peter Oelbaum, Rob Kozlov, Bruce Bronfman, Dershowitz, Eric Beutel, Eli Palachi, Ronen Bernstein and Janice Freedman, executive director, Ontario region. Seated, from left: Brian Kalish, Michelle Roth-Oelbaum, Claudia Faierman-Shulman, Hannah Wortzman and Rebecca Wortzman.**

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

RUBY EISEN
would like to thank her children, her family and all of her friends for their thoughtfulness, support and comfort during her sudden recent illness.
I Love You All

Everyone wishing to pray for physical, emotional or spiritual healing is invited to join in
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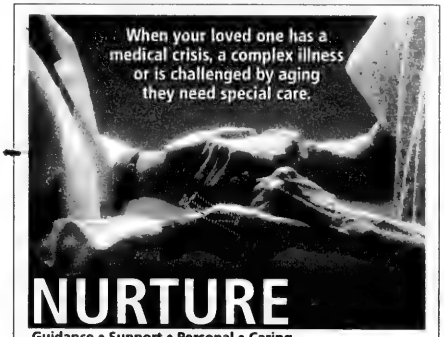

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Coast to Coast

Halifax shul marks its 50th anniversary

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Six months of 50th anniversary celebrations of Shaar Shalom Synagogue opened with a stirring concert by the shul's choir in Halifax and will culminate with a gala dinner in November.

In the next several months, the Conservative congregation will honour its founding members and will hold a kosher wine tasting, a Jewish film festival co-ordinated with the Atlantic Jewish Council, a November concert of music by composers who died in the Holocaust and several Shabbat services, all to mark its golden anniversary.

"Our goal is to celebrate 50 years of Shaar Shalom as a prelude to the future rather than a tribute to the past," said congregation president Darrell Pink.

"By running special Shabbat services, we're trying to bring people to the synagogue for events other than Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur or special occasions," anniversary co-coordinator Peggy Walt said.

The congregation was founded in 1953, when a group of about 30 families, who had been members of the Orthodox Baron de Hirsch Synagogue, the only shul in Halifax at the time, decided a new approach to prayer was needed.

Suggestions by Rabbi Stanley Kessler, the Conservative-trained spiritual leader of Baron de Hirsch, that they seek something different, that men and women could sit together and that more of the service could be conducted in English caught on with the group, recalled founding Shaar Shalom member Peter Herschorn.

The first Shaar Shalom services were held in church basements. Hebrew school was conducted in private homes until a synagogue building was completed in 1955.

"It was a tremendously enthusiastic congregation," said Florrie Fineberg, who moved from Montreal after marrying congregant Leonard Fineberg.

She taught music to the Hebrew school children for eight years and led the choir.

"Every month, a fundraising project, a dance, tea or sale was going on. We had a men's club, a women's league and the congregation grew. Today we have about 150 family and single members."

Florrie Fineberg says the synagogue has been the focal point of her life.

"I'm not religious, but Judaism is in my heart. The Shaar has been like a family to me. Many Haligonians had mates who came from away. We were able to meet and become good friends with people from Montreal, Toronto and the West who I would never have met otherwise."

Other anniversary projects include a cookbook of all recipes prepared in the shul kitchen, compiled by Marianne Ferguson, a display of all kippot from bar and bat mitzvot and weddings held in the synagogue, and a musical archives, including a catalogue of all performances by the synagogue choir in 50 years, as well as recordings of some services and videos of shul musicals.

Vancouver Jewish leader dies at 78

By PETER CAULFIELD
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — Leon Kahn, a pillar of the Jewish community here, died of a heart attack on June 8 at his west-side home. He was 78.

A native of Poland, Kahn spent World War II as a partisan fighting the Nazis. In 1948, he left Europe and moved to Vancouver, where he became a successful real estate developer. Kahn was well-known in the Lower Mainland as a generous philanthropist, a sensitive Holocaust educator and a respected leader of the Jewish community.

Kahn was born Leon Kaganowicz in 1925 in Eisiskes, Poland, a small town near present-day Vilnius, Lithuania. In 1941, with the Nazis in hot pursuit, Kahn and three other members of the Kaganowicz family fled from their home and ran to the nearby forest.

Kahn, along with his father, brother and sister, joined the partisans and conducted hit-and-run attacks on the Nazis. One by one, Kahn lost his family. His sister was outrun by an enemy pursuer and bayoneted. His father was shot dead with a dumdum bullet, and his brother was killed in an ambush. Kahn's wartime experiences were recorded in *No Time To Mourn*, which he wrote and self-published after the war.

In 1945, Kahn was placed in a displaced persons' camp in Austria. Eager to leave Europe, he tried to get into the United States. Rejected by Uncle Sam, he applied to and was accepted by Canada in 1948. After settling in Vancouver, he worked his way up to become head of the construction division of Block Brothers Real Estate. Later Kahn established his own real estate development company.

Kahn's death was "a terrible loss to my family and to the Jewish community. He was very precious to us," said Rita Akselrod, a Holocaust survivor from Romania who has known Kahn since 1948, when she met him in the DP camp in Salzburg.

Kahn soon left the camp and emigrated to Vancouver.

Rabbi Avi Baumol, spiritual leader of Congregation Schara Tzedeck, said he first met Kahn in the synagogue at morning services on the rabbi's first day five years ago. "We started studying together every day before services and we developed a beautiful relationship."

Kahn was "a giant among men," the rabbi said. "But what was remarkable about him was his approachability – he was no recluse, no hermit; he was there, in the open, for all to connect, for anyone to engage."

Dina Wachtel, Combined Jewish Appeal campaign director and Keren Hayesod Israel emissary, knew Leon Kahn for five years.

"Leon was successful in Vancouver, but he never forgot where he came from," Wachtel said. "He had great feeling for Israel and the importance of maintaining it. And he understood that people had to be reminded of the Holocaust."

Special Feature

'We have to...embrace a wake-up within the Jewish community'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A true leader needs to have a broad perspective and be a little bit crazy, says Gil Troy, a professor of American history at McGill University.

"You don't want to be normal in a society that says 'Don't make waves' and that closes its eyes to the biggest moral challenge of [the] times," he said at the recent fourth annual Town Hall Meeting sponsored by *The Canadian Jewish News*.

Troy, author of *Why I Am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today*, gave a lecture titled "In Times of Crisis: the Proper Models of Leadership."

He told the more than 100 people at the meeting that selfishness is the first part of the current crisis.

"Sept. 11 was a wake-up call to the broader world, [but not] to enough people north of the American border. People could see how evil terror could be.

"Unfortunately, for too many people, the wake-up calls only occur the day after the terrorist attack is near [them]. Shame on us all."

These days, he said, anyone who stands up and speaks against terrorism is perceived to be a right-winger, "and I reject that characterization.

"We who are on the left have to get up and say that terror is an affront to us as liberals. Terror goes against every fundamental principle – liberty, equality, respect for individuals, and tolerance."

The crisis is most compelling when it touches us close to home, he said, "but the mark of a true liberal, of a true human being, should be to look at the world and ask 'What can I do?'

"I don't understand this pacifism that has degenerated into passivity. Eli Wiesel called neutrality a sin that violates everything we should be standing for."

Troy said he has seen great moments in the Jewish community, but added he doesn't see enough Jews inconveniencing themselves. "We have to be bold and honest in order to embrace a wake-up within the Jewish community.

"The 30- and 40-year-olds who are in the high productive time of their lives are busy with kids and careers, and they are not carving out the time to be a little inconvenienced.

"They are not carving out time to have that uncomfortable conversation with their colleagues at work. They are not choosing to give up on the Disneyland vacation and go to Israel, or to send Israel money."

The Jewish community needs to be more self-critical, and it must become more assertive, positive and creative, he said.

"We have to step back, and not let the current crisis be defined as a problem that has been imposed on us by the ideologues and the haters of the Middle East. We have to critique the broader Jewish community."

To support Israel, he said, does not mean to support every policy.

"Why do we box ourselves in a corner where we have to see Israel as perfect? We have to acknowledge the complexity and imperfection. Self-critique does not mean Israel does not have the right to exist. We have to move beyond that."

Gil Troy at the Town Hall Meeting, sponsored by *The CJN.*

Troy said that at a recent focus group he led for the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre in Montreal, he asked 15 university students how and what they learned about Israel, and how those lessons could have been improved, he said.

"These students had a mixed message that was very important to the community. The first message was to not sugar coat. Don't ignore the dilemma, but teach the conflict and crisis. Otherwise, kids from the finest Jewish day schools will have a superficial understanding of the situation."

But the students also recommended celebrating Jewish culture and Jewish heroes. "Especially in times of crisis, let's not forget to celebrate, and let's not forget to enjoy."

We have to ask what kind of Jewish lessons are being learned, he said.

"I see a moral crisis in so many parts of the community. In Toronto, [people] are struggling with the issue of having to be rich to attend a Jewish day school. If a community does not have enough subsidies so that its Jewish professionals can afford to send their kids to Jewish day schools, then we have a problem.

"There is enough wealth in the Jewish world so that it does not have to be either/or. We're not in the medieval Jewish world where we have to make a choice between building new synagogues and freeing hostages."

Our priorities are upside down, Troy said. "Too many synagogues are known as centres of fashion rather than centres of moral excellence, and too many schools are known as centres of materialism rather than centres of *menschlichkeit*."

There are also elements of crisis in the community beyond consumerism, he said. "There is the problem of disunity, and the way we speak about each other. Orthodox Jews call secular Jews 'goyim' and secular Jews spit out the word 'Orthodox' like a curse."

We are struggling with the challenge of having too much freedom, Troy said, including the freedom of giving up who we are. "Being Jewish is a voluntary choice we have to embrace. We have to make Judaism a little more appealing."

He said that we should all learn a lesson from one girl in Israel who decided after a pizzeria bombing that she felt uncomfortable about having a bat mitzvah party.

She didn't want to celebrate while other kids her age were in the hospital, so she spent her bat mitzvah visiting them, and with the help of friends started One Family, an organization that donates money, time and services to victims of terror and their families, Troy said.

"That is a response. By helping Israel, we are not just responding to 'poor' Israel, we are doing something about our own communal problems.

"We could create an alternative social pressure for goodness – such as giving charity instead of birthday presents – that would get us out of this rut," Troy said.

"We have had so many wake-up calls that we know what to do. We need the willingness and social pressure to get up and do it."

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KESHER helps Canadian students connect with Argentine Jews

By GILLIAN LINDZON
Special to The CJN

Two of my greatest pleasures are volunteer work and travel. Having the opportunity to combine the two was an ideal way to spend two weeks of my summer vacation. Along with 19 American university students, I went to Argentina late last month to assist its Jewish community in recovering from the economic crisis.

We began working at the Wolfsohn building. We repaired holes in the floor, put up wallpaper and painted the stairwell, doorways and pipes, often adding our own personal touches. The Wolfsohn building is a former Jewish day school that was closed down due to the financial crisis, and is now being remodelled (helped by KESHER students) as the new Netzer building. It will house Netzer's after-school educational activities for children of all ages, who will come to play and learn every Shabbat.

Gillian Lindzon with Grade 6 students at the Arlene Fern Jewish Day School in Argentina.

The trip was sponsored by KESHER, a college education department of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC) on the pilot program of Argentine ambassadors. The organization serves several different constituencies, including Reform college students, UAHC congregations and their youth committees, campus Hillel foundations and high school students exploring Jewish life on campus. KESHER offered the opportunity to work closely with members of Netzer (a worldwide progressive/Reform Zionist youth movement) and members of the Buenos Aires community.

The Hebrew word "kesher" means "connection." That is exactly what we formed: a strong bond with the Argentine Jewish community. We departed with the intention of taking part in social action programming and learning about the current situation of Jews in Argentina. But this trip touched me emotionally and religiously in a way I could have never anticipated.

As we worked, we often spoke of the children whom we were helping. Although we did what was considered work, we sang, danced and ate Argentine treats to keep our spirits high. Knowing that the children would be so appreciative and excited about the vast improvements made to their run-down building made this a most rewarding experience.

We also worked on two other main projects, one at the NCI/Temple Emanuel Social Action Center and the other at the Arlene Fern Community School. At the social action centre, we worked with local volunteers to make and serve meals to members of the community who could no longer afford to buy food.

At the Arlene Fern Community School, a progressive Jewish day school in Buenos Aires, we split up and went into different classrooms to interact with the students, learning about their curricula, hobbies and families. The children welcomed us with a bombardment of questions about our lives at home and gave us hugs and kisses. They were adorable with their twinkling eyes, freckles and enormous smiles.

The Jewish community in Buenos Aires embraced us. While we were at synagogue on our first Saturday, a girl in the community had her bat mitzvah. Unbeknownst to us, we were called upon for an aliyah, which was not only an honour, but a sign that they regarded us as family.

The Netzer students, ranging in age from five to 24, treated us as if we had been their friends forever, despite the obvious language barrier and our different cultural backgrounds. We spent a lot of time with them. Their dedication to the Jewish community in Buenos Aires is absolutely remarkable and unprecedented by any standard I have ever seen or even heard about. Their kindness toward the children and ruach for their movement inspired hope. Forming a circle, holding their hands both Saturday nights during the Havdalah service and singing *Hatikvah*, brought tears to my eyes. I hoped that somehow, someday, Jews everywhere will overcome their hardships with the help of one another.

One of the trip's highlights was when we split off into small groups and had dinner at one of our Netzer friend's homes. It was a feast: there were six different kinds of steaks, several vegetarian options and four tubs of ice cream for dessert. Despite language barriers with the parents and siblings, we were able to carry on intense conversations with our Netzer friend translating every word.

We learned about Argentina, the economic crisis, the Jewish community in Buenos Aires, and I think we learned quite a bit about ourselves. One thing for sure is that good friends can be made in a matter of days and strangers can feel like family after only a short while. I walked away from this experience with 19 new friends in the United States and a place to call home in Buenos Aires. I have learned that by working together, tikkun olam is possible and the efforts of the international Jewish community are limitless.

Gillian Lindzon has just finished her second year at the University of Western Ontario in the faculty of health sciences.

Hillel wins right to appeal case against CSU

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Concordia Hillel has been granted leave to appeal the suspension of its lawsuit against the Concordia Student Union (CSU) and Concordia University. The appeal is to be heard Oct. 10.

Quebec Court of Appeal judge Marc Beauregard's decision to allow the appeal suspends the April 24 ruling by Superior Court judge Francois Belanger that said the dispute between Hillel and the CSU should be dealt with internally by the university.

Hillel's lawyer Michael Bergman said he was "very happy" the appeal will be heard.

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), which supports Hillel's case, will have intervener status in the appeal, as will the Jewish Alliance Against the Occupation (JAAO), a group opposed to Israel's military presence in the West Bank and Gaza and supports the CSU.

Bergman tried unsuccessfully to appeal JAAO's intervention, which was granted by Belanger. Beauregard ruled on a "technicality," according to Bergman, that an appeal of intervener status has never been granted in jurisprudence going back to 1963.

ש'שאר ב'נינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

אני לא מקנא במי שצריך לקבל החלטות בימים כאלה. יש קונסנזוס ברור, בכל העולם, שצריך לחלחם בטרור האיסלאמי. אבל האם המלחמה בהם מגבירה את הטרור? יש רבים שאומרים שהורדת מסוקי תקיפה על מכוניות של מנהיגי חמאס וחיסולם בכל דרך, עוזרת ישירות לאבו מאזן ולפלסטינאים המתונים, כי הם לא מסוגלים לחסל את החמאס.

בימים האחרונים, עם חיסולם של יותר ויותר מנהיגי חמאס, נשמעת זעקת חדשה. החמאס אומר: כל עוד שלא יפסיקו הישראלים לרצוח את אנשינו-נמשיך להכות בהם. למה מה קרה- עד עכשיו המפלצת האלה רצחו ילדים וזקנים יהודים ככה סתם, לארוחת בוקר. עכשיו נשמע איזשהו חד של "אם תפסיקו-גם אנחנו נפסיק". עושה רושם ששרון אינו מאמין לאף מילה שלהם ויודע שהם רק רוצים להרוויח זמן כדי לבנות את כוחם.

מצד שני ישנם אלה שאומרים שחלק לא מבוטל מפעולות המתאבדים הם נקמה ותגובה לפעולת ישראל. לך תדע. מה שלא תעשה-יהיה מי שמוכן להישבע שאתה אידיוט גמור.

אני אישית- דוקא עכשיו, אחרי ששרון הצהיר שדרכו לשלום- אני מוכן לתת לו אשראי בנושא הבטחון. זה בהחלט נושא שאיש אינו יכול להתחרות בו עם שרון. אבל שישאר בינינו.

The Whale Rider

אחת לכמה שנים מתרחש נס קטן ולמסכי הקולנוע עולה סרט אנושי, מרתק, שגורם לך להמריא ולעוף. לטעמי האישי (וסרטים הם קודם כל עניין של טעם אישי)-רוב הסרטים האלה אינם נוצרים בצפון אמריקה. אחד הסרטים האחרונים שעשה לי את זה היה "החבצעים של גן עדן" האיראני. הפעם זהו סרט ניו-זילנדי שמתרחש בתוך קבוצה של לילדים מָאורים. זהו סיפורה של ילדה שנולדה להיות מנהיגה, אך מנהיג השבט, שהוא הסבא שלה, לא סולח לה על שנשארה בחיים ואֶחָיה התאום, שאמור להיות המנהיג, מת בלידתו. אני לא מתכוון להרוס לכם את הסיפור ולגלות יותר ממה שצריך- אבל זהו סרט ספיריטואלי, שגם אם לא בא לכם להתעמק בו- העלילה תחזיק אתכם על קצה הכיסא. הילדה , כמו שאר השחקנים- מה זה מדהימים. עשר בסולם קורן.

"שבוע"

זהו שמה של הצגה חדשה בתיאטרון חבימה, שכתב שלומי משקוביץ ובויים דדי ברון. עמנואל, משורר נערץ, מאלה שלומדים אותם לבחינות בגרות, מגיע לביתה של אהובתו אותה לא פגש שמונה עשרה שנה. במהלך השבוע של שהייתו מתערערים יסודות המשפחה הקטנה.

ההצגה עצמה איננה עוברת את הנף למרות ארבעה שחקנים מצויינים. אין מה לעשות- גם הטובים בשחקנים אינם יכולים לעזור לתסריט פשטני. ובכל זאת, אם אתם מגיעים ארצה- לא תשתעממו- המשולש הנצחי יש לו חברקות ניצוצות משלו.

הקטעים השנונים יותר הם אלה שבין בִּיתה בת השמונה עשרה של הגיבורה לבין המשורר, אחוב האם. הילדה אומרת לו:

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-מתי אני אראה כבר נכדים?
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Violence in West Bank, despite pullout and ceasefire

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A Bulgarian construction worker was killed Monday in a shooting attack near the northern West Bank town of Jenin, just a day after the three main Palestinian groups declared a ceasefire.

The worker was the first fatality since Fatah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad announced the cessation of attacks on Israelis.

The Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, a group associated with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah party, claimed responsibility for the attack.

A statement from the group, published by the Associated Press, said: "We do not agree with the ceasefire. This is our first action. This is the beginning."

Also on Monday, Israeli and Palestinian officials finalized details for the withdrawal of Israeli Defence Forces troops from the West Bank city of Bethlehem, which was to begin Wednesday.

"We met Israeli security officials in Jerusalem today and agreed Israeli troops will pull out from Bethlehem on Wednesday," said Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian minister in charge of security affairs, who negotiated the pullout with Maj.-Gen. Amos Gilad, the IDF coordinator of government activities in the territories.

But a senior Israeli security source told Reuters the deal on Bethlehem "is not final."

Taking a tough stance, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Monday: "The ceasefire agreement was not concluded with Israel. It was attained between the Palestinian Authority and the extremist terrorist elements. Since we are not a party to it, its terms do not matter to us."

According to Shalom, "We see eye-to-eye with the Americans on this: The first stage of the road map will only be carried out if the Palestinians dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, arrest wanted men, confiscate weapons and halt incitement."

Earlier Monday, PA police forces took over security responsibility for the Gaza Strip's main highway artery from the Erez entry crossing in the north to Khan Yunis in the south.

The main north-south highway stretch, which had been closed to Palestinian motorists, was opened from Netzarim Junction to the Gush Katif intersection, two sites of frequent violence in the past.

Following an overnight pull-out from a northern area of Gaza, IDF tanks withdrew and bulldozers removed sand and cement barriers from the road and handed it over, aside for one army checkpoint outside the isolated settlement of Kfar Darom. A bypass road was opened to allow Palestinian motorists to get around Kfar Darom without hindrance. Gaza police hoisted a Palestinian flag over a makeshift outpost along the road.

Israel pulled back its troops after Palestinian militant groups on Sunday declared a three-month suspension of attacks on Israelis in support of the road map.

Asked if Kassam rocket attacks against western Negev towns and kibbutzim would resume despite the ceasefire, senior Gaza PA official Sufyan Abu Zaydeh told Army Radio on Monday: "I can say with 100 per cent certainty, that there will be no Kassams, no rockets, nothing. The Palestinian police will do the job as it should be done."

But U.S. officials said a truce was no substitute for taking on militants.

"Anything that reduces violence is a step in the right direction," said White House spokeswoman Ashley Snee, but added "terrorist infrastructures" must be dismantled under the plan.

Report calls for justice

Continued from page 1

In announcing release of the report, honorary JJAC chair and Mount Royal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler charged Arab governments with "a pattern of ethnic cleansing" and "criminal conspiracy" in forcing their Jewish populations to flee.

Speaking at a news conference in New York marking release of the report, Cotler said, "This campaign is about truth, justice and reconciliation; we must return the history of Jews from Arab countries to the narrative of the Mideast from which it was expunged."

"Confronting the reality is as important as getting compensation," said Matas, who also serves as vice-president of the Canadian section of the International Commission of Jurists.

The reality as presented in the report paints a disturbing picture of a broad range of Arab states enacting restrictive legislation, fomenting mob violence and, finally, forcing Jews to depart.

"The status of Jews in Arab countries changed dramatically immediately before and after the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948-49," the report states. "By way of example, in Syria, as a result of anti-Jewish pogroms that erupted in Aleppo in 1947, 7,000 of the town's 10,000 Jews fled in terror. In Iraq, 'Zionism' became a capital crime. More than 70 Jews were killed by bombs in the Jewish quarter of Cairo between June and November 1948. After the French left Algeria, the authorities issued a variety of anti-Jewish decrees, prompting nearly all of the 160,000 Jews to flee the country. After the United Nations partition vote, Muslim rioters engaged in a bloody pogrom in Aden and Yemen, which killed 82 Jews. Varying numbers of Jews fled from 10 Arab countries, becoming refugees in a region overwhelmingly hostile to Jews. In virtually all cases, as Jews left the country, individual and communal properties were confiscated without compensation."

Of 800,000 Jewish refugees between 1948 and 1972, 586,000 settled in Israel. The report says, "There exists a moral imperative to ensure that justice for Jews from Arab countries assumes its rightful place on the international political and judicial agenda and that their rights be secured as a matter of law and equity."

The issue has been largely ignored by the international community, but there have been exceptions, Matas said. The UN High Commission for Refugees lobbied on behalf of Egyptian Jews form 1957-67, he said, leaving behind "a huge paper trail" but very few successful compensation claims.

Matas said the rights of Jewish refugees have been recognized in various international treaties and agreements. UN Resolution 242, which contemplates Israeli withdrawals from seized territories in exchange for peace, includes a provision for redress for refugees. The resolution does not indicate who qualifies as a refugee although debate at the time indicated it would include Jews fleeing Arab lands.

Matas said a number of remedies could be implemented to satisfy Jewish claims, ranging from continuation of the efforts made by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, to legal claims under the Refugee Convention in 1951, to creation of an international fund that would be part of a comprehensive Arab-Israel settlement.

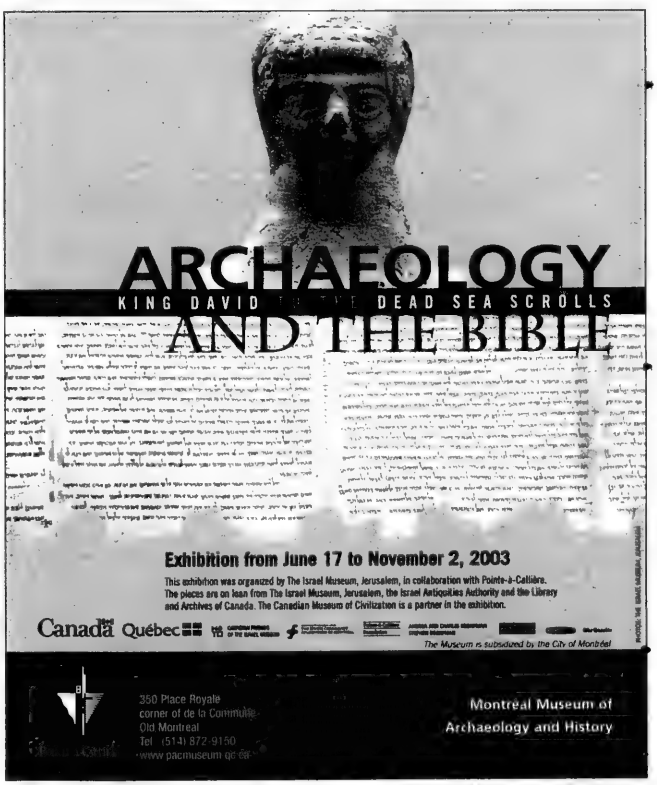
He was particularly critical of Canada's role as chair of the Refugee Working Group, established following the 1991 multi-party Madrid Peace Conference. Canada has ignored the issue, arguing it would complicate the situation, Matas said.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Marie-Christine Lilkoff said the question of Palestinian refugees had been identified as a central issue of the peace process.

"Since they do not impinge directly on Israeli-Palestinian situation, the claims of Jewish refugees from Arab countries should be resolved between the countries concerned," she said.

In other developments, the British House of Lords was scheduled to hold public hearings earlier this week, after *The CJN* went to press, on the rights of Jews from Arab countries. The hearings were to examine the response of the British government to the plight of Jewish refugees who fled Egypt in the mid-1950s. International legal experts and British and French Jewish community leaders were to participate in the proceedings.

At the same time, a formal delegation was to present Baroness Symons of Vernham Dean, the British Minister of State for Middle East Affairs, with a copy of the report.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Rice asks Sharon to 'rethink' fence route

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice asked Prime Minister Ariel Sharon on Sunday to reconsider with "greater sensitivity" the planned route of the separation fence between Israel and the West Bank.

Sharon agreed to the request, but the issue was later discussed by Rice and members of the security cabinet at a meeting in Jerusalem. The issue was raised by Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said the fence was necessary as a result of the large number of terror alerts, as well as to Israel's pro-active operations.

"Two hundred and fifty Palestinian suicide bombers have entered Israel from the West Bank," Netanyahu said, "but not one from Gaza. Building the fence is not a political move, it is a security move."

Education Minister Limor Livnat said the fence is only a temporary solution, and that emphasis must be placed on the demand that the Palestinians rein in terror.

Rice told Sharon the United States sees construction of the fence as highly problematic, since the Palestinians see Israel using it to determine political borders and annex Palestinian territory. Even if the fence is a security issue, she said, it is perceived as being political.

Sharon said Israel would not compromise on the security of the country and its citizens, and the fence fulfils a vital security need, even if Israel and the United States disagree on its necessity.

In all her meetings, Rice stressed that the United States is demanding that the PA disarm Hamas and all the other terror groups, and that the administration remains firm in its support of Israel.

Her talks began with a three-way meeting with Palestinian Finance Minister Salam Fayyad and Sharon's bureau chief, Dov Weisglass. Rice said in order to suffocate Hamas, the Palestinian Authority (PA) must develop an alternative to the welfare system Hamas has established.

The United States is interested in investing large sums of money in projects that would give the Palestinians an immediate sense that their situation is improving, Rice said. She asked the Palestinians to make a proposal to the United States, and she asked Israel to help implement the projects.

She recognized Israel's right to fight terror, but asked Israel to give the Palestinians time, and to use restraint in its military reactions, even in areas still under IDF control. If Israel knows of a bomber on his way to carry out an attack and the PA does nothing to stop him, she said, then Israel has the right and the duty to act. But she urged Israel to think twice before acting.

Sharon said Israel would track implementation of an agreement to transfer responsibility for security in the Gaza Strip, and that if the PA does not fulfil its obligations, "Israel will consider itself released of its commitments."

Ministers expressed concern about the weakness of Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in his dealings with Yasser Arafat, a problem Rice said she recognizes. She said it is very important for Abbas to hold real power, and that both Israel and the United States should help him.

Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom told Rice that in general, he supports the Gaza accord, but that for the road map to succeed, Abbas and PA Security Minister Mohammed Dahlan must act immediately to decommission illegal weapons and dismantle terrorist infrastructure.

"As of today, Israel has started to implement the road map, and the Palestinians have not," Shalom said. "They must make the strategic decision to eradicate terror."

PA newspaper insults U.S. gov't officials

By ITAMAR MARCUS

Palestinian Media Watch

A Palestinian Authority (PA) daily has published another article attacking U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, making her race an integral part of the story.

In an article in the June 22 issue of *Al Ayyam*, Rice is referred to as a "black woman" three times and a "black spinster." The article's author, who says he even considered the term "black widow" but rejected it, also uses the opportunity to highlight the race of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and Reverend Jesse Jackson and to categorize the wives of U.S. presidents.

And while on the racial warpath, former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger is called "Darling Henry the Jew."

The following are selections from the article (*Al Ayyam*, June 22):

"[National Security Adviser] Dr. Condolezza Rice is the most influential national security advisor in the US administration since 'Darling Henry' Kissinger... The White House has seen some women with strong personalities, such as 'the dominant' wife of president Ronald Reagan, 'the bright and the ambitious' wife of president Bill Clinton, and the 'beloved' wife of president John Kennedy. However, Condoleezza is the first lady [in rank], and the first black woman to serve in the most serious post in the White House. She is the 'president's brain,' especially with regard to the current incumbent, who is the most powerful world leader, but is one of the weakest presidents, [regarding] international political culture, to pass through the White House."

"The adviser's 'intelligence' and the 'bravery' of General Colin Powell are what have elevated this black woman and black gentleman to the highest positions ever held by a black American woman or black American man in any administration...

"In contrast to Powell, who is the 'moderate' in an extremist American administration, Rice is conspicuous by her thinking which follows the American 'New Right,' which is conservative and messianic. She is the daughter of a black clergyman, who filled her head during her childhood with stories about the Holy Land. These are vastly different from the liberal political theories espoused by the black minister Jesse Jackson, who is considered a 'friend of the Palestinians' and a supporter of the downtrodden Third World nations. He was also the first black candidate for the American presidency.

"In an exclusive interview with *Yediot Acharonot* at the end of last May... she spoke about her powerful spiritual impressions from her first visit to Israel in August 2000: 'There, I felt as if I had come home, in my first visit to the place. There is a deep attachment between me and Israel.'"

The article includes other insults:

"... 'Darling Henry' the Jew pretended to weep over the Israeli political leadership's 'stupidity' and 'short-sightedness'...

"Next week Ms. Rice will be visiting Israel for the second time ...in order to salvage the 'brave' and 'moderate' black [Powell] from failure by salvaging the road map..."

"...Beware this 'black spinster,' we don't want to say 'the black widow' out of respect for her femininity and her intelligence."

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June 23

• Israel arrested 130 Palestinians in the West Bank, mainly in Hebron and Nablus. Most belong to Hamas and are suspects in recent terror attacks.

• Four Palestinians were killed in Gaza when a bomb they were planting blew up prematurely, Palestinian witnesses said. They were said to be part of a Fatah-linked militia.

June 24

• Five leaders of Israel's Islamic Movement, including the head of its northern branch and the mayor of the Israeli-Arab town of Umm el-Fahm, were charged with belonging to a terror group, money laundering and contact with foreign agents. They allegedly channelled funds from Hamas-linked charities abroad to Hamas-linked groups in the West Bank and Gaza, but weren't charged with involvement in terror or providing money for attacks.

June 25

• Israel killed two Hamas gunmen in a firefight in northern Gaza as they were trying to plant a bomb along the security fence. Israel also killed two Palestinians and injured 16 in a helicopter strike in Gaza aimed at a Hamas cell preparing to launch rockets at the Jewish state.

• Soldiers removed two tents at an outpost near Hebron. Settlers said they put up two other outposts overnight.

June 26

• A Palestinian youth fatally shot an Israeli phone company worker in the northern Arab town Baqa el-Gharbiyeh, near the West Bank. A Fatah-linked militia claimed responsibility.

June 27

• Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said the group has decided to suspend attacks on Israel and that it would formally declare its position in the coming days.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz.

U.S. trying to stop Iran's nuclear weapons program

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

The debate over Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons, which began in earnest several years ago, has intensified since the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

In recent months, the United States has drawn attention to the topic by calling for intrusive international inspections of Iran's budding nuclear facilities and by redoubling its efforts to persuade Russia to end its nuclear co-operation with Iran.

And in a sharp warning, U.S. President George W. Bush has said he and other world leaders will not tolerate a nuclear-armed Iran.

By all accounts, Iran – an Islamic country that questions Israel's existence and actively supports Hamas and Hezbollah – is dangerously close to acquiring a nuclear arsenal: Iran has learned how to produce its own nuclear bomb fuel.

"The assessment is that Iran does have a very active program and is likely to have nuclear weapons in a relatively short period of time," U.S. Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld said last month.

According to American intelligence agencies, Iran will join the nuclear club by the end of the decade. Israel's foreign minister, Silvan Shalom, believes that Iran is within two years of that objective.

But whatever the timeline, the consensus is that Iran has embarked on a serious quest to become the second Muslim nation after Pakistan to be a nuclear power.

Iran, which has a plentiful supply of oil and gas, claims its nuclear program is peaceful and designed to offset a future domestic energy shortage.

But critics contend that Iran is developing nuclear weapons under the guise of a civilian nuclear program.

Iran's foray into nuclear technology began in 1957 under the pro-American Pahlavi monarchy, which had fruitful political, economic and military relations with Israel.

The United States, Israel and West Germany contributed significantly to Iran's nuclear program, which was suspended in the wake of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Iran resumed the program in the 1990s, when Russia agreed to complete the construction of a 1,000-mega-watt light water reactor at the Persian Gulf port of Bushehr.

Apart from Bushehr, the program consists of a uranium enrichment plants in Natanz and Kalaye.

Thanks to its advanced long-range missiles, Iran possesses the means to deliver a nuclear weapon. The Shahab 3 missile, with a range of about 1,300 kilometres, can theoretically reach Israel. The estimated range of the Shahab 4 is 2,000 kilometres.

These missiles were reportedly developed with the help of China, North Korea and, possibly, disaffected scientists from the former Soviet Union.

In sharp contrast to the manner in which it handled the issue of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, the Bush administration is trying to resolve the Iranian problem through diplomacy rather than military force. Washington hopes that the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as Russia, can rein in Iran.

Last February, the director of the IAEA, Mohammed El-Baradei, visited Bushehr. His mission was to convince Iran to accept stricter supervision of its nuclear program.

But El-Baradei appears to have failed. Last month, he issued a report in which he accused Iran of not being forthcoming about its nuclear activities.

Although Iran rejected a call for wider inspections, the Iranian government expressed a willingness to co-operate more actively with the IAEA.

In the meantime, the United States and its allies are pressing Russian President Vladimir Putin to downgrade nuclear ties with Iran.

Clearly dissatisfied with Iranian President Mohammad Khatami's bland assurance to Putin that Iran has no intention of building nuclear weapons, the Bush administration has exerted additional pressure on Moscow to suspend exports of nuclear fuel to Iran until Tehran meets the demands of the IAEA.

Citing Israel's nuclear program, Iran complains of being unfairly singled out for special treatment. Israel, which denies having a nuclear capability, maintains it will not officially address the subject until it is at peace with all its Muslim neighbours. Washington supports Israel's policy, saying the issue should not be opened as long as the Arab-Israeli dispute festers.

Novelist Leon Uris gave Jewish history wide appeal

By PETER EPHROSS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Leon Uris wasn't a critic's darling. But for millions of readers, he was an entrée into modern Jewish history.

Uris' books "appeal to people who want a good read," said Bonnie Lyons, a professor of English at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

Uris, who died on June 21 in New York of renal failure at the age of 78, became famous for his 600-page novel *Exodus*, about the Jewish struggle to establish the State of Israel after World War II.

Through his works, people could develop a sympathy for Israel and Jewish history, said Lyons, who has written widely on American Jewish literature.

Uris was known for books that were long and obsessively researched – and, once they landed on the bookshelves, were obsessively read.

Leon Marcus Uris was born on Aug. 3, 1924, in Baltimore. His parents were immigrants from the Russian Empire. His father had spent a year in British Mandate Palestine before moving to the United States, and derived his surname, Uris, from Yerushalmi, meaning Jerusalemite, according to *The New York Times*.

It is no coincidence that the story of European immigrants making their way to what was then Palestine and establishing the State of Israel was the basis of *Exodus*.

By using the story of the Jewish underground fighters trying to smuggle Jews into British Mandate Palestine, Uris made Jewish history and Zionism of the late 19th and early 20th centuries accessible to many.

"The mythic Israel he presented is still the mythic Israel in the heads of many American Jews," said Sanford Pinsker, the Shadek professor of humanities at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn.

Uris was not well-regarded by critics, many of whom considered his writing crude and simple.

People who think Saul Bellow, Bernard Malamud and Cynthia Ozick are major Jewish writers "would say [Uris] was just a popular writer," Lyons said. "He tells a good story, but he's not of lasting literary value."

In the world of American Jewish fiction, Uris is likely to be remembered as a step below Chaim Potok, perhaps on a par with Herman Wouk.

But readers around the world didn't seem to care. *Exodus* was translated into dozens of languages and even smuggled into Communist Eastern Europe.

"*Exodus* has been the bible of the Jewish dissident movement in Russia. It's referred to as 'The Book,'" he once told the Associated Press.

It later was made into a movie by Otto Preminger.

After *Exodus*, Uris continued to explore Jewish themes.

He travelled across eastern Europe to collect material for *Mila 18*, a novel about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. It proved so successful that Joseph Heller reportedly decided to change the name of his novel from *Catch-18* to *Catch-22*.

Published in 1988, *Mitla Pass* takes place in Israel during the events that led up to the Suez War in 1956, and traces the ancestry of journalist Gideon Zadok back to the 1880s.

Among Uris' other novels were *Trinity*, about Ireland's struggle for independence, and *QB VII*, a fictionalized account of a lawsuit filed against Uris by a Polish doctor who had been called a war criminal in *Exodus*.

Uris, who grew up in Norfolk, Va., once said, "I used to think of myself as a very sad little Jewish boy, undersized, asthmatic."

His father was a storekeeper whom Uris remembered as a failure, which the novelist said motivated him to succeed.

"I think I can say that from earliest memory I was determined not to be a failure," he said.

Uris quit high school soon after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and joined the Marines. He served as a radio operator in the campaigns at Guadalcanal and Tarawa.

His last book, *O'Hara's Choice*, a love story involving the history of the Marines, is slated to be published in October.

Uris was married three times and had five children.

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KIDDISH
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by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

Lemonade

Fresh-squeezed lemonade! Only 35 cents! Refills 25 cents! Ari looked dejectedly at his sign, wiping his forehead. It seemed that nobody was driving by today. He had been in the blazing sun for over two hours, and he'd only made 95 cents! He squinted through the shimmering air looking for oncoming cars. The street was empty. *Wait, a car was coming! Maybe the driver would buy some lemonade. It was coming closer. Three blocks away, two blocks, they would definitely buy, it's so hot today...*Ari broke off in mid-thought as the car signalled and turned down a side street.

Aaaaaaaaaaaugh! Ari felt like screaming. "Why am I wasting my time?" he muttered to himself, adjusting the small fan on the table in front of him. He tasted a cup of lemonade. It wasn't ice cold anymore. He would have to get more ice.

"Esti!" he yelled. "I need more ice!" A minute later, the door to his house opened, and his sister appeared, holding a tray of ice.

"Ari, how much did you make so far?" she asked.

"Uh, 95 cents." he replied.

"That's it?" said Esti, pouring the ice cubes into the pitcher on the table. "Gosh, that's less than 50 cents an hour. Why didn't you put up more signs around the neighbourhood?"

"I did! I put up more than 10 signs! It's just that NO ONE'S INTERESTED!"

"So come inside already. It's so hot out here."

"I think I will...in another few minutes. I want to make at least a dollar today."

"OK, but you might be outside the whole afternoon," said Esti, taking the empty ice cube tray and going back inside.

A dollar! That's how little I'm settling for! thought Ari angrily. *I was planning on making over 10! I even looked forward to baking my brain out here in the sun! Why am I wasting my time?*

Again he futilely scanned the street. A car was coming! It passed him without even slowing down. *Forget it. I'm going inside...Hey! Who's that?* An old woman was walking down the street. *I thought I was the only person stupid enough to be outside today. She must be boiling hot. There's no way she'll pass my stand without buying lemonade!*

But as the woman got closer, Ari realized she probably didn't have enough money to buy even one cup. Her dress was torn and ragged, her face was creased and wrinkled, and she seemed bent under some terrible burden.

"Good afternoon, young man," she said faintly, slowly. "Could I have a cup of lemonade?"

"Uh, it's thirty five cents," said Ari, hopefully. But the old woman shook her head sadly. Reaching into her pockets, she produced one, two...three cents.

"This is all I have."

Oh, great. She wants free lemonade. But then Ari felt a wave of compassion. *All she has is three cents — she has even less money than I do!*

Ari remembered what he had learned about the importance of tzedakah, charity. About what a great mitzvah it was. *All right, fine. I'll give her a cup.* Ari reached for the pitcher, scowling. *Wait! Rabbi Perlow said when you give charity to someone, you shouldn't make them feel bad. You should give with a smile...*

"Of course you can have a cup," said Ari, forcing himself to smile as he poured her some lemonade. She drank it hurriedly, thirstily.

"Would you like another cup?" He actually meant it this time.

"Oh, thank you..." she broke off, not knowing his name.

"Ari." *It was strange how easy it was pouring that second cup. I guess being nice gets easier the more you do it.* He handed her the cup with a smile — not a fake one, a genuine one.

"Ari," said a voice behind him. He jumped, and quickly turned around.

A man stood there. Ari must have been too busy with the old lady to notice him park his car and come out.

"That was very kind of you," he said. "I think I'll pay you for what she bought."

"No," said Ari, surprising even himself. "Uh, no thanks." He couldn't explain it, but he wanted to keep the mitzvah for himself, and he felt that taking money for it would diminish it.

The man seemed somewhat surprised. "Well, in that case," he smiled, "how about some lemonade for me and my sons?" He turned to his car, called out, "Boys!" and five boys came piling out. "We've been playing baseball all day, and we're mighty thirsty. So we'll take six cups and some refills too."

He pulled out a $10 dollar bill and gave it to Ari. "I'm not sure how much we'll need, but this should cover it. Keep the change!"

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Governments, hospitals must work together: Mapa

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Government and hospitals must create "a culture of partnership" in which both work together for the good of the community, says Joseph Mapa, president and CEO of Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital.

Such a model would be a "win-win situation" for everybody, he said.

Joseph Mapa

To this end, Mapa and Peggy Leatt, the chair of department of health policy and administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's school of public health, have co-edited *Government Relations in the Health Care Industry* (Praeger, 2003), a book of essays by scholars, practitioners and policymakers that its publisher says aims "to provide compelling reasons why the development and maintenance of effective government relations in the health care industry must be a top priority."

Mapa is an assistant professor in the department of health policy, management and evaluation at the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine. He also holds an MBA from U of T and has written many articles and three books.

Although he has been at Mount Sinai for more than 20 years, serving as executive assistant to former president and CEO Jerry Turner and then as chief operating officer, he has only been in his current position for two years. In that short time, he has had to contend with both SARS and last winter's Norwalk stomach virus.

In both cases, Mapa has put hospital resources and staff in the forefront of the medical system's response. Indeed, Donald Low, the hospital's chief of microbiology, has been a prominent spokesperson in the current SARS crisis.

And, he noted, "we have already been contacted by the government about dealing with West Nile virus."

This community involvement is one way Mount Sinai is trying to overcome problems caused by government restructuring of healthcare services, Mapa said in an interview.

"Hospitals were targeted [by government cost-cutting] because, taking up a large proportion of the provincial budget, it is an obvious object to go after," he said.

The problem with that, he said, is that "you can't have it both ways. Because the health-care system is regulated, hospitals are obligated to supply whatever is needed." Demand for services is "surging," while funds to meet it are declining, Mapa said.

This situation also affects fundraising from non-governmental sources, he said. The reality is that "the more government funding that a hospital gets, the more the community will help," he said.

The most important tool in attracting government support, Mapa said, is to make sure an institution is the best at what it does – for instance, the best at obstetrics or the best at trauma care.

This calls for what Mapa terms "evidence-based advocacy," in which hospitals promote their strengths.

These principles apply equally in both the United States and Canada, Mapa said, despite the lack of a government-funded universal health plan south of the border.

A book for kids who have lost a sibling

By honouring and remembering a child who died, you can learn to cope with your pain and bring peace to your heart and soul, says Robyn Posen Young.

This is not just an academic statement for Young, who lost her daughter, Samantha nearly seven years ago. Samantha died from a tumour of the brain stem at age 5½.

Upset that there was no effective palliative care available for children at the time, Young decided to write a book to help children and their parents and siblings deal with the trauma.

Samantha's Unicorn appeared last year, published by the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care at Toronto's Mount Sinai hospital.

It told the story of a little girl who was very ill. One day, she met a unicorn that took her for "a ride above the rainbow," where "all of the children were healthy. They could all walk, talk, eat, drink and play."

The book, designed for children, was written in simple language and used brilliant colours to depict the kind of things that happen to kids in a hospital, and to show that it is perfectly normal to feel scared about the experience.

The unicorn, Samantha's favourite creature, also plays a part in the second book in the series, *Jamie's Rainbow*, by the same author, illustrator (Merridy Kotler) and publisher.

This book was written for the siblings of a child who died. Jamie, Samantha's sister, was actually born after Samantha died, although in the book she knew her sister.

Young said it was important to write a second book "to show that life keeps going, and we can still be happy."

She is considering writing a third book with her third child Ben as the focus, as well as a workbook for children who are ill.

But right now, Young and her family are still excited about the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation's Unicorn Ball, which was held last month.

What started as a "little dinner" has turned into a major gala event that this year raised about $50,000 for pediatric palliative care. The hope is to make it an annual event, she said.

Both of Young's books are available at the Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care.

— L.S.

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Please visit our web site at www.teacherawards.org for more details.

Business Profile

No sleight-of-hand involved in running magic shop

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

He's a self-confessed shy guy. He doesn't like the limelight. He's bespectacled, mild-mannered and slightly built. But Jeff Pinsky can make your eyes bug out, your jaw drop, and stop you in your tracks, literally at the drop of a hat. Or the flip of a coin. Or the turn of a card.

If you're into magic, whether as amateur or pro, walking into Pinsky's shop, Browser's Den of Magic (875 Eglinton Ave. W.), is as close as you can get to a kid-in-the-candy-store analogy. Tricks and ruses, age-old and brand new, jam the shelves of the small, narrow store, their bright colours vying for attention. Hundreds of how-to books, videos and DVDs are carefully racked cheek-by-jowl with magic wands, balls, cups, rings, cabinets, vanishing this and reappearing that. Throw in some classic pranks (the bloodied fake thumb, the joy buzzer, the rubber mouse) along with everything today's clown and ventriloquist might need, and you have the kind of business that even the non-practitioner can get lost in for hours.

Which is all right by the shopkeeper. Pinsky, 37 and single, bought the 1,000-square-foot store from Browser's Den founder Len Cooper in 1995 (Cooper, a taller version of Groucho Marx, died this past January at age 75). Pinsky allows, a bit sheepishly, that business has grown and is simply "good." He has set up a Web site (www.browsersden.com) and a mail-order catalogue that attracts buyers from around the world, but seems out-of-sorts when discussing the financial nuts and bolts of running the place.

"I'm here at 6 a.m. every day, updating the site, answering e-mail questions, doing paperwork," – and, he adds with a slight smile – "learning new tricks." That's 12-hour days, five, often six days a week.

But can he conjure up a fatter bottom line? "No," he says with a sigh. "It's not easy doing this. But it is a lot of fun."

How can it not be? With more than 3,000 different tricks, props, supplies, and instructional materials for sale, Browser's Den has become Magic Central in Toronto, a kind of home away from home for local magicians. Walk in almost any day, and you'll find men young and old (it's an almost exclusively male domain) gathered, cracker-barrel style, swapping tips, learning new methods or just shooting the breeze about the latest developments in the field.

"It's a meeting place for the magic scene in Toronto," says Pinsky, a York University business graduate and member of the Canadian Association of Magicians. "We also sponsor lectures, and I go to magic conventions to keep up with the latest."

Nothing up his sleeve: Browser's Den of Magic owner Jeff Pinsky (Ron Csillag photo)

About 20 per cent of his customers are professional magicians, the rest hobbyists and dabblers. His prices range from $3 for a simple disappearing ball trick, to $550 for a handmade, wooden ventriloquist's doll whose eyes move.

> *'Be natural. Hide your skill'*

Pinsky was bitten by the magic bug at age eight when he learned his first trick: Making three different lengths of rope appear – presto! – as one.

Magic is more popular now than ever, he says, owing much to such mainstay acts as Penn & Teller, David Copperfield and Siegfried & Roy. The field has received a boost of late from the awe-inspiring street magic of David Blaine, whose illusory antics literally stop traffic and cause people to flee. Of course, the escapades of boy wizard Harry Potter haven't hurt either.

Magic falls into three categories, Pinsky explains: close-up, parlour tricks (before 20 to 50 people) and stage magic, performed before thousands, or millions on television. As for those tabloid TV shows that expose tricks, "they're terrible because they cheapen magic. But they're good for business."

Pinsky describes himself as "a general practitioner. Although I demonstrate magic to customers, I'm a pure hobbyist." With about 20 new items coming into the store every month, he figures he has to learn about 10 tricks a month.

"Perfecting any trick requires patience and practice. A lot of people want instant gratification. If I use the word 'practice,' sales go down."

The old stand-bys still sell well: Chinese linking rings, cups and balls. But the best-sellers are card tricks, some with ordinary decks, others with specially marked or rigged ones. A particular favourite is the Invisible Deck, in which the spectator names a card, which turns out to be the only one face down in the fanned-out deck.

Another crowd pleaser is called Scotch and Soda. In it, a coin changes colours right in the unsuspecting person's closed hand. For *The CJN*, Pinsky nonchalantly has the reporter write his initials on a small sticker that is fastened to the face of a card. After the customary shuffle and some snappy show-biz patter, the card with the sticker somehow winds up in his pocket.

Kids will be slack-jawed over a bit that combines nifty legerdemain with a cuddly rabbit in a top hat, who, with Pinsky's help, pulls... ah, let's not ruin it.

It all boils down to three basics: Sleight-of-hand, misdirection and psychology (Pinsky prefers the term "audience management").

"No one really likes being tricked," he says. "We're brought up to believe it's not nice to trick people. You have to make it fun and entertaining. A lot of it is theatre and misdirection. The really good close-up people hide their skills. That's the advice: Be natural. Hide your skill."

The Judeo-Christian tradition frowns on sorcery. The Book of Deuteronomy warns it is "an abomination" to be an enchanter, witch, charmer, consulter with familiar spirits, wizard or necromancer. But perhaps the most famous magician of all was Jewish: Harry Houdini, born Erich Weiss, the son of a Hungarian rabbi.

The shop is in the heart of a Jewish neighbourhood, and many of Pinsky's customers are Jewish.

"A lot of our religious customers buy juggling equipment," he points out. Perhaps it's in keeping with the old Jewish tradition of being a *tummler* – a prankster – the life of the party.

Pinsky, a Montreal native who managed the magic booth at Paramount Canada's Wonderland for 14 years, confesses there is a paradox in his line of work.

"Selling magic is odd because you have to create trust by tricking people. And we don't tell you how something works unless you buy it."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP

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Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

EL AL CANADA HOPING TO WOO MORE JEWISH TRAVELLERS TO ISRAEL

Despite the unstable political situation in the Middle East and the turbulence in the travel business resulting from 9/11 and SARS, El Al Canada is doing reasonably well this summer, says Stanley Morais, the airline's first Canadian-born general manager for Canada.

Part of the reason is the continued popularity of El Al's lucrative Los Angeles-Toronto connection. As well, an astonishingly high proportion of Israelis are world travellers who help fill the airline's four weekly return flights between Toronto and Tel Aviv.

"Our flights this summer are extremely busy, both to and from Israel," Morais said during a talk last week at Toronto's Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

Stanley Morais

However, the picture is far from rosy, he acknowledged. In the midst of a shift towards privatization, El Al has been grappling with the same tourism downturns that have caused such industry goliaths as Air Canada to totter on the brink of insolvency.

For the last several years, Air Canada's competing service to Tel Aviv has proven popular. Morais said El Al reacted to Air Canada's challenge by improving its service. For example, the airline now uses more comfortable wide-bodied aircraft on the Canada-Israel run. (Now in its 20th year of operations in Toronto, El Al has entered a codesharing arrangement with Air Canada, enabling it to accept bookings to Israel departing any day in the week.)

In addition to offering improved cabin service, El Al's security standards remain the best in the world, Morais said. "Half the staff we employ here in Toronto are security personnel. It's not something any other airline can boast."

Morais, who formerly worked as an ad executive and media relations officer for the Israel Government Tourist Office in Toronto, said the airline is making a special marketing push towards Canada's 375,000-strong Jewish community.

"The statistic is that only 20 per cent of the Jewish community have visited Israel. I think that's sad," he said. "The question is: why have Jews taken Israel off their list of places to visit?" But he noted that 80 per cent of those Canadian Jews who do visit Israel make return trips.

Morais urged his listeners to visit Israel and to fly El Al. "Be an advocate for travel to Israel because the Israelis need to see us in Israel."

The audience included numerous travel professionals, such as Mindy Green of Intertours, David Freudmann of Uniword Travel, and Tom Moos, formerly of Kennedy Travel.

* * *

Travel Guide Update: As previously noted in this column, I consider Footprint's Israel travel guide to be superior to Lonely Planet's or any other competing guidebook because of its high level of detail. The British-based publisher evidently sees its market as intelligent travellers of all budgets who seek social, cultural and historical information that is in-depth yet succinct.

Footprint's European guides, I've found, offer the same exemplary quality and format, along with plenty of town maps and sidebars. Northern Spain, for example, which covers the provinces north of Madrid, provides an insightful sidebar on bullfighting, which it describes as "an emblem of Spanish culture, a reminder of Roman times when gladiators fought wild beasts in amphitheatres."

Likewise, Footprint's Paris city guide offers a delightful summation of the French capital's multiple attractions, and has the additional advantage of being pocket-sized.

Footprint also recently started publishing books about our own country, including a pocket-sized Vancouver city guide. Its regular-format Western Canada guide covers British Columbia, Alberta and the Yukon.

"Take an area bigger than Mexico and sprinkle with fewer people than there are in Switzerland, tucking almost all of them into one small corner," it begins. "Now cover the vast remaining wilderness with row upon row of lofty ice-capped mountains, huge lakes and mighty rivers."

Another publisher of note is Quebec-based Ulysses, whose guides to Montreal, Quebec City and "la belle province" itself have proven vastly popular. The 23-year-old company operates three stores in Montreal and publishes some 90 titles in English and 100 in French. (It also markets the Footprint guides in Canada.)

Long a contented user of its Montreal guide, I'm pleased to see that Ulysses offers an expanded line of Canadian titles. *Cycling in Ontario*, for instance, is a handy 308-page guide to 37 bicycle tours of varying levels of difficulty, with many maps and descriptions of attractions and off-road trails.

Its 720-page Canada guide seems a very good introduction for tourists. Other Canadian titles include *Quebec and Ontario with VIA Rail, Inns and Bed and Breakfasts in Quebec, The Trans-Canada Trail in Newfoundland, Hiking in Ontario, Ottawa-Hull, Atlantic Canada*, and numerous guides to Western Canada.

The books reportedly sell well in the United States and Europe as well as in Canada. The publisher's Web site is www.ulyssesguides.com.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN, PART I: A MODERN JEWISH PICARESQUE HERO

Quick: can you name two prominent authors who made stunning literary debuts while still in their early 20s, each with an effervescent and picaresque first novel that contains a set of smaller stories within the novelistic framework?

Hint: one is a contemporary Jewish-American, the other a British Victorian.

Hailed by the New York-based *Forward* newspaper as one of this century's greatest novels so far, **Jonathan Safran Foer's** *Everything Is Illuminated* is really two books in one.

The tale focuses on a journey by the author's eponymous hero, Jonathan Safran Foer, to his ancestral shtetl of Trachimbrod, Ukraine, in search of the woman who saved his grandfather from the Nazis.

His guide is Alex Perchov, a young Ukrainian translator who narrates key sections of the story in his uniquely fractured English, complemented to great comic effect by his eccentric use of a thesaurus. Their driver is Alex's misanthropic grandfather, who insists that he is blind and brings along his obnoxious seeing-eye dog, Sammy Davis Junior Junior.

As narrated by Alex, the quartet's comic misadventures are by far the best sections of the book. Foer's illuminating portrait of the American Jew returning to the impoverished farmlands of eastern Europe in search of his roots is a brilliant delineation of the modern American Jewish mythical quest. The book deserves a hallowed niche in the annals of Jewish-American literature for this superb satire alone.

Foer's fictional alter-ego presents an absurd family history in alternating chapters. These sections contain quasi-magical but ponderous biographical episodes from the lives of his ancestors, who come across as Tevye-like folksy villagers. Here the writing is redolent of what critic **Laura Miller** has aptly described as "rehashed Chagall and dime-store **Garcia Marquez**."

Foer's book-within-the-book is an experimentally daring but ultimately tedious counterweight to the utterly luminous Alex chapters, which have inspired countless critical raves ever since its early appearance in the *New Yorker* magazine.

Foer, 26, reportedly pounded out a first draft of *Everything Is Illuminated* very soon after returning from a heritage tour to eastern Europe a few years ago. He has expressed amazement at the critical reception the novel has received and the fact that movie rights have already been sold.

"I'm still surprised I wrote it, I'm surprised it got published and I'm even more surprised that anyone read it," he said last year upon winning the British Guardian fiction prize, worth about $22,000. "I'm not being modest, it's true."

The British Victorian author to whom Foer might be compared? None other than **Charles Dickens**. England's 19th-century bard was 24 when the first serial instalment of his first novel, *Pickwick Papers*, came out in 1836. The highly comic picaresque tale, which focuses on the peregrinations of Mr. Pickwick and several of his friends around England, propelled its author to the highest ranks of literary stardom.

Both Foer and Dickens seem to be paying conscious tribute to earlier novelists like **Tobias Smollett** and **Henry Fielding** (not to mention **Miguel de Cervantes**). Foer's stylistic creativity, particularly in the closing sections, is also reminiscent of **Laurence Sterne**.

With *Pickwick*, "Dickens' genius was made manifest," according to critic **Walter Allen**. "Here is Dickens the pure humourist, rejoicing in his ability to dash off character after character, a whole world of them, his and none other's, rejoicing too in the language he puts in their mouths, a language so fertile and exuberant in comic invention as to have a lyrical quality almost of poetry."

Anyone making a similar claim regarding Foer would not be so terribly off the mark.

Dickens followed up his first great success with *Oliver Twist*, a much darker and sobering look at London's criminal underworld and impoverished streetlife. It is here, perhaps, that the comparison with Foer ends. The exuberantly talented young American is reportedly working on a second novel titled *The Zelnick Museum*, set in a fictional contemporary museum devoted to the life of a fictional diarist from the 1930s.

Everything Is Illuminated first appeared in 2002. HarperCollins Perennial recently brought out a paperback edition for $21.95.

* * *

New or Recently in Print

• Toronto film buff **Bill Stern** offers his reflections on a diverse assortment of films in *You Don't Have to Be Jewish: Commentaries on a Selection of Jewish Content Movies* (Lugus).

• **Dr. David Nassy**, a bankrupt Jewish doctor-planter from Surinam, arrived in Philadelphia in 1792 with his slave, Matthew, just in time for them to help the city through a major epidemic of yellow fever. **Ellen Norman Stern** tells their story in *The French Physician's Boy*, a novel recently published by Xlibris.

• New York's Biblio Press presents *Voices of Thinking Jewish Women*, compiled by **Prudence Wright Holmes**, a work that highlights 42 Jewish women achievers in many fields – the list includes **Sarah Bernhardt**, **Lillian Hellman**, **Susan Sontag** and **Wendy Wasserstein**. Biblio has also produced a fresh paper edition of *Remarkable Jewish Women: Rebels, Rabbis and Other Women from Biblical Times to the Present*, by **Emily Taitz** and **Sondra Henry**. 212-989-2755.

Artist explores cycle of life

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

When people first look at Adi Zur's paintings, they're impressed by the colours, but they don't understand the deeper meaning behind them.

The Toronto artist sees her work as much more than colour on canvas. She sees them as representing the cycle of life.

Birth, death and rebirth are the themes she focuses on in her latest works, which will be displayed at the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition from July 11 to 13 at Nathan Philips Square.

Zur's encaustic wax paintings are brightly coloured and luminescent, often seeming as if there is a light behind them that illuminates the colours within. The effect is achieved by using alternating layers of hot wax and oil paint.

Double Nature by Adi Zur.

Under the layers of wax and paint are often parts of photographs taken of her family. The result of the buildup of layers is a glowing, yet ambiguous, set of images.

The biggest challenge, Zur says, was to combine the photographs underneath with the paint and wax on top.

"Many times people see the painting and say 'Oh, nice colours,' but then they look at it for a while and they see it," says the Israeli-born Zur.

What she wants viewers to see is the meaning beyond the organic, playful shapes. The fogginess of the paintings, she says, hints at the ambiguity of life.

"We see ambiguity in life because you can never know the enigma of life. You can only see one thing then another."

Even the layers of wax and colour represent more than just wax and colour.

"When I paint, I paint many layers because those are the layers of life," she says.

Zur looks to nature and the past for inspiration. Nature, she says, underscores the themes she explores in her art.

"I love the ocean, I love the water. I always think about what's hiding under the ocean, maybe a boat lost on a journey," she says. "It's like the enigma of life."

She is fascinated by everything that has to do with the past: the Bible, mythology, cave paintings and other hints of prehistoric life.

Her previous set of paintings – mixed media on wooden panels – were influenced by cave drawings like the ones near her childhood home in Israel.

"I lived in an area of Israel where there were lots of ancient caves. I played with my friends in those caves. It made me think there were people just like us living then."

Zur has been painting since she was six years old. She remembers attending art programs after school and painting at home.

Zur majored in philosophy at Tel Aviv University and worked as an art teacher before moving to Canada 12 years ago. In Toronto, she graduated from the Ontario College of Art and Design in 2002 with a diploma in drawing and painting. Now she paints full time. Each painting takes her about a month to complete.

There will be about 25 paintings in her exhibit at the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition.

Zur says she likes to plan her paintings so she has an idea of what the outcome will be, but prefers to let her imagination take over when she paints.

"I like it to come from the subconscious. I like not to control it too much, I like the surrealist concept that things should come accidentally," she says. "When you make something from outside, it isn't true. When you make something from inside, it is real."

Arts & Travel

Montrealer's debut novel captures mood of mid-1970s Israel

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Montreal writer Edeet Ravel readily acknowledges that she based the heroine of her first novel, *Ten Thousand Lovers*, on herself and her own past as an Israeli-born kibbutznik whose parents brought her to Canada at the age of seven, and who returned to Israel a decade later to attend university in Jerusalem. (She later returned to Montreal, where she taught at a CEGEP college until last year.)

Since Israel is embedded so deeply into her heart and consciousness, it's no surprise her book is set in the Israel she remembers. Although she holds a critical mirror to the country for its treatment of the Palestinians, there's no question of her abiding love and concern for Israel.

The novel takes place in the mid-1970s, which as author Yossi Mellman once observed was a time when "Israelis were all sleepwalking."

Like "The Yellow Wind", David Grossman's famously prescient long essay of the 1980s, *Ten Thousand Lovers* is set in a pre-intifadah Israel that is smouldering with something dark, foreboding and unnameable.

Essentially a love story, the novel weaves a beguiling spell that is equal parts darkness and light. The plot focuses on the relationship between Lily, the beautiful young first-person narrator, and Ami, a charming Israeli military official whom she meets while hitchhiking.

The story is told by Lily in retrospect, and dark undercurrents become evident almost from her first sentence: "A long time ago, when I was twenty, I had a relationship with a man who was an interrogator."

Ravel says the idea for the book emerged from a conversation she once had with a stranger who admitted being a professional interrogator.

"It never occurred to me that someone could have that job. I was stunned when he told me that. I never knew that that could be a job. It opened up a whole new level of Israeli reality for me."

While the focus never deviates from the wonderfully realized characters and their deepening love affair, the subjects of torture and brutality keep recurring. Ami rejects such repugnant methods and uses only his personal charm to get information from detainees. Still, torture remains an integral part of his workplace and he can't escape the consequences of that, not even after switching careers.

Besides the various biographical details that Ravel shares with the fictional Lily, both she and her heroine share a love for the Hebrew language and the biblical heritage of the Jewish people. Interspersed between the novel's dramatic scenes are many intriguing sidebar discussions of Hebrew words, grammatical points, vulgarisms and Arabic phrases that have infiltrated the language.

"It's very interesting to see how many hundreds of words, not just slang, come into the Hebrew language from Arabic. To me, that's a hopeful sign. It shows that the two cultures are really connected."

Ravel explains that much of the prose came from journals she has kept over many years, adding she modeled Ami in part after her former husband, an Israeli, and used their real-life wedding as the basis for its fictional counterpart.

"But I didn't marry an interrogator. I married a pianist who was never in the army. He never even did basic training."

Published earlier this year in England and Canada, *Ten Thousand Lovers* has already surpassed the bestseller mark in Canada, and Indigo and Chapters bookstores are prominently displaying it as one of "Heather's Picks," recommended by CEO Heather Reisman.

Republication rights have been sold in six languages and Harper is slated to produce a paperback edition for the U.S. market in September. Ravel has already delivered the manuscript for a second novel to both Random House Canada and Harper in the United States.

"I've written a lot over the years, but I never made a serious effort to get published," she said, recalling that she sent out inquiry letters for *Ten Thousand Lovers* without the usual representation of a literary agent.

"Even this was not a serious effort. It was a miracle that it got published."

Café features an evening of Yiddish music

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Lullabies cover a range of moods, from happiness to sadness, with the sad songs reflecting the fears, anxieties and tragedies experienced by the song's lyricist, often a woman.

A program presented recently by Yiddishland Café, *Our Mothers Sing: Songs from Various Cultures*, featured lullabies that ranged in mood from light to dark. Performed by soprano Denise Williams and tenor Michael Mandel, with accompanists pianist Nina Shapilsky and violinist Rodion Boshoer, each song was like a shimmering jewel.

Along with a selection of Yiddish songs, the evening's program included an Italian and a Hebrew song, sung by Mandel. West Indian and African-American songs, along with four short contemporary works by Canadian composer Beverly Lewis, were performed by Williams.

Williams, who has a voice of crystal clear purity, sang *Tsipele*, a humorous Yiddish tune about a little girl who wants a kiss. Mandel captivated the audience with a searing version of the classic *Rozhinkes mit Mandlen (Raisins and Almonds)* from the Lodz ghetto.

The song was one of three different versions of *Rozhinkes mit Mandlen* performed during the evening. Poet Y. Spiegel wrote the lyrics for the Lodz version of the song after his daughter was murdered. Such sad songs were banned by the head of the Lodz ghetto, Café organizer Henia Reinhartz said, but "they were sung anyway."

Reinhartz and her husband, Nochem, got Yiddishland Café off the ground seven years ago with a $5,000 grant from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Aiming to promote the Yiddish language and its literature, the Café presents a reading and four concerts each season.

Last year, a performance of *The Megilla of Itsik Manger*, in Yiddish and English, attracted so many people that some had to be turned away.

Reinhartz, a former Yiddish teacher, and her husband select the material to be performed at each event. If necessary, the Reinhartzes give their performers literal translations of each song, along with coaching them in pronunciation.

"As long as the Yiddish is correct," she says, the performers "have the music and within that they can do what they feel they want to do."

Denise Williams, a performer at Yiddishland Café from its beginning, understands the Reinhartzes' concern with correct Yiddish pronunciation. "They want to hear their language and hear it right," she says. "They take the preservation of the Yiddish language quite seriously."

A classically trained singer, the Antiguan-born Williams came to Yiddish and Hebrew music through the *Showboat* controversy of nearly a decade ago. After taking part in a Black and Jewish dialogue during the heat of the controversy – the show was deemed racist by some – she joned and became a soloist with the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir.

Michael Mandel, who is also a regular performer at Yiddishland Café, says that for him the joy of singing Yiddish songs, which the 55-year-old has been doing since he made his debut at seven, deepens his own understanding of what it is to be Jewish.

Mandel's father, Max, was a singer and was well-known in Toronto during the 1930s, '40s and early '50s as the host of various versions of the radio show the "Jewish Hour."

Hamilton Fringe features award-winning play

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON — *This Night*, an intense play dealing with the conflict between two brothers struggling to understand their late father's experience in a concentration camp, played at the Hamilton Fringe Festival recently.

The play takes place in the Hellman home over a single night. After 10 years as an unsuccessful political and union activist, David Hellman comes home in defeat and humiliation. His older brother Benny, a successful entrepreneur, is David's sole link to the past. When the spirit of their dead father rises between them, Benny and David battle over the truth of his life.

They cannot even agree on the facts, and the audience is given different enactments of the past. The Hellmans' common Jewish heritage becomes the focus of a struggle for meaning. Which brother has been true to their father's experience as a survivor of the Holocaust? Which has betrayed the legacy?

Written by Canadian author and playwright Robert Majzels, the son of Holocaust survivors, the 90-minute two-act play is an engrossing tale of two men saddled with a memory they cannot entirely call their own.

"*This Night* is not just about the dilemma of Jewish children of the Holocaust. We are all survivors of the Holocaust. What happened to the 20th century, the failure of western civilization, is a legacy we have to contend with," Majzels said.

Majzels is a novelist and Governor General's Award-winning translator, as well as a playwright and teacher of creative writing at Concordia University in Montreal. His published novels include *Hellman's Scrapbook* and *City of Forgetting*. His third novel, *Apikoros Sleuth*, is slated for release this year.

This Night won first prize at both the 1991 Dorothy Silver Awards in Cleveland, Ohio, and the 1994 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Competition.

The play is directed and designed by Ari Weisberg, founder and artistic director of TEATRON, a production company whose mandate is "to produce Jewish-themed plays from the world's communities."

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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39.

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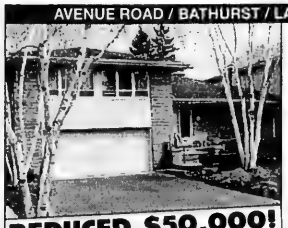

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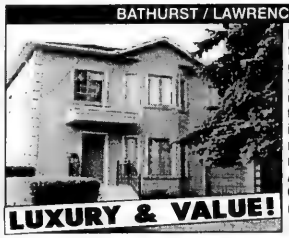

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WISER, Ida – on June 11, 2003, late of 70 Danby Ave.
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LEVY, Daniel – on June 14, 2003, late of Maryland, U.S.A.
GUBENKO, Ilya – on June 15, 2003, late of 205 Hilda Ave.
HURST, Sophie – on June 16, 2003, late of 39 Nevada Ave.
MOUYAL, Helene – on June 16, 2003.
PASTERNAK, Rhona – on June 17, 2003, late of 154 Cactus Ave.
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GRUBER, Sarah – on June 4, 2003, late of 535 Sheppard Ave. W.
LANDA, Eva – on June 5, 2003, late of 4005 Bayview Ave., P.H.
BORCHIVER, Rose – on June 6, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
ALTWERGER, Celia – on June 6, 2003, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
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NELSON, Sue – on June 9, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
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KATZ, Al – on June 11, 2003, late of 55 Skymark Dr., #1007.
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Greater Toronto Area

SARS affects attendance at Jewish library convention

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Attendance was significantly reduced because of the local SARS situation, but many delegates who came to Toronto from across North America to attend the recent Association of Jewish Libraries convention spoke highly of the program.

"We had anticipated a turn-out of about 250 people, but we ended up with 147 full- and part-time registrants," said convention co-chair Gloria Jacobs.

"The purpose of the convention is educational, information sharing, professional development, networking and socializing," she said. "We're completely volunteer driven, so it gave many of our committee members a chance to meet face to face."

A sampling of local writers, poets and artists spoke to delegates of the four-day conference, which was hosted by the Association's Ontario chapter at the Four Seasons Hotel on Yorkville Avenue.

Simcha Simchovitch, Ken Sherman and Adam Sol gave poetry readings and brief talks; author-illustrators James Sturm, Richard Unger and Lesley Simpson discussed various creative aspects of their art; author Cary Fagan spoke about his search for "authentic Jewish stories"; and authors Paul Brown and Vivian Kaplan spoke about and read from their respective books, *Shayna's Shadows* and *Ten Green Bottles*. Poet Shula Robin also gave a reading.

Although geared to Jewish librarians, many of the talks could have drawn the interest of a much wider sections of the community. Mark Aaron Polger, a librarian at the University of Waterloo, offered a content analysis of Holocaust denial Web sites, while American author Henry Gonshak spoke about the interrelationship of neo-Nazism and American popular culture.

Steven Bergson, a librarian at the Albert and Temmy Latner Jewish Public Library in Toronto, spoke on Holocaust comics and graphic novels; Rabbi Moshe Shulman of Toronto spoke about using biblical maps in teaching Biblical studies; author Yehuda Lipsitz spoke on how to self-publish a book; and the Latner Library's director, Rabbi Irwin Witty, discussed the relative purity of biblical translations. Other speakers addressed topics as diverse as Jewish children's literature, the digital library, Jewish women in Canada and Jews in Muslim lands.

At its annual awards banquet, the association gave the 2002 Sydney Taylor Award to Toronto author and CBC producer Karen Levine for her book *Hana's Suitcase* (Second Story Press, Toronto), only a week after the book netted Levine a Canadian Jewish Book prize in children's literature. Other awards went to various American authors.

The association staged several joint sessions with the American Library Association and the Canadian Library Association, whose annual conference opened here last Friday.

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Roger Neilson remembered for his love of Israel

By ELI RUBENSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Last week Canadian newspapers were filled with testimonials to Roger Neilson. The celebrated hockey coach passed away at age 69 after heroically battling cancer for more than three years.

Few people were aware of another side to Neilson. He loved Israel and Israelis, and he expressed that love with a passion most Jews would do well to emulate.

In 1997, with the help of Marshall Starkman, Jeff Budd, Rachel Lasry and many others, the first Roger Neilson Hockey Camp in Israel was launched at Canada Centre in Metulla, a town on Israel's northern border.

Supervised by Neilson, as well as a number of other NHL players and staff, the camp ran from 1997 to 2000 and was attended by an estimated 400 Canadian and Israeli youth.

The camp was sponsored by UIA Federations Canada, Canada Israel Experience and Roots Canada and supported by other generous organizations and individuals.

But no one was more important to the success of the camp than Neilson.

"Roger always had a love for Israel," commented long time friend and camp volunteer Paul Bedford. "He was a great history buff and admired the perseverance of Israel, who were the underdogs in his view."

Neilson's love of Israel also translated into love for the Israeli teens he coached.

"Roger loved the kids," observed Starkman. "He loved their rough and tumble attitude, their work ethic, and he just loved their personalities.

"And the kids loved him too," he continued, "because he was so down to earth, because he wanted to know each and every one of them."

One moment will always remain with Starkman. "When Roger returned to the camp after the first year, the moment the kids heard Roger was in the dressing room they charged off the ice, tossed aside their helmets, sticks and gloves and bounced across the concrete with their skates still on. As soon as they reached Roger they jumped on him and circled him with hugs – and, of course, Roger returned all their hugs."

So taken was Roger by his Israeli charges, he committed to sponsoring two Israelis to attend his hockey camp in Lindsay, Ont., every summer.

Lasry and I visited the Israelis one summer at Neilson's home on the shores of Chemong Lake in Peterborough, Ont.. The first thing we noticed was the constant stream of young people coming in and out of the house.

"Roger's doors were never locked – they were always open to guests, and there were always extra bathing suits for those who wanted to swim," remembered Starkman. "His enjoyment came from knowing that others were enjoying his home. He only worried about one thing: how many kids were staying for dinner."

Inside Neilson's home, Rachel and I noticed a photo of the former president of Israel shaking hands with him in Metulla. Ezer Weizman was visiting Metulla after yet another round of Katyusha rockets launched from Lebanon had landed on Israel's northern towns. Neilson came out to greet the president looking like a kibbutznik – barefoot and wearing his customary shorts and baseball hat. The president remarked that Neilson was already half Israeli.

Lasry, the Canadian staff person for three of the camp's four year's in existence, recalled Neilson's dedication to the program.

"It was an honour for the Canadian Jewish community to have had someone of Neilson's stature devote himself to the youth of Israel," she noted. "I don't know many people, Jewish or otherwise, who would volunteer to return to Israel every summer and devote their passion to Israeli youth.

"Roger really changed people through the sport. He knew the passion, the self confidence and the hard work on the ice would also help the young people off the ice. And his influence continued outside the arena, during their hikes in Israel and in handling any discipline issues on the trip," Lasry added.

On one of those hikes, Neilson even expressed a sense of humour about his battle with cancer, recalls Lisi Tesher, a staff person on the 2000 program.

"We were hiking up Masada and the guide told the [shirtless] guys to watch their backs. He said, 'You could get cancer. Be careful!' And Roger replied: 'I already have cancer. I've got nothing to worry about!'" Tesher said.

"I was driving in my car the other day," said Jeff Budd, one of the camp's co-founders. "And I started thinking… I come from a small town, Kitchener, Ont., and yet I had the honour and privilege to work with Roger, to sit on the same bench with him, to watch him work his magic with the Israeli kids. And I started remembering all these stories about my time with Roger and then I just broke down and cried for a long time.

"I am so sorry he is gone."

So are we all.

(Eli Rubenstein, an employee of UIA Federations Canada, worked with Roger Neilson at his hockey camp in Israel from 1997- 2000.)

School teams enjoy championship seasons

By NEIL BECKER
Special to The CJN

Two of the best-kept secrets in school sports have to be the Netivot HaTorah Panthers and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto Tigers.

The Panthers managed to go undefeated this year, racking up a 12-0 regular season record and going on to win the Day School Junior High Girls Basketball League title. The Tigers, meanwhile, emerged as champions of the TDCAA high school baseball league, a circuit that includes mostly Roman Catholic schools.

"We had great chemistry and excelled throughout the season at rebounding and scoring," said Panthers team manager Alan Steinfeld.

"There are a lot of excellent teams, and finishing undefeated was a definitely a bonus."

During the season, the Panthers experienced some close calls, including one against their neighbours and biggest rival, Leo Baeck, whom they defeated by a single point.

After barely breaking a sweat in beating the Bialik Blizzards 37-20 in the semis, the Panthers had to scratch and crawl before defeating the Associated Hurricanes 35-31 in the league final.

Steinfeld singled out two players for their performance, especially their play in the latter half of the championship game: Grade 8 student Yael Klein and rookie Elana Levine.

"We were trailing until the third quarter before battling back and taking the lead," says Steinfeld of the final game against Associated. "It was a combination of coaching and strong chemistry that really paid off and led us to victory."

Meanwhile, the CHAT Tigers enjoyed a stellar baseball season, capping a 4-2 regular season with a strong playoff run. In the first round quarter finals, they defeated Monsignor Percy Johnson 11-3 and then went on to beat Mary Ward 10-4 in the semis. The Tigers were tested in the final game, which included seven runs scored in the seventh and final inning, but scratched out a 9-8 victory over Michael Power.

"We were tied 8-8 going into the seventh and Jesse Glowinsky drilled the ball over the right fielder's head for a triple in what turned out to be the winning run," said Rob Fishbaum, one of CHAT's coaches.

The final was a real dogfight, as CHAT went up 3-0 in the first inning and at one point held a 5-2 lead. It looked like they were home and cooled out but Michael Power tied things up at 8-8 in the seventh. That's when Glowinsky, known for his big bat, played the hero.

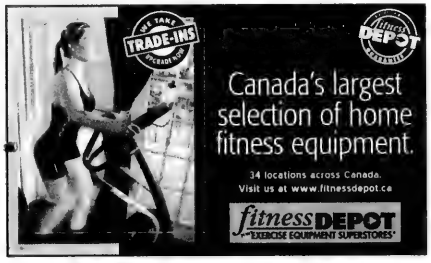
Fishbaum, who has been a coach with the team for 14 years, said the Tigers' two regular season losses were the best thing that could have happened to the team, because it helped them stay focused and prevented them from being overconfident.

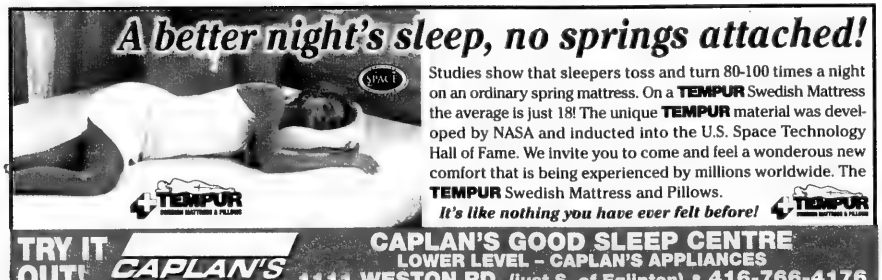
Strategy also played a role in the Tigers' success as the team was taught to hit singles and to make things happen on the base paths, not just swing for the fences.

"We emphasize for them to hit singles, because if they try for a home run then half the time they'll end up popping up," said CHAT's other coach, Simon Wolle.

The two coaches compared this winning season to a Disney film, ending with the hoisting of a banner in the gym, representing the Tigers' seventh TDCAA title in recent years.

"The goal from the beginning of tryouts was to win a championship," said Fishbaum. "The hard work and focus really paid off and it was a great season from the guys who had a great work ethic."

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In praise of the Jewish community worker

This column is dedicated to the career and life of the late Eva Landa.

As a child, the Shabbat table was always a magical place. Every Friday night, my family would sit together, eat the grand victuals my mother had prepared and listen to tales of my father's rabbinical adventures. Through his dramatic presentations and twisting themes and plots, we discovered early on that life in the home of a Jewish civil servant was thrilling and scary, but always rich.

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Over the last decade, I have worked with dozens of community workers who have made sacrifices and worked arduously to enhance the Jewish community of Toronto and the State of Israel.

Two such individuals are Gordy Wolfe, the executive director of Jewish Family & Child Service who is retiring this summer, and his late colleague, Eva Landa, formerly JF & CS's director of finance and administration.

Their work was holy, because we entrusted them with the souls and welfare of our families and they responded responsibly and brilliantly.

As in any other profession, there are rabbis in our community who operate in a magical way, and there are, of course, others who are spiritually and administratively mediocre. Yet, I am certain, that almost every Jew who belongs to a shul has a story of how their rabbi stayed up nights with a dying relative or ran to their home to soothe the pained hearts of their family. Rabbis are generally strong and directed human beings who empathize with their congregants. They are troupers.

We live in a time when it's in vogue to honour our volunteer leadership and donors with plaques and large signage. I'm not sure how Jewish this approach is, but it's clear that we have the notion of "kavod" (honouring) down to a virtual science.

I suggest that it's time we use some of our know-how in this area to do the same for our community workers – men and women who often work at non-market salaries, but more often than not hold the key to the community DNA that makes up our character.

This, I believe, applies to our day-school and afternoon-school teachers and rebbes, as well as to our synagogue staff, programmers, directors, frontline staff, fundraisers, administrators and anyone else on the community payroll.

It would be so invigorating and inventive if the Toronto Jewish community took the lead in the Jewish world in this area and implemented programs such as: annual awards and/or scholarships for community workers who have acted splendidly on our behalf; setting aside one Shabbat during the year, called the "Jewish Community worker Shabbat," for shuls and organizations to honour their staff; and regularly highlighting the careers of our community workers in Jewish media outlets.

The history of the Toronto Jewish community is a superlative one. One only has to wade through the boxes of Jewish material in our archives to discover the names and successes of Jewish volunteers and civil servants who have rolled up their sleeves together and fought for the autonomy, betterment and safekeeping of our community.

Over the last few decades, we have mastered ways of paying homage to one side of that partnership – the volunteers and the donors. For the sake of justice and appreciation, it's time to launch a concerted effort to honour our other better half – the Jewish community worker.

Yasher koach to all the community workers for what we have and who we are. Your work was and is holy, and you have given us much pleasure, pride, security and joy.

Andrea's Oatmeal Date Cookies

2 sticks unsalted soft butter	2 cups flour
1/4 cup vegetable shortening	2 1/2 cups rolled oats
1 cup light-brown sugar	1 cup dried dates, chopped into 1/4 pieces
3/4 cup granulated sugar	1/2 tsp. baking soda
2 large eggs	1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla	1/2 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 375°. In a large bowl, beat butter and shortening until smooth. Add both sugars; beat until smooth. Beat in eggs until incorporated. Add vanilla.

Combine remaining ingredients in a separate bowl. Gradually add dry ingredients to butter mixture until just combined.

Drop batter by the tablespoon 1 1/2" apart on ungreased baking sheets. Bake until golden brown, about 12 to 14 minutes. Cool on racks.

Yield: 5 dozen

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My 32-year-old son and his wife have decided to split up. I could have told you from the beginning that this marriage was doomed. Heather is high maintenance. It's not enough that she has it all, she always has complaints. Heather and I have never seen eye to eye, but now that she and Jerry are splitting, I don't know where I will fit in the new picture.

My grandson and I are very close. Heather was always thrilled to have me visit because it meant she could go have her hair or nails done while I babysat.

Justin, my grandson, is two years old and will suffer greatly from this breakup. How will I be able to continue my relationship with him if my son and Heather are always fighting?

Worried Bubbie

Dear Worried Bubbie

I presented your problem to members of Chai chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women. Here are some suggestions.

The first thing you failed to mention in your letter is your relationship with your son. Obviously he will play a very important role in your visitation with Justin as you will be able to see him when it's Jerry's time with his son. That being said, don't burn your bridges with Heather. Although you may not get along that well with her, she will still need a reliable babysitter, and there is nothing like a bubbie for that. She will never find someone who has Justin's best interest at heart, and the price is right! Offer your services as often as you can.

In any worst-case scenario, remember that you also have rights. In Canada, several advocacy and self-help groups have been formed, including GRAND (Grandparents Requesting Access and Dignity) and the Canadian Grandparent Rights Association.

Hopefully, Heather will put Justin's welfare before her own issues. The feeling of love, family and belonging is crucial to a child, particularly when his immediate family is so fragile. His relationship with you should not be broken, especially now. Justin's life would not be as full without it.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

The Canadian Jewish news

Crossword Puzzle

(Answers to the crossword are on page 33.)

Camera Legends
(with a Jewish eye for the human story)
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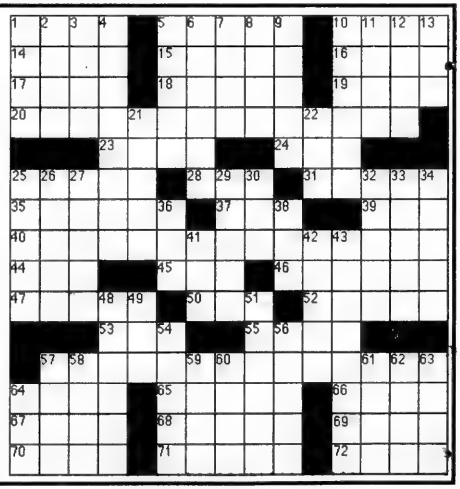
Across
1. Diane _____, photographer of circus performers (last name abbrev.)
5. La ____, Italian opera venue
10. Cathedral part
14. Certain
15. Consumer
16. Praise
17. Anna's boss was king here
18. Richard _____, fashion and portrait photographer (last name abbrev.)
19. Starter for prefix meaning air
20. Celebrity photographer whose first name also goes with "_____ get your gun"
23. Pop or fountain
24. Negative prefix
25. Each of their cameras had this little device to let in a measured amt. of light. (abbrev.)
28. Hebrew for 'rabbi'
31. David _____, country/pop star
35. Adjective for 'tone', in Italian
37. Poetic contraction
39. U.S. auto guidance, towing outfit
40. Urban life photographer, married Georgia O'Keefe
44. Meadow or marsh, in England
45. _____ Ray, Dadaist and surrealist photographer
46. Queen Anne, in French, with her name sharply abbreviated
47. Admit, OK for entry (2 words)
50. Comic and satire magazine
52. Letters for planet's poles, repeated
53. ___ hepatica or Mineo
55. Make more comfortable
57. _____ ____-white, WWII Life magazine woman photog
64. Spanish for "look!"
65. Spanish for balls
66. Twosome
67. Joy, hilarity
68. _____ John, British songster
69. Fork part
70. Lunch or supper
71. Most's opposite
72. Bullfight cheers

Down
1. He created, made, or did (Hebrew)
2. Find one at Tel Hatsor or Pompeii
3. Source of dietary fiber
4. Demi-celebrity
5. Shut or concluded, poetic contr.
6. Roe, as delicacy
7. Suits me to _____!
8. Guthrie, Seeger mentor (abbrev.)
9. Israeli-born Hollywood producer _____ Milchan, named after river of biblical Gilead
10. Adjective for high mountains
11. Breathe belaboredly
12. Egyptian canal
13. Dot ____ (for university, on Net)
21. Old English for an earl
22. Stir-fry cooking utensil
25. Stonewall, delay
26. Way to hail Civil War's Robert E?
27. Novel way to say lean, non-obese
29. Sicilian volcano (Latin spelling)
30. Oy ___!
32. Precipitation, light and heavy
33. Satisfies, gratifies
34. Jewish cantor
36. Sir ___ Hillary, for short
38. ___ Tamid (Eternal Light)
41. Houston, Adams, or Uncle
42. Artists' white ground for canvas
43. "_____ get your free tix" (3 words)
48. Land of Zion
49. Noodge, carp at
51. Of (a certain northern New Mexico city), said in Spanish (2 words)
54. Tag, mark with a name
56. Not presnt.
57. What some run in 4 minutes
58. Region, location
59. Task, acting part
60. Nile or Mississippi D____
61. Two of this makes a train track
62. Cattle (archaic)
63. ____ Tu, operatic aria
64. Giant Hollywood producers



Our Mission Is Israel

Upcoming missions:

- **The August Solidarity Mission August 4-11**
- **The Pre Rosh Hashanah Israel Solidarity Fly-In September 3-8**
- **The Medical Solidarity Mission Oct. 28 – Nov. 4**
- **Past Women's Campaign Chairs Mission November dates TBA**
- **The B'Yachad Community Mission November 11-20**
- **UJA Federation Family Mission Dec. 21 – Jan. 1**

For more information, contact Elana Barrett at 416.635.2883 ext. 177

www.jewishtoronto.net/mission

Natan Sharansky, Minister in Charge of Diaspora Affairs, shown with Chairs of the recent UJA Federation Prime Minister's Mission. (Left to right) Allan Silber, Barbara Bregman and Richard Venn.

The time is now!

Members of the recently returned Prime Minister's Mission to Israel are urging the entire community to join a UJA Federation monthly mission to personally express their solidarity.

"As I met face to face with Israelis, I understood the enormity of Israel's crisis, especially the social service emergency with which Israel is confronted," said Allan Silber, who chaired the trip with Richard Venn and Barbara Bregman. "We have an obligation to recognize this crisis and respond to it."

Israeli Cabinet Minister Natan Sharansky commended Toronto's Jewish community. "I'm not surprised that this year, Toronto, through UJA Federation, sent more missions of solidarity than any other city in the world...that definitely deserves a standing ovation for Toronto."

Dan Daviau, (centre) along with son Max and Randy Masters at the Kotel

(l-r) Carrie, Barbara, Michael, Jacob and Yetta Bregman aboard an IDF missile boat with it's commander (center) along with Ami Segev and Alannah Glickman.

Toddy Granovsky, Cecil Brauer, and Tommy Kohn with birthright israel participants.

Mission participants spent some time at Mike's Place, a popular Tel Aviv nightclub which recently re-opened following a terror attack.

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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

Sociologist questions Jewish population study. *Page 3*

On Campus

Help available for those wishing to study in Israel. *Page 20*

Healthy & Lifestyles

Jewish jokes speak volumes, author says. *Page 26*

Arts & Travel

Montreal duo produces CD tribute to support Israel. *Page 32*

New Orleans celebrates bicentennial of Louisiana Purchase. *Page 38*

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IDF LEAVES BETHLEHEM: These happy soldiers were part of the first Israel Defence Forces contingent last week that turned over security responsibilities to the Palestinian Authority, as agreed to by Israel under the road map peace plan. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

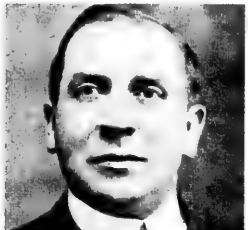
Moshav celebrates 70th anniversary

— *Named after Ottawa business leader* —

By MIRIAM SHAVIV
CJN Israel Bureau

BITAN AHARON, Israel — In July 1927, Menahem Mendel Ussishkin, president of the Jewish National Fund (JNF), and Archibald (Aharon) Freiman of Ottawa, president of the Zionist Organization of Canada (ZOC), asked the ZOC to buy a stretch of land between Netanya and Hadera, known as Emek Hefer, for Jewish settlers.

At a time when Canadian Jewry only raised $25,000 a year for the JNF, the asking price, $1 million (US), was so enormous that Ussishkin and Freiman initially did not dare to mention it to the 1927 Zionist Convention delegates. It was only after a fierce debate that they voted – unanimously – to redeem the land.



A. J. Freiman *[1965 file photo]*

"The scene that followed is beyond description," says Bernard Figler in his biography of Freiman, titled *Lillian and Archie Freiman*. Archie presided over the meeting.

Continued on page 28

Israel's image on CIC agenda

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The board of directors of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) will meet later this month to consider a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving Israel's image with the Canadian public.

Although details remain sketchy, the strategy could include creation of a speaker's bureau, more organized missions to Israel for policy-makers, and other steps that would highlight the shared values of the two democracies.

Shimon Fogel, the CIC's chief executive officer, said broadening the scope of the lobby group's work will require a substantial infusion of cash, but it appears a group of community philanthropists are ready to carry much of the load. Already in the 2002-03 fiscal year, the CIC saw its funding increase by 60 per cent. Other groups involved in advocacy, whether they address anti-Israel sentiment on campus or rising anti-Semitism, will likely also see their budgets enhanced, Fogel said.

The stepped-up efforts to counter the erosion of Israel's public image and the disturbing growth in anti-Semitism was pushed by an emergency cabinet of UIA Federations Canada, a national umbrella organization that distributes funds raised by local communities for Israel.

Continued on page 24

Shabbat: Chukat-Balak
Candlelighting: 8:42
Havdallah: 9:47

Greater Toronto Area

EU decides against Hamas ban — please see page 27

The News in Brief

Canada

Meeting Held

OTTAWA — Representatives of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) and the Association of Romanian Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust (ARJSH) were invited to a meeting last month with Romania's ambassador to Canada, Liviu Maior, after a Romanian government official denied the existence of the Holocaust in wartime Romania. "Although senior government officials in Romania quickly retracted this claim and openly acknowledged the pogroms in Romania and the mass expulsions of Romanian Jews to death camps… we wanted to convey our dismay over this incident directly to the ambassador and discuss how we can move forward," ARJSH President Issie Veisfeld said.

Israel

Sharon to Visit Oslo

JERUSALEM — Israel's prime minister will discuss the peace process with Norwegian prime minister Kjell Magne Bondevik. Ariel Sharon will travel to Oslo on July 16 at Bondevik's invitation. The visit will mark Sharon's first official trip there since his election.

Ape Ceasefire

JERUSALEM — An Israeli zoo is sending four baboons looking for love to a Palestinian zoo. The four baboons were getting into fights for mates at the Rishon Lezion animal park, due to a shortage of available females, the daily *Ma'ariv* reported. After brief negotiations, the management decided to send the primates to a zoo in the West Bank city of Kalkilya, where their luck might change.

Investigation Concluded

JERUSALEM — The bulldozing death of a pro-Palestinian activist in the Gaza Strip was accidental, an Israeli military investigation concluded. Rachel Corrie, an American member of the International Solidarity Movement, was killed in March while trying to prevent an Israeli bulldozer from demolishing the home of a Palestinian terrorist.

Mosque Demolished

NAZARETH — Muslims in Nazareth largely ignored a call last Wednesday for a general strike to protest the demolition of a mosque next to the Church of the Annunciation, one of the holiest sites in Christianity. The call was issued by the Waqf, or Islamic Trust, to protest the demolition of the unauthorized, partially built mosque, which had enraged Christians around the world. Police detained several Muslims protesting near the site who allegedly threatened owners of nearby businesses if they didn't close.

World

Cleric Speaks on Terror

LONDON — A Muslim cleric with ties to the Iranian leadership has condemned the killing of civilians "of any faith, whether Jewish, Muslim or Christian." In a letter to the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, Sayed Safavi, whose brother is head of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, also implicitly recognized the State of Israel and called for religious leaders to have a "major role" in promoting peace between peoples. It is rare for a hard-line Iranian cleric to make such a declaration. Safavi did not explicitly condemn suicide bombings, as some Jewish leaders hoped, but said, "For Muslims to kill civilians unconnected with any attack on them is a crime."

Teen Racism

ROME — Nearly one-quarter of Italian teenagers harbour anti-Semitic views, according to a new survey. More than 50 per cent of Italian teens aged 14-18 held negative views of Muslims, according to the survey, sponsored by the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. More than one-third of respondents harbour generally racist attitudes, the survey said. The highest levels of racism were seen among teens who lived in northern Italy, are deeply religious or are right wing.

Rabbi for 'Crypto-Jews'

LISBON — Portugal's "crypto-Jewish" community is welcoming a full-time rabbi. Rabbi Elisha Salas of Chile has been sent to Portugal by the Jerusalem-based Amishav organization, which seeks to return lost Jews to Judaism. Ancestors of the crypto-Jews were forcibly converted to Catholicism during the Inquisition. Rabbi Salas is to be based out of the city of Belmonte, where some 150 crypto-Jews converted to Judaism in the early 1990s.

Denier Loses Appeal

SYDNEY — A Holocaust denier in Australia lost his appeal against a court ruling forcing him to remove his Web site. Fredrick Toben claimed on his site that the Holocaust had never taken place. Jeremy Jones, head of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, called last week's decision "a significant victory for all those concerned with human rights in Australia."

Hitler Tourism

BERLIN — Germany may expand a museum at Hitler's former mountain retreat because of tourist interest. The finance minister in Bavaria said he would seek additional funding to build an extension at the site in Berchtesgaden. As many as 1,500 tourists a day are visiting the site in southern Germany, officials said.

Governor Fires N.J. Poet Laureate

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey Gov. James McGreevy signed a bill last week to eliminate the state's poet laureate job after the current holder, who said in a poem Israel knew in advance about the Sept. 11 attacks, would not quit.

The state assembly earlier approved a bill cutting the $10,000 (US) stipend for the post after Amiri Baraka refused calls by McGreevy to resign, Associated Press reported.

Baraka, who as a black radical in the 1960s espoused anti-Semitic views, stirred controversy after taking the job last July with his poem *Somebody Blew Up America*. It reads, in part: "Who knew the World Trade Center was gonna get bombed/ Who told 4,000 Israeli workers at the Twin Towers/ To stay home that day/ Why did Sharon stay away?" a reference to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Baraka denies the poem accuses Israel of carrying out the attacks and says it actually criticizes anti-Semitism. But in a posting on his Web site about a recent *New York Times* scandal involving a reporter who fabricated and plagiarized material, he accuses Sharon of being unhappy with the paper for "not being the NEW YORK ZIONS" and refers to "supposedly crypto-Zionists doped up on being Satanic Insiders."

Baraka has threatened to sue the state for slander and for violating his First Amendment free speech rights, but McGreevy has said he will sign the bill.

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Sociologist questions Jewish population study

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

One of Canada's foremost experts on Jewish population trends is questioning how community officials have interpreted the results of the 2001 census – as well as their motives for doing so.

Prof. Leo Davids, a sociologist at York University, says Jewish federations may have artificially inflated the number of Jews in Canada "in order to make themselves look more powerful and effective."

The 2001 census found nearly 330,000 Jews by religious affiliation in Canada. It also tallied 348,605 Canadians with "Jewish" listed as one of up to four ethnic origins, even if they listed "no religion."

But community leaders and planners have traditionally relied on neither figure. The two were blended by UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC) in its recently released National Demographic Study to show 370,520 Jews in Canada as of 2001.

Excluded from the total are only those who reported their ethnic origins as Jewish, but who professed another religion.

Davids says the study's inclusion in its total of thousands of people with no religious affiliation but with multiple ethnic origins – at least one being Jewish – is dubious, because their ties to the community are weak, if they exist at all.

"In North America generally, Jewishness has meant behaviour that sustains a community," he told *The CJN*. "The vast majority of those claiming Jewish as a religion are likely to do something, whether it's donate to causes or march or be involved.

"But someone with mixed ethnic origins and no religion… the reality is that Jewish continuity isn't likely to come from them. What happens when you count people who do nothing? What's the point of counting them?" he asked.

Davids, who for decades has tracked the use of Hebrew and Yiddish in Canada, among other trends, said he can accept the inclusion of those with no religion and with a single ethnicity of Jewish (or Jewish and "Canadian.")

But he objects to counting those who list multiple ethnic origins (one being Jewish) and no religious affiliation. Including them in the total "is stretching it. Maybe the argument can be made for inclusion, but only if there's outreach to this group."

He said federations' inclusion of this group in the total is part of "a political strategy to puff up the numbers.

"The federations are in the positive vibes business and they have to sell a certain image to donors. They can go around saying there are 370,000 Jews in Canada, [but] another set of numbers shows there are 40,000 less than that."

He said the difference between the two categories is especially acute in Vancouver, where the number of Jews by religion in 2001 was just over 17,000, but the official count is given as 22,585 – a 33 per cent discrepancy.

In Toronto, "religious" Jews numbered 164,510, but the UIAFC tally is just over 179,000.

"It's part of the whole question of who is a Jew," Davids said. "Can we accept a blended definition, or are [the federations] miscounting?"

Charles Shahar, the Montreal-based author of the National Demographic Study, defended the inclusion of those with no religion but with multiple ethnic origins that include Jewish.

"We would rather be inclusive than exclusive. We're trying to get a handle and information on as many different types of Jews as we can," Shahar said.

He said Davids would have a hard time questioning the Jewishness of a respondent who had no religion but who listed "Moroccan" or "Polish" as his or her ethnic origin in addition to "Jewish."

"I don't see why that would make them less of a Jew," Shahar said.

Similarly, "what about someone who's a fervent Zionist, but whose religious ties are lacking. Should they be excluded? Just because a person is not [religiously] affiliated doesn't mean they're not Jewish."

Shahar said the figures cross-tabulating Canadians who gave "no religion" with those who listed single-Jewish versus multiple-

Continued on page 6

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Greater Toronto Area

Anti-Semitism's collateral damage

From the editor's desk

Israeli security officials are meeting regularly at this juncture in the tentative road map peace process to try to co-ordinate security measures.

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas does not have full authority over the security apparatus of the Palestinian Authority. PA President Yasser Arafat made certain of that in the days before the cabinet was reconfigured to ostensibly grant upon Abbas "real" prime ministerial authority. Whatever the extent of his authority, however, Abbas must prove to the American administration, and, more importantly, to the Israeli people, that he is sincere when he says he condemns terror and yearns for a peace treaty with Israel. The only way he can prove the bona fides of his sincerity is by trying to eliminate the terror apparatus within Palestinian society.

There are two components to this task.

The first is to completely deconstruct and then reconstitute the Palestinian educational system. This must include every public medium in which instruction and example are transmitted, both formally and informally: the classroom, the media and the mosque.

The message that must be the irreducible core of the new system is this: Jews have a right to live in the Middle East, too. Therefore, accommodation with the Jewish state is both possible and desirable.

The second component of eliminating the terror apparatus in Palestinian society is the dismantling of the existing terrorist infrastructure. Unfortunately, it appears there is no way to do this other than by force of arms, for Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the Al Aksa Martyrs Brigade, the Tanzim and other like-minded Palestinians will not willingly submit to their own dissolution.

There is no other way to convince Israelis that the Abbas PA is serious about peace other than by removing the individuals who abhor the very idea and threaten it most directly and fervently.

Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon appears to want Abbas to succeed. He has been going out of his way to provide important, though qualified, publicly broadcast symbols of support for his Palestinian counterpart, including transferring military control from the Israel Defence Forces to the Mohammed Dahlan-controlled PA security forces in Gaza and Bethlehem, easing travel and economic restrictions on Palestinians, meeting with Abbas in Jerusalem and releasing Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails.

The extent to which Arafat no longer rules the PA will be the extent to which the chances increase that Abbas can succeed – providing, of course, that Abbas is sincere.

In the nearly three years since Arafat launched his terror war against Israel, the toll of Israelis dead and injured has been staggering.

From Sept. 29, 2000 to June 30, 2003, 814 people in Israel were killed and 5,603 were injured. During that time, Palestinian terrorists committed 18,145 attacks against the Israeli people. The proportionate figure in Canada would be 4,070 people killed. The proportionate number in America would be 40,700.

Of the 814 killed, 570 were civilians and 244 were members of security forces. Of the 5,603 people injured, 3,952 were civilians and 1,651 were from the security forces.

Of the 18,145 total attacks, 7,696 were committed in the West Bank, 9,716 in the Gaza Strip and 733 were committed within the Green Line.

To the casualties on the Israeli side, of course, must be added the more than 2,000 Palestinians killed and the many thousands more who were wounded as a result of the IDF's actions in defence of the Israeli people.

This staggering loss of life is directly attributable to Arafat. The violence he unleashed was an abject repudiation of every peacemaking principle of the Oslo accords, and utterly unnecessary. For, in the end, there will perforce be a return to the same negotiating table he left.

In addition, as we have noticed with increasing shock and dismay, the fighting between Israelis and Palestinians has spawned a progeny from hell: after nearly 50 years of respite, anti-Semitism as a galvanizing social movement has reappeared.

Crude, illogical, and ever brutal, this anti-Semitism has created an entirely new situation of vulnerability for many Jewish communities around the world.

Except in isolated instances – most notably Iran and parts of Yemen – Jews are no longer captives of their host state. They are generally free to travel wherever they wish.

Notwithstanding this freedom, however, Jews are not free from the possibility of violence and terror against themselves and their institutions. Authorities familiar with the security needs of Diaspora Jewish communities emphasize this point constantly.

The May suicide bombings in Casablanca, for example, were aimed specifically at Jews and their institutions. Of this, there is no doubt, even though Moroccan media did not portray the attack in this way. That there were no Jewish casualties among the 44 people killed was simply a result of bad planning by the terrorists, who chose to explode themselves and their bombs on Friday night when most of the Jews of the neighbourhood were off the streets and in their homes.

Much like the attack a year earlier against a Djerba synagogue, the bombings in downtown Casablanca came as a great shock to local authorities, who thought, foolishly, they were exempt from being targets. But they too became the collateral damage of the ominous, new anti-Semitism.

—MBD

CORRECTION

A brief in *The CJN*, July 3, ("B'nai Brith App'ts") stated incorrectly that the Canada-Israel Public Affairs Committee in Quebec (CIPAC-Q) is replacing the Canada-Israel Committee's Quebec operations. In fact, the new Quebec-Israel Committee is replacing the CIC's Quebec operations. *The CJN* regrets the error.

SeeJN

CHABAD ON THE HILL: **Prime Minister Jean Chrétien recently met with a delegation of Chabad Lubavitch shluchim who were at his office in observance of the ninth anniversary of the passing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Schneerson. From left, are Rabbi Mordechai Berger of Ottawa; Ottawa Centre MP Mac Harb; rabbis Menachem Matusof of Calgary, Berel Mockin of Montreal, Mendel Feldman of Halifax and Avraham Shemtov of Lubavitch World Headquarters; Chrétien; and rabbis Zalman Grossbaum of Toronto and Chaim Mendelsohn of Ottawa.**

Israeli centre focuses on helping women

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Mazal Renford continues meeting, talking and working with Israeli Arab and Palestinian women because she is afraid to stop.

If discussions with the "other side of our society end, it will be very difficult to start again and the reality of our lives in this region is that we have to live together," she said in an interview while in Toronto on her way to Montreal for the Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, plenary.

Renford is the director of the Golda Meir Mount Carmel International Training Center in Haifa (MCTC), an institute devoted to improving the condition of women around the world.

Founded in 1961 by MASHAV, the Center for International Co-operation of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MCTC offers educational programs that help women from transitional societies become active in the development of their communities.

After a visit to newly established African states in 1958, Golda Meir established the centre as a way to help close the gaps between developed and developing countries. At that time, Meir felt that Israel could play an important role in assisting other nations because of its own struggles and achievements since it gained its independence 10 years earlier.

MCTC now operates programs in 147 different countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean region, as well as in central and eastern Europe. The projects vary, depending on the continent, country and community. Some focus on the grassroots level and others on top management.

"Our goal is not to dictate projects, but to help people think together to find a solution to their problems," said Renford, who has a master's degree in political science and business administration. "They know better than anybody what is needed and best for them.

"Even if a project is a tiny one, we don't ignore it because it could give a family an opportunity to struggle against poverty."

Israel has successfully integrated immigrants and refugees from all over the world and can share the knowledge gained from that experience, the Moroccan-born Israeli said. And while some communities, like those in Senegal, have welcomed her, others have not.

Renford said the past few years have been challenging, both in Israel and abroad. In Israel, it has become difficult for Palestinians and Israelis to meet because roadblocks have created physical barriers that are difficult for the Palestinians to cross. In addition,

Mazal Renford

terrorism and suicide bombings have produced emotional barriers that are painful for Israelis to overcome.

Renford, who represents Israel on the UNESCO-backed Mediterranean Women's Forum, described how difficult it has been to represent Israel at international conferences since the second intifadah began. After many years of struggle, Israel is now included as a member state of the Mediterranean Women's Forum alongside 16 other listed countries, including Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon and Palestine.

"Two years ago, I was invited by France to be part of a colloquium on non-violence," she said.

"At that time, I was hoping to engage Leila Shahid, the Palestinian representative, in a meaningful discussion."

However, she said, "while I spoke about overcoming hatred and areas of mutual cooperation, Leila spoke about Israeli cruelty and the territories. She didn't say one word about non-violence."

Renford said she pushed for dialogue with Shahid and has since had ongoing discussions with the PA representative in France.

"If representatives at conferences – those with higher education – can't speak together, how will we ever expect the local people in our area to dialogue?"

"Since we don't deal with political issues, our centre can try to make people think and discuss what educators, women and mothers can do to change the mentality of people towards peace, tolerance, and acceptance of the other. It may sound utopian, but we can't stop doing it because we must never give up," she said.

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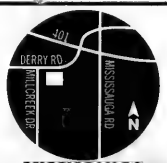

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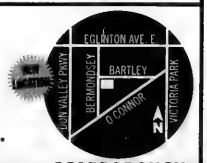

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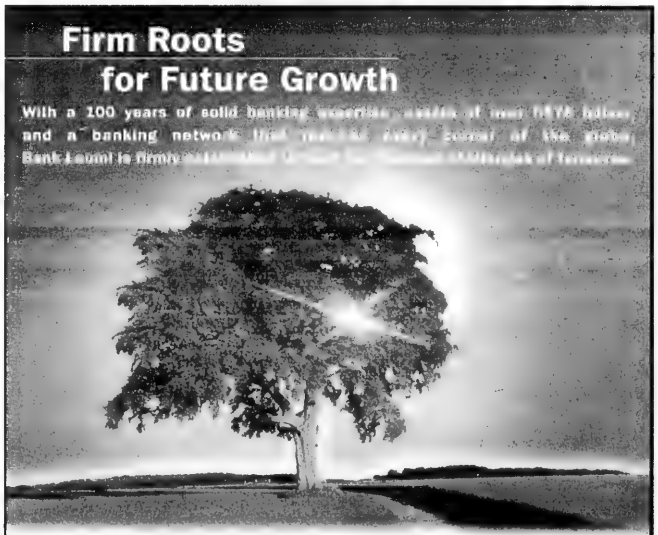
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Greater Toronto Area

Israeli tourism showing signs of recovery

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

As "lights at the end of the tunnel" go, it's still pretty faint, but it appears the Israeli tourism industry is showing signs of life after two disastrous years.

Visits to Israel are increasing and Canadians are booking summertime flights in numbers that are beginning to resemble pre-intifadah levels.

Israeli tourism officials are forecasting that one million visitors will travel to Israel in 2003, up from 880,000 the year before. The Ministry of Tourism reported that hotel stays in May stood at 1.9 million, up three per cent from 2002 figures.

Still, travel to Israel is miles away from 2000 – a record year in which 3.2 million tourists visited the Jewish state.

Canadian numbers parallel the broader international trend, with as many as 30,000 visitors expected to visit in 2003, said Dani Shahal, Israel's consul for tourism and director of the Israel Government Tourism Office in Toronto.

That figure snaps a two-year trend of declining numbers. In 2002, only 26,000 Canadians visited Israel and 35,000 visited in 2001. A record 55,000 travelled to Israel in 2000, he said.

The general manager of El Al's Canadian operations, Stanley Morais, is also witnessing increased demand. Last week, the Israeli national airline announced it was adding a Boeing 777 direct flight on Mondays from Toronto to Tel Aviv. El Al flies high capacity Boeing 747-400s on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday each week and it books its passengers on board Air Canada flights to Israel on other days pursuant to a code-share agreement.

"The flights are very busy," and are operating at more than 90 per cent capacity, said Morais.

The majority of passengers appear to be Jewish, he said, with a smaller number of Christian groups travelling as well.

Morais said people who have delayed travel to Israel for several years as the violence raged are now taking their families for visits. "There appears to be a psychological acceptance of the situation and people are saying, 'I can't stay away from Israel any longer.'"

A recent terrorist attack that claimed 16 lives on a Jerusalem bus failed to deter passengers, with not one person cancelling, he added.

Morais, who is taking his family on vacation there, said recent visitors are telling their friends that life appears to be returning to normal.

Shahal agreed with that assessment. "Many people visiting Israel lately have the impression that Israelis are leading their lives, going to the beaches and restaurants."

The changing political atmosphere in the Middle East might also be attracting visitors, who see peace talks unfolding and believe "that maybe the situation will calm down," he added.

Shahal said Canada ranks fifth or sixth in passenger traffic to Israel, behind the United States, France and Britain.

Parents group hands out awards to teachers

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

Twelve Jewish day school teachers were recognized recently by a group of Toronto parents for their excellence in teaching.

The awards, called the Teacher of Excellence awards, are handed out annually by an independent parents' group called the Teacher of Excellence committee and are valued at $1,000 each. Eight teachers received individual awards, and four teachers shared two awards. This is the second year the committee has given out the awards.

Catherine Gitzel, spokesperson for the Teachers of Excellence committee, said the parents were looking for a way to say thank you to outstanding teachers.

"It's a time when teachers receive a lot of badmouthing, so this is a positive way of saying we appreciate all you do," she said.

Gitzel, who was hired privately by the committee to manage the awards process, said the financial backers of the awards don't want to be named.

"According to the Torah, the best way to give of yourself is to give anonymously," she said.

The Teacher of Excellence committee placed ads in *The CJN* and notified the parents' associations at the day schools, asking parents to nominate their favourite teachers by writing letters. They received more than 60 letters, and the finalists were chosen by a group of five parent volunteers.

They were looking for teachers who demonstrated excellence inside and outside the classroom. One teacher made science class understandable, while another visited a sick child in the hospital.

The winning teachers are Yonah Balsam, Jennifer Berger, Michelle Glassman, Sharyn Mandel and Ora Senior (United Synagogue Day Schools), Andrea Bellman and Elaine Rubinoff (Zareinu Educational Centre), Robin Berglas and Rose-Ellen Rubinoff (Eitz Chaim Day School), Peter Salmon (Tiferes Bais Yaakov), Karen Sitnik (Associated Hebrew Schools), and Rabbi Hillel Van Leeuwen (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto).

Jewish population study

Continued from page 3

Jewish ethnic backgrounds won't be known for a while.

Also of interest to Shahar is the number of people who, although not included in the total, listed Jewish ethnicity but another religion.

He said he would like to know how those religions break down – whether they are mainstream faiths, such as Christian – or "para-religious" ones such as paganism, Native spirituality and various New Age movements.

Shahar said it will be interesting to know how many people embrace New Age spirituality but still cling to Jewish origins, and whether they are open to involvement in the community.

As well, the category "no religion" included agnostics, atheists and humanists. Shahar said there are a good number of secular humanists who claim Jewish affinity.

Davids, meantime, cautions that the four per cent increase in the overall number of Jews between 1991 and 2001 was driven mainly by haredim, who typically have large families.

If you take out the haredim, "the rest of the community is actually shrinking," he said.

Low Jewish fertility rates among non-chassidic families and levelled-off immigration from traditional sources, such as the former Soviet Union and South Africa, are to blame, he said.

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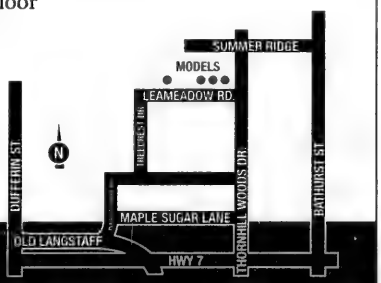

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Will no cleric speak?

On Sunday, two women hiding explosives on their bodies blew themselves up at a crowded outdoor rock festival in Moscow. They killed 14 people and injured scores more. It is suspected that Muslim extremists were responsible for the carnage. On Friday, suicide attackers entered a Shia mosque in Pakistan and, following the same macabre modus operandi, killed some 37 people while they were at prayer. Sunni Muslim extremists were suspected.

In early May, suicide bombers struck in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, also killing some 37 people. Later that same month, suicide bombers killed 44 people in Casablanca, Morocco. In both attacks, Al Qaeda Muslim extremists were the perpetrators.

For nearly a decade, of course, suicide bombing has become the preferred order of battle against Israelis. Indeed, an entire generation of Palestinian children has now grown up revering suicide bombers as "martyrs." But true to the warnings of the Jews, the evil that struck first at Jews, strikes now at others as well. For it is in the nature of evil to always do evil. It knows no other way because that is both its means and its end.

Why, then, do we not hear from Muslim clerics, locally or abroad, publicly, loudly, unambiguously condemning suicide bombings. Without such condemnation, slight are the chances that the evil will desist.

Tribute to a nurse

In many cultures, the term "sister" is still used for one who is a nurse in a hospital. The origin for this traces back to the ecclesiastic roots of the modern hospital system. In a profound way, "sister" helps us to better understand the intimate nature of the nurse's duties and the generally unquestioned dedication devoted by most nurses to those duties, as if the patient were family.

Nelia Laroza was a sister to the desperately sick patients at North York General Hospital in Toronto, many of them with SARS. She tended to them, cared for them and, in most cases, nursed them back to health. But it was the tragic melancholy of her fate that she would contract the dreaded virus from one of the people she was nursing. The virus would eventually choke off the systems that sustained her own life.

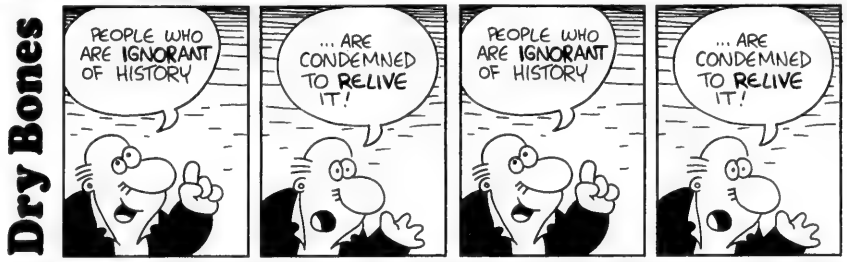
Last week she died.

Nelia Laroza was the first health-care worker in Canada to die of SARS. She fell in the line of duty.

Despite the great risks to her own life and her daily fears concerning those risks, she "soldiered on," continuing to minister to the needs of her patients, nursing them with dignity and dedication. We pay her tribute. And we also convey our condolences to her family and friends. In the field of battle that ultimately took her life, she was sister to us all.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

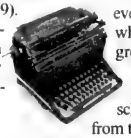
MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. KIDNAPPED: Elchanan Tannenbaum.


Dry Bones
PEOPLE WHO ARE IGNORANT OF HISTORY
... ARE CONDEMNED TO RELIVE IT!
PEOPLE WHO ARE IGNORANT OF HISTORY
... ARE CONDEMNED TO RELIVE IT!

Editorial Advisory Board: Irving Abella, Michael Brown, Sandra Brown, Donald Carr, Paul Cooper, Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, Zac Kaye, Igor Korenzvit, Lou Ronson, Ron Somogyi, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks

Conservative view on same-sex marriages

In response to your recent articles on same-sex marriages, it is important that the Jewish community understand the official position of the Conservative Rabbinate ("Why I don't officiate at same-sex marriages," *CJN*, June 12; "Rabbis split over legalization of same-sex marriages," *CJN*, June 19).



As part of a consensus statement on homosexuality decided on March 25, 1992, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly ruled the following: "We will not perform commitment ceremonies for gays or lesbians."

Rabbi Howard Morrison
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
President, Rabbinical Assembly, Ontario region
Toronto

* * *

Disagrees with Rabbi Novak

I have never once questioned Rabbi Novak's right to be married, nor have I lost a moment's sleep sitting in judgment on the union of any two people ("Rabbis split over legalization of same-sex marriages," *CJN*, June 19). I understand the rabbi's halachic stance on the matter, which is that same-sex marriages render the traditional institution of marriage meaningless, although there are several responsa contrary to his opinion that are credible. In a purely civil sense, however, Rabbi Novak has absolutely no business wading into what is essentially a private matter between two people and the state. His blessing isn't sought. I find his words offensive.

My partner and I have a proud Jewish family. Both of our children attend Jewish day schools. We will celebrate our 18th anniversary next year. We married civilly two days ago and next year we will have a religious wedding. If people focused on our commitment to family, Jewishness and community, they might – just might – get their minds out of the gutter and stop focusing on physical aspects of difference.

Adrienne E. Rosen
Toronto

* * *

Letter writer criticized

Adina Scheim's letter, "Re: Send Queen's Park a message," in the June 19 issue of *The CJN*, while well meaning, is quite naive and full of misconceptions. Several issues she raises need to be addressed.

First, she seems to question whether tax relief for Jewish day schools should be a matter of concern for the Jewish community. The answer to this is an emphatic yes. While it is true that not all Jewish students go to day schools, it is an uncontested fact that Jewish day school education is the surest way of ensuring Jewish continuity, survival and strength for future generations of our people. Jewish education has ensured the existence of our people from time immemorial, and it will continue to do so into the future. As such, the entire Jewish community should be interested in the viability of our day schools, and the well-being of the students' parents.

Secondly, Scheim says some families cannot make use of these tax credits because they cannot afford day school education. Our community is fortunate in that tuition fees are subsidized for those who cannot afford them. It is true that day school parents need to make sacrifices, but nobody is turned away for lack of means. In fact, many students at our community's schools come from very modest middle class or even lower class families. It is precisely those people for whom the Equity in Education Tax Credit offers the greatest relief.

Thirdly, Scheim mentions that a just solution to differences in funding between Jewish and Catholic schools would be to stop funding Catholic schools. Aside from the massive social turmoil that that would cause in our province, a fair and just society should provide for choices in education. Some parents will choose the secular oriented public school system. We all believe that strong, well-funded public education is a cornerstone of our society. However, many others prefer a religiously based alternative to the secular public schools, and a fair and just society should provide for that option.

Finally, Scheim says there should be no public funding for religion. The funding of a denominational school, be it Catholic, Jewish or anything else, accounts for the fact that these schools teach the basic curriculum – including reading, writing and arithmetic – that is expected to be mastered by all students of this province. Religion is not being funded per se, but rather the total education of the child in a religious atmosphere.

I would hope that our entire community, whether or not they personally have made the choice of day school education for their children, recognize the importance of this issue. I hope they jump on the bandwagon and support the concept of provincial funding of our fine day schools.

Jerrold Landau
Toronto

* * *

Road map a glimmer of hope

While I am no fan of Ariel Sharon, I am very happy that Bert Raphael is not Israel's prime minister ("Israel must remove Hamas," Letters to the Editor, *CJN*, June 26). At the very moment that Hamas has finally agreed (albeit temporarily) to a halt in suicide bombings and Israel has agreed to return security responsibility in Gaza to the Palestinian Authority, Raphael suggests that Israel was too quick to accept the road map and should send in its army to destroy the Hamas organization and arrest its leaders and bombers. Can you imagine what this would do to current efforts to bring the parties to the negotiating table?

We all know that the "road map" is full of potholes and detours and twists and turns, but at the moment, it appears to offer a glimmer of hope that some form of peace agreement can be achieved. So my advice to Raphael and his associates is to cool it, leave the guns in their holsters and allow, in the words of an old metaphor, the parties to "jaw, jaw, jaw" rather than kill, kill, kill.

Mel Shipman
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Islamism: anti-Semitism and the cult of death

By MANUEL PRUTSCHI

It has been our misfortune as Jews that Christianity and Islam grew out of Judaism. No sooner were they born than they took up an antagonistic position towards the parent religion and its followers. In one of history's tragic ironies, neither of the two new faiths practised the biblical injunction of honouring your father and your mother.

Christianity painted the Jews as an impure and contemptible people who were the agents of Satan. Alien and evil, they were responsible for all the ills of humankind and intent on destroying the true faith.

Islam viewed the Jews as "God's and humanity's unchosen" in the words of Israeli historian Benny Morris, in a recent *New Republic* book review.

Robert Wistrich, in turn, in *Muslim Anti-semitism: A Clear and Present Danger*, notes that Islamic tradition depicted the Jew as "malevolent[ly], conspiratorial[ly] fomenting sectarian strife… heresies and deviations that undermined or endangered the unity of the *umma* [the Muslim nation]."

We can now understand better why many Muslims have been so receptive to Europe's historic anti-Semitic themes and how it is that they have been able to integrate them so easily with their own enduring anti-Semitic tradition.

The themes include the poisoning of wells, the blood libel, the Shylock myth, Holocaust denial, and most especially, *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, purporting to be the Jewish blueprint for world domination. This calumny is available for purchase in Islamic bookshops throughout the world.

The Protocols was an anti-Semitic forgery of the early 1900s, produced by the secret police of Czarist Russia, which would soon be supplanted by the Soviet Union, the 20th century's first totalitarian entity. The Nazis found the document made to order for them.

Islamists – the adherents of Islamism – are the most recent ones to adopt *The Protocols*. This should not surprise us, when we realize that Islamism is a sweeping, modern, totalitarian religio-political movement very much akin to German Nazism or Russian communism.

Bernard Lewis in *The Crisis of Islam: Holy War and Unholy Terror* importantly cautions us not to confuse Islamism with Islam the religion. The confusion arises, he explains, because unlike Christianity and Christendom, the single word "Islam" denotes both a religion and a civilization.

Islamism thus emerges out of Islam the civilization but is no more reflective of spiritual Islam (as opposed to political) than Hitlerism and Stalinism are of Christianity, even though both arose within Christendom.

The comparison with Nazism and communism is not merely superficial. All three are the enemies of pluralist democracy, are anti-Semitic, are revolutionary in their intent on creating global utopian societies in their own images and are not prepared to let mere mortals stand in their way.

Christopher Hitchens' catchword, "Islamofascism" should therefore not be taken as an epithet but as an accurate description.

There are three branches to Islamism: Saudi Arabia's Wahhabism, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and its offshoots and Iran's Khomeinism. Khomeinism is the most recent. Wahhabism is the oldest.

Saudi Arabia's Wahhabism arose in the 18th century in the desert of Arabia. It was the result of a merger of two families, those of the tribal chieftain Muhammad ibn Saud (after whom the state is named) and the preacher Muhammad ibn Abdul al-Wahhab (after whom the denomination is named).

Stephen Schwartz in *The Two Faces of Islam: The House of Saud from Tradition to Terror*, argues that Saudi Arabian Wahhabism is in fact the first example of modern totalitarianism, which he defines as "the merging of an extremist ideology with an absolute state [whose] true aim… [is] conquest and world domination."

Kuwaitis show their support for Palestinians by tearing at the Israeli flag. [RNS Reuters photo]

To achieve Islamist utopia one must do three things: return to the pristine faith as practised by the prophet Mohammed, his family and his disciples; re-institute the caliphate, when the Muslim world stretched from Indonesia to Morocco; and Islamize all of humanity. True to totalitarianism, what is required is a revolutionary vanguard to whom everything is permissible.

The Palestinian Abdullah Azzam, one of Islamism's major ideologists, poetically justified the means to this end. Born in Jenin in 1941 and killed by a car bomb in Pakistan in 1989, he was a supporter of Hamas and profoundly influenced Osama bin Laden. Malise Ruthven in *A Fury for God: The Islamist Attack on America*, quotes Azzam as follows:

"The map of Islamic history becomes coloured with two lines: one of them black, with the ink of the scholar's pen; the other one red with the martyr's blood… History does not write its lines except with blood. Glory does not build its lofty edifice except with skulls. Honour and respect cannot be established except on a foundation of cripples and corpses."

The progression of totalitarian revolution from utopianism to the "cult of death" can best be tracked from the general to the particular through excerpts from Paul Berman's *Terrorism and Liberalism*:

"The rebellion that begins with freedom and ends with crime… that is indistinguishable from murder and suicide… that makes perfect sense at the start, and quickly produces deaths that make no sense at all…

"The successes of the Islamist revolution were not going to take place on the plane of the living… [They] were going to take place on the plane of the dead, or nowhere… For cruelty was love… and mass death was brotherhood."

Contrast this with the Jewish faith, which according to a *Jerusalem Post* piece by Paul Johnson, the noted gentile interpreter of Judaism, "was the first religion to preach the sanctity [of human life] and to magnify the value of each individual human being in the eyes of his Creator – hence, equally, in [that of] other human beings."

It is this Jewish sanctification of life, the very antithesis of the cult of death, that is an essential element in understanding the anti-Semitism of Islamism. After the suicide bombing at the Park Hotel in Netanya two Passovers ago, Ismail Haniya, a senior Hamas official in the Gaza strip, demonstrated how attuned Islamists were to the Jewish mentality.

Speaking to Lee Hockstader of the *Washington Post*, he said: "Anyone reading an Israeli newspaper can see their suffering. [Jews] love life more than any other people, and they prefer not to die."

Haniya could have added that Islamists, on the other hand, prefer death to life. Suicide terrorism, more than a means to an end, is an end in itself, two ends in fact: martyrdom and murder.

The Egyptian Sayyid Qutb was the primary architect of Islamism's entire intellectual edifice. Among his most influential works are *Signposts on the Road*, a kind of Islamist manifesto and *In the Shade of the Qu'ran*, a 30-volume commentary on the holy text. Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt's secular ruler, had Qutb executed in 1966. Qutb's brother, Muhammad, taught bin Laden Islamic studies in Saudi Arabia.

The Jewish love of life and the will to live grated on Qutb, as it did on all the Islamists. "The Qu'ran," he comments, "points to another contemptible characteristic of the Jews; their craven desire to live, no matter at what price and regardless of quality, honour and dignity."

Can you not almost visualize the clenched fists of utter irritation and anger?

This visceral, historic and unredeemable anti-Semitism of Islamism is as much responsible for the assault on Israel as it is for the assault on Diaspora Jewry.

Palestinian leaders and preachers, Morris writes, "guided by history and religion, have traditionally seen the Jews as an inferior race whose proper place was as an abased minority in a Muslim polity; and the present situation, with an Arab minority under Jewish rule, is regarded as a perversion of nature and divine will."

He adds that the Islamists see the "continuous defeats… Israel has… inflicted on the Arab world… as a basic violation or disruption of the 'cosmic order,' something humiliating and unfathomable."

The issue with Israel, although it superficially might appear to be about occupation and Palestinian nationalism, is in fact part of Islamism's overall totalitarianism.

Ruthven quotes Azzam regarding the lands Islam has lost since the caliphate. "Jihad is now… incumbent on all Muslims," Azzam exhorts, "and will remain so until the Muslims recapture every spot that was Islamic but later fell into the hands of the infidels. Jihad has been an individual obligation since the fall of al-Andalus [i.e. Spanish Granada in 1492], and will remain so until all other lands that were Muslim are returned to us… [Afghanistan], Palestine, Burma, Lebanon, Chad, Eritrea, Somalia, the Philippines, Southern Yemen, Tashkent and al-Andalus."

This list is hardly exhaustive. Ruthven concludes that "the attachment to the lost lands of Palestine… [unlike a rational and humane concern for Palestinian rights] is, like Mussolini's evocations of ancient Rome, nostalgic in its irredentism, its 'obliteration of history from politics.'"

Anti-Semitism as well as anti-Americanism in particular and anti-Occidentalism in general, are inherent to Islamism. Its attacks on Israel and the United States are existential. There can therefore be no constructive dialogues with Islamofascists and jihadists. These must be relentlessly fought.

What is encouraging, however, is the outlook of Noah Feldman, a young Orthodox Jewish scholar of Islam, author of the recently published *After Jihad: America and the Struggle for Islamic Democracy*. Islam and democracy, he argues, are very much compatible.

The opportunity, as a result, is there for fostering good relations between Jews and the many Muslims Feldman identifies as rejecting religious violence and favouring pluralist democratic politics. We can advance this goal by reading our sacred texts judiciously and with the right emphasis as well as by mutually recognizing and respecting our pasts.

We should not despair about the future. There is much that Islam and Judaism have in common and the prospects for Islamic democracy are very real.

Manuel Prutschi is the national director of community relations of the Canadian Jewish Congress. A version of this paper was delivered at CJC's Quebec region plenary on June 1 in Montreal.

Moving day

July 1 is traditionally moving day in Montreal. Aside from the absurdity of encouraging everyone to move on the same day, the notion of moving itself requires reflection. The physical dislocation compounded by emotional upheaval characterizes this human venture.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

Personally, I hate moving. I have not moved since 1976. Last month, I moved offices. Although I only had to move from the third floor to an office on the first floor, I was not a happy camper. What an experience! I cannot imagine the turmoil caused by moving to another building.

In the process of packing, unpacking, throwing things out and re-placing favourite objects, I tried to make sense of my feelings. Certainly, I did not like this move since it signified a job shift. It also meant transferring from a spacious location to smaller, more intense quarters. But the principal reason for my emotional reaction was the imbalance produced by this relatively trivial change.

Given that perspective, I had to ask myself: How did my grandmother do it?

How do immigrants do it? How does someone pick up and leave all that is familiar? (I was out of sorts because my pictures were no longer in the old familiar places!) Thousands of people migrate every year, either because they've been forced out of their homes or because they are seeking better living conditions. In either case, they experience traumatic dislocations. Even if the move signifies an improvement, it nevertheless requires a leap of faith into the unknown: new languages, neighbours, foods, customs, climate, styles, laws – so much to learn, so easy to fail. Just thinking about it unnerves me.

I often think of the boat trips my grandparents made from Hungary and Poland. Their stories only gave glimpses of these passages. Not knowing where their next meal was going to come from, these immigrants managed to recreate a network of relatives and friends, adjust to a modern lifestyle and establish vital Jewish lives. Reading history books and memoirs helps, but it is still difficult to picture the extent of the hardships and consequent accomplishments. They suffered the fear of the unknown, the emotional toll of abandoning loved ones, demanding adjustments and especially loneliness. How courageous they were. All of them. Whether they moved by choice or not, their goal of survival created a future for us.

I suppose these thoughts ought to minimize my present discomfort. They certainly compel me to feel awe and sympathy for immigrants. The biblical admonition to be kind to all strangers for we were strangers in Egypt resonates. But instead of reducing my emotional turmoil, these immigrant experiences magnify my appreciation for stability and my distress at relocation. Given these ruminations, you can imagine the grumbling when I eventually move out of my house.

It's all done by numbers

In synagogue we have been reading from the book of Numbers – in Hebrew, Bamidbar. The English name is based on the opening section, where Moses is commanded to take a census of the fighting men of Israel. The Hebrew name comes from the book's first words, as the tribes are now deep in the *midbar*, the wilderness, and if all goes well – which of course it does not – are preparing to fight their way into Canaan.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Both names are fraught with deeper meaning. The wilderness is a place of both contemplation and revelation, and of danger and confusion. Numbering the Israelites via a census, when God commands it, is a good thing, indicating the nation's readiness to fight for its rights. On the other hand, when King David orders a census centuries later, he is punished severely. Clearly, counting the nation was something done only at divine behest!

Despite this, UIA Federations Canada is analyzing the Jewish population of Canada based on Statistics Canada's 2001 census. Our community will benefit from this information. It gives Canadian Jewry a window into the economic, social, religious, employment, poverty, household and gender characteristics of our community. So far, no thunderbolt has struck, and we assume that this census has a benign purpose.

Over the next year and a half, reports based on census figures will reveal much about the lives of Canadian Jews. Studies will look at household characteristics (how many kids we have, how we earn our living), where we live (Vancouver is still number 3), the persistence and effects of poverty in our community, where we come from, the internal and external migration of our population, differences in the earning power of men and women, the educational level of Canadian Jews and much, much more.

What I want to comment on is how we determine who is a Jew for purposes of this undertaking. It provides us with a fascinating look, not into census techniques, but into the minds and hearts of Canadian Jewry.

Here is how it works. One in five respondents receives the "long form," which asks a detailed set of questions about their lives. If readers have received such a form, they will know that the form contains two crucial questions. One asks the respondent to indicate their religion – including Judaism – or indicate they have "no religion"; only one answer can be chosen. A second question asks for ethnic origin, and here one may give multiple answers: for instance, Russian, Jewish and Canadian. Anyone who indicated they were Jewish by religion, Jewish by ethnic origin with no religion, or Jewish by religion but with an ethnicity other than Jewish, are counted as Jewish for purposes of the UIA Federation studies. Respondents who indicated they were ethnically Jewish but of another religion are not considered Jewish for purposes of the studies.

Just in case you are completely confused by now – and who wouldn't be – look at it this way.

Fruma Sarah filled out the census and said she was Jewish by ethnicity and by religion. She's in.

Chaim Yankel is a farbrente, proud Marxist Jew. When he filled out the census he indicated he was Jewish by ethnicity but had no religion. He is in our sample.

Yente the Matchmaker answered she was Jewish by religion, but Canadian by ethnicity. She's one of us.

However, Elie Meli answered he was Canadian by ethnicity and, being a confirmed agnostic, indicated no religion. Boris from Russia, afraid to reveal his Jewishness, also did not choose "Jewish" for either question. Alas, neither will be counted in our sample. Nor will Madeleine, who had a Jewish grandfather and indicated Jewish ethnicity, but is a Catholic.

The trick for our demographers is to figure out what motivates these various responses. Vancouver, long considered the secular capital of Jewish Canada, actually had 3,000 more responses to Jewish by religion in 2001 than in 1991. Have we become so frum? I doubt it. Has religion become more comfortable in an age of emphasis on religious identity, regardless of level of observance? Maybe. Are we answering more questions about our ethnicity by saying we are Canadian, rather than Jewish? Again, maybe.

In an essay called, *The Realism of Numbers, the Magic of Numbers* published in *Congregation: Contemporary Writers Read the Jewish Bible*, Yale University professor Geoffrey Hartman writes: "The marshalling of the tribes… suggests that the children of Israel are emerging from the status of 'mixed multitude' into something resembling a community."

We will soon know just what kind of a community we are "growing into." Stay tuned.

A few random thoughts for summer vacation

This morning at 6:30, my four-year-old daughter and I chatted about what we might feed the seagulls when we go up to Lake Winnipeg (last year it was a bagel). She giggled as we considered sandwiches and ice cream. We also thought we might make little sunhats for the birds this year. My wife thinks there's a four-year-old trapped in my body. I don't think that's true, but it would explain the extra weight I'm carrying around.

* * *

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

My daughter has been really silly lately – and it's an absolute treat. Part of her silliness revolves around the Hebrew language. We just spent a weekend at Camp Massad, where they speak Hebrew, and she has a pair of sibling friends whose parents are raising them in Hebrew and English. Plus, she's been hanging out with her seven-year-old cousin who knows a lot of Hebrew words.

She's eager to catch up, so she's asked my wife and me to speak Hebrew in the evenings. So, we use the holy language to tell her to brush her teeth, put on her pyjamas, pick up her toys and go to sleep.

She just says "shalom," and then rambles on in gibberish and laughs hysterically. It's cute, but I'm not sure if this is what Eliezer Ben Yehuda quite had in mind.

* * *

My niece attends Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate, the local Jewish high school and my alma mater. I went to the school's awards night this week. Not exactly an exciting affair, but an important experience nonetheless. As they were reading out the students' names and their accomplishments, I was impressed by the value that this school community places on being a good person. They included "menschlichkeit" awards along with achievement in math, science, Judaic studies and athletics. People applauded the mensches. Kids smiled. This was probably a good thing for my wife and I to see as we get ready to make some choices for our kids' future education.

* * *

When I was a kid, Canada Day was called Dominion Day and I used to wonder if the people who worked at Loblaws got jealous. As an adult, I wonder why more people don't make a big deal about this country's birthday.

Sometimes it seems as if people only get excited when July 1 falls on a Friday or a Monday so they can have a long weekend. With a Tuesday Canada Day this year, many people were probably angrily muttering the names of the Fathers of Confederation under their breaths, cursing them for their poor planning. Actually, that's not entirely true. Most Canadians couldn't name any of the Fathers of Confederation (but they could recite the entire home roster from the 1972 Canada-Russia hockey series, or the cast of *King of Kensington*).

As Jews, we should not be indifferent about Canada Day. We live in a glorious, tolerant democracy. We are free to practise our faith. We are free to produce community newspapers. We are free to worship. We are free to be. While it's true that there are some dark spots on Canada's history, and while our community as a whole might not agree with all policies of the federal and provincial governments, we have the right to lobby, vote, challenge and run for office.

Ideally, the depth of gratitude we should feel should not be diminished by how long ago our families moved here. We've all seen recent immigrants on television being sworn in as new Canadians. The gratitude and excitement they feel is heartwarming.

As a third-generation Canadian, it's hard to experience the type of gratitude that newcomers feel. But the least I can do – the least any of us can do – is pause and reflect on Canada Day about how lucky we are to live here. My family and I waved the maple leaf on Canada Day and thank those Fathers of Confederation, whose names escape me at the moment.

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

The passing parade...

They died recently, leaving footprints in time…

Robert Merton, born Meyer Schkolnick, was one of the most influential American sociologists of the 20th century. A Columbia University professor whose interests ranged from science and racism to the mass media, he coined iconic terms such as "role models" and "self-fulfilling prophecy."

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Sir Bernard Katz, a University of London scientist and a refugee from Nazi Germany, was the co-winner of the 1970 Nobel Prize for medicine, and one of the founders of psychopharmacology, the study of drugs that affect mental and emotional states.

Charles Hollenberg was the first Jewish chair of the University of Toronto's faculty of medicine, physician-in-chief at the Toronto General Hospital and president of the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation.

R. Walter Schlesinger, a virologist and microbiologist who was associated with several U.S. medical schools, co-developed a vaccine for dengue fever and was a specialist on viral infections of the central nervous system. **Harold Ginsberg** was a Columbia University and University of Pennsylvania microbiologist whose research in virology and microbiology paved the way for the development of gene therapy. **Ira Herskowitz**, a University of California geneticist, advanced an understanding of how genetic differences among people influence the effectiveness of drugs.

Harvey Gellman was one of the first Canadian computer consultants, and his clients included Bell Canada, Imperial Oil and Canada's chartered banks. **Eli Ginzberg**, a Columbia University economist, advised eight U.S. presidents and did pioneering research on employment and health care. **Abram Bergson**, director of the Russian Research Center at Harvard University, was the dean of Soviet economic studies.

Herbert Aptheker, a Marxist historian, wrote the three-volume *Documentary History of the Negro People in the United States* and edited *The Correspondence of W.E.B. Dubois*, a notable Afro-American figure. **Ernst Kitzinger** of Harvard was one of the foremost authorities on Byzantine, early Christian and medieval art. **Frank Manuel**, a Brandeis University historian, wrote the classic work *Utopian Thought in the Western World*.

Seymour Lubetzky of the U.S. Library of Congress produced cutting-edge works on the art of cataloguing.

Leon Uris wrote best-selling novels, from *Exodus* and *Mila 18* to *Mitla Pass* and *Battle Cry*. **Howard Fast** wrote such bestsellers as *Spartacus*, *Citizen Tom Paine* and *Freedom Road*. **Don Bell**, a Montreal journalist, won the Leacock Award for Humour for *Saturday Night at the Bagel Factory*. **Leslie Fiedler**, an academic, literary critic and short story writer, wrote *Love and Death in the American Novel*, *Fiedler on the Roof: Essays on Literature and Jewish Identity* and *The Last Jew in America*.

Sydney Omarr (Sidney Kimmelman) was a syndicated astrologer whose columns and divinations were published in more than 200 North American newspapers and in a succession of books.

Helen Honig Meyer was president of Dell Publishing and one of the first women to rise so high in the industry. **Art Cooper** edited *GQ* for 20 years, transforming it from a narrow fashion magazine into a showcase for literary journalism. **Samuel Antupit** was an editorial art director whose redesign of magazines such as *Esquire*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Art in America*, *Harper's* and *Foreign Policy* revolutionized the field.

Philip Yordan won an Academy Award in the screenwriting category for *Broken Lance*, received Oscar nominations for *Dillinger* and *Detective Story* and wrote *El Cid* and *55 Days in Peking*. **Daniel Taradash** won an Oscar for writing script for *From Here to Eternity* and collaborated on the screenplay for *Golden Boy*. **Maurice Rapf**, a screenwriter and founder of the Writers Guild of America, wrote *Song of the South*, *Winter Carnival* and *So Dear to My Heart*. **Peter Stone** shared a screenwriting Oscar for *Father Goose*, adapted *Sweet Charity* to the screen and won an Emmy for the TV series *The Defenders*. **David Newman** co-wrote the script for *Bonnie and Clyde*.

Paul Monash wrote, directed and produced the 1960s television show *Peyton Place* and wrote *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. **Sidney Glazier** produced *Take the Money and Run*, *The Producers* and *The Eleanor Roosevelt Story*. **Norman Panama** co-wrote the Bing Crosby/Bob Hope movie *Road to Utopia* as well as *White Christmas* and *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House*. **Edgar Scherick** was a TV producer whose credits ranged from ABC's *Wide World of Sports* to *Bewitched*.

Doris Fisher co-composed sentimental hit songs for the Ink Spots (*Whispering Grass*), the Mills Brothers (*You Always Hurt the One You Love*) and Billie Holiday (*That Ole Devil Called Love*). **Walter Scharf**, a film score composer and arranger, worked on more than 200 movies, including *Funny Girl* and *Mission Impossible*. **Sidney Lippman** wrote the music for Nat King Cole's hit *Too Young* and for *Chickery Chick* and co-wrote the words and the music for *A-You're Adorable (The Alphabet Soup)*.

Zal Yanovsky, a Toronto-born musician, was a founding member of the Lovin' Spoonful band, whose pop staples included *Summer in the City*, *Daydream* and *You Don't Have to be So Nice*. **Tom Glazer**, a folksinger and song writer who wrote *On Top of Spaghetti*, played a pivotal role in popularizing folk songs.

Lester Osterman, a Broadway theatre producer and Wall Street broker, won Tony awards for *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, *The Shadow Box* and *Da*. **Joseph Chaikin**, an actor and stage director, was a founder of the Open Theatre, the American avant-garde company that blended stortytelling, dance and mime. **Al Hirschfeld**, a caricaturist who was compared to Daumier and Toulouse Lautrec, drew stylized portraits of Broadway personalities that appeared in *The New York Times*. **Eddie Jaffee** was a legendary Broadway press agent whose clients included Jackie Gleason and Marlene Dietrich.

Michael Stillman founded Monitor Records, which specialized in classical Russian music, Hawaiian lullabies, British martial music, German drinking songs, Greek folk dances and Middle Eastern belly dances. **Harry Mannis**, a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation news reader for 37 years, also hosted programs such as *The Dance* and *Anthology*. **Herb Ritts** was a celebrity photographer whose subjects ranged from Madonna to Kofi Annan. **Steve Carlin** was the producer of the game show *The $64,000 Question*. **Leonard Koppett** was a sportswriter who covered baseball and basketball for major dailies in New York City.

Mark Blumes established the Mark's Work Wearhouse clothing chain in Canada. **Leah Florkevitz** and her husband founded Warshaw, a noted Montreal grocery store. **Ronald Oberlander** was chief executive officer of Canadian-based Abitibi-Consolidated Inc., the world's largest newsprint maker. **Lillian Katz** founded Katz's Deli and Corned Beef Emporium, a well-known Toronto deli.

Felice Lippert was a founder of Weight Watchers, the weight-control empire. **Samuel LeFrak** led the LeFrak Organization, which built decent and affordable housing for millions of Americans in the New York City area. **Daniel Aaron** founded Comcast, the largest cable TV firm in the United States. **George Kozmetsky** was the co-founder of Teledyne – a conglomerate of 130 companies manufacturing a vast range of products – and the dean of the University of Texas' business school.

Leonard Hyman Tose, a trucking company owner, bought and sold the Philadelphia Eagles football team. **Sandy Tarlow**, an advertising executive, managed the Ralph Lauren account. **Laura Phillips**, a British fashion designer, created a ready-to-wear label carried in major department stores and boutiques. **Harvey Probber** founded a furniture company whose modular sofas became a phenomenon. **Raymond Weill** of New Orleans was a great stamp collector and retailer. **Ellen Strauss** was the co-proprietor of the California-based Strauss Family Creamery, the first organic dairy farm in the western United States.

Sid Gillman coached the Los Angeles Chargers, the San Diego Chargers and the Houston Oilers football teams. **Alta Cohen** was an outfielder with the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball club in the 1930s. **Gladys Heldman** was a top-flight tennis player and founder of *World Tennis*. **Leon Slan** of Toronto held the Canadian amateur heavyweight title from 1935 to 1937.

Walt Rostow was President Lyndon Johnson's national security advisor at the height of the Vietnam war. **Mordechai (Motti) Hod**, one of Israel's first military pilots, commanded the Israeli Air Force during the Six Day War. He retired in 1973, five months before the Yom Kippur War. **Shlomo Argov**, the Israeli ambassador to Britain, was the object of a Palestinian assassination attempt, an event that triggered Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. **Meir Vilner** was the last living signatory of Israel's 1948 Declaration of Independence and leader of the Israeli Communist party.

Alfred Kantor, a Holocaust survivor, was an artist whose watercolours and sketches of daily life in Nazi concentration camps were published and exhibited. **Selhattin Ulkumen** was a Turkish diplomat credited with saving 42 Jewish families on the German-occupied island of Rhodes. **Irene Gut Opdyke**, a Polish nurse, saved Jews and wrote about her experiences in a memoir entitled *In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer*.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

אַ שיינער קאָנצערט פון יִדישן פאָלקס כאָר

פון אַלעק סילווער

מיין פרוי און איך, צחאַמען מיט עטלעכע הונדערט ליבהאָבערס פון יִדיש געזאַנג, זיינען געווען ביים קאָנצערט פון טאָראָנטער יִדישן פאָלקס כאָר, וואָס איז פאָרגעקומען דעם 25סטן מאַי, 2003. וויל איך אונטערשטרייכן, אַז ס'איז געווען אַ שיינער קאָנצערט, דער עולם האָט געהאַט גרויס הנאה, און איך וויל אויסדריקן אַ דאַנק און אַ לויב צו אַלע אָנטיילנעמער.

איז ווו הייבט מען אָן? . . . כ'האָב ערגעץ ווו געלייענט אַ שורה פון אַ קלוגן שרייבער: „מען הייבט אָן פון בְּרֵאשִׁית אין דער מיטן". נו, וועל איך אויך אַזוי טאָן. כ'וועל אָנהייבן פון דער מיטן — מיט דעם ליד: „אין דער קוזשניע" (אין יִדיש). אויב איר וועט פרעגן: פאַר וואָס? דער ענטפער איז פשוט: עס איז מיינס אַ פערזענלעך באַליבט ליד. איך זינג שוין דאָס ליד איבער זיבעציק יאָר. איך האָב זיך דאָס ליד אויסגעלערנט טאַקע אין דער קוזשניע. מיין פאָטער ע"ה איז געווען אַ קאָוואַל, אַ שמיד אין אונדזער קליינעם יִדיש שטעטל סטאָפּניץ. ווי אַ קליין יִנגל בין איך דאָרט געשטאַנען און געשלעפּט דעם בלאָזזאַק (bellows) צו הייצן דאָס פייער. האָבן מיר צחאַמען געזונגען דאָס ליד און מיין פאָטער האָט צוגעקלאַפּט צום ריטם מיטן האַמער אויף דער קאָוואַדלע. אַפילו אונדזער געזעל — אַ שֶגֶץ פון דאָרף — האָט געקענט די יִדישע ווערטער צו דעם ליד. נאָך צענדליקער אַנדערע יִדישע לידער האָבן מיר דאָרט געזונגען. האָט דער קאָנצערט אַרויסגעבראַכט אַ סך זכרונות ביי מיר און בילדער פון דער אַלטער היים זיינען געלאָפן פאַר מיינע אויגן.

איך בין מער ווי זיכער, אַז ענלעכע זכרונות זיינען אויפגעשוווּמען ביי די אַנדערע צוהערערס, ספעציעל ווען דער כאָר האָט געזונגען אַ ביטל יִדישע לידער, שיין אַראַנזשירט פון דעם נייעם כאָר־דיריגענט **אַלעקסאַנדער וועפּריטסקי**. דאָס איז געווען אַ זייער גוטער אויפטו און, לויט מיין מיינונג, דאַרף דער כאָר אָנהאַלטן די טראַדיציע.

אָן שום ספק האָט אַ סך צוגעגעבן צו דער שיינקייט פון קאָנצערט די גרופּע קלעזמאָרים. ספעציעל האָט זיך אויסגעצייכנט **באַב סטיווענסאָן** מיט זיין „מעלאַנכאָלישן" קלאַרנעט. דער עולם האָט מיטגעקלאַפּט, מיטגעזיפצט און אַפילו מיטגעוויינט. און ווידער זיינען געלאָפן בילדער פון דער אַלטער היים פון יִדישע חתונות, פון יִדישע „הוליאַנקעס" און פון יִדיש געווין.

צום סוף האָט דער כאָר, צחאַמען מיט די קלעזמאָרים, פרעזענטירט אַ נייע קאָמפּאָזיציע „דאָס נייע ליד" פון דעם נישט־לאַנג צוריק פאַרשטאָרבענעם **מילטאָן באַרנעס** — אַ גוט־באַקאַנטער מוזיקאַלאָג אין קאַנאַדע. די ווערטער זיינען פון דעם יִדישן דיכטער אברהם רייזן, וועמענס 50סטע יאָרצייט ווערט היי־יאָר אָפּגעצייכנט אין דער יִדיש־ליטעראַרישער וועלט. עס איז געווען שיין אויסגעפירט און די קלעזמאָרים און כאָר מיטגלידער האָבן אַרויסגעוויזן זייערע טאַלאַנטן.

ביים פאַרענדיקן וויל איך ווידער אַמאָל אונטערשטרייכן, אַז סיי דער כאָר, סיי דער דיריגענט אַלעקסאַנדער וועפּריטסקי, די אַקאָמפּאַניסטקע לינאַ זעמעלמאַן האָבן זיך אַלע אויסגעצייכנט. דער עולם האָט עס טאַקע אָנערקענט מיט לאַנג־דויערנדיקע אַפּלאָדיסמענטן. דאָס צחאַמענפּאָרן די קלעזמאָרים מיטן כאָר האָט צוגעגעבן דעם יִדישן סענטימענט, פון וועלכן דער עולם האָט באמת הנאה געהאַט. עס וואָלט אפשר געווען כדאַי, אַז אין צוקונפטיקע קאָנצערטן זאָל אַזאַ שותפות אָנגעהאַלטן ווערן.

איך וויל דאָ איבערחזרן די ווערטער, וואָס איך האָב שוין געשריבן ביי פריערדיקע געלעגנהייטן. דער יִדישער געזאַנג ליבהאָבער, אַלט צי יונג, דאַרף און מוז אונטערשטיצן דעם דאָזיקן כאָר־אַנסאַמבל, כדי ער זאָל קענען אָנהאַלטן די טראַדיציע פון ברענגען געשמאַקע און שיינע יִדישע לידער און יִדישע מוזיק צו דער ברייטער יִדישער געזעלשאַפט. האָפנטלעך וועלן מיר זיך זען ביים קאָנצערט אין קומענדיקן פרילינג.

Our nation's identity is shaped by morality

By RABBI RONALD WEISS

Rabbinic Reflections

What does the Torah expect of a spiritual person and how does this compare with what some might call the "natural" outlook of man? Balak, king of Moav, saw the nation of Israel defeat the world powers of the day, the nations of Sichon and Og. He thus developed a great fear of Israel as well as a hatred and jealousy toward the Israelites, which led to a desire to curse and murder them.

But Balak should have known that Israel would not harm him. The reason was simple: they had been commanded by God not to interfere with his nation. Nonetheless, Balak saw Israel's victory over Sichon and Og and he worried. Why? Balak was a warrior king, a ruler whose power was dependent upon his military strength. He lived in a world where fighting was the norm. He interacted with other warrior kings in a society that was essentially devoid of what we understand to be moral values. From his perspective, a mighty nation simply ran from one victory to the next and would not stop unless beaten back. No nation emerging from a successful campaign against the great and powerful Sichon and Og would lay down its weapons when facing Moav. Balak was afraid because he could not comprehend the idea of a nation that would refuse to wage war merely because they had been told to stop. Even the idea that this had been a command directly from the Almighty did not carry very much weight with him. He retained his fear and sought to curse the people of Israel so that he might defeat them.

Another example of such a difference in outlook can be seen in a Midrash quoted by Rashi on the verse, "Bilaam arose early in the morning and saddled his donkey" (22:21). The Midrash says that God spoke to Bilaam: "Wicked one! Their forefather Avraham preceded you, as it says: 'And Avraham arose early in the morning and saddled his donkey' (Bereshit 22:3)." This points to the enormous moral contrast between Avraham and Bilaam. Bilaam rose early in order to run after wealth and glory, using his donkey to help him realize his desires. He was committed to destroying his imagined enemies and to building on the downfalls of others.

Avraham, on the other hand, rose early in order to sacrifice what he held most dear, his son Yitzchak. For those familiar with Hebrew language, the word for "saddled" – *yachvosh* – is closely related to the verb "to conquer" – *kovesh*. The word for "donkey" used in Bereshit regarding Avraham is *chamor*, which is related to the word for "physical," *chomer*. Avraham arose and conquered his desires in service of God – conquering those same desires that Bilaam tried to satisfy.

The Jewish nation described in the Bible does not desire to rule the world or to take what is not theirs. Moral and ethical values have been part of the Jewish spiritual consciousness throughout our entire history. However, a religious and spiritual identity shaped by morality does not mean our rights and religious values should be denigrated. Even today we have, unfortunately, learned again of the need to defend ourselves when attacked and fight to protect what is ours. Those who look only at the cases where God commanded conquest and accuse Israel of being a warrior nation ignore the many cases where God ordered Israel to live in peace and not attack another nation – even though it was clearly within their power to do so. Certainly, we are mindful of the teaching of our Sages – *Haba l'harg'cha hashkaim l'hargo* – when one comes to kill you, rise up and kill him (first)" (Rashi on Shemot 22.1).

The Torah says our ultimate goals must not be material wealth, glory or honour – and certainly not ill-gotten gain. We are asked to put aside our own desires in order to pursue our spiritual destiny. But this does not mean we are to abandon our spiritual heritage because other nations are not happy with us. We must continue to live by the religious and spiritual values given to us by the Almighty. By so doing, we will maintain our self respect and our identity, not to mention ultimately the respect of other nations. We can expect no less from ourselves.

Shabbat Shalom.

Rabbi Weiss is director of chaplaincy services for Jewish Family & Child Service.

The 'warrior' does want peace

MYTH:

Ariel Sharon has made clear that he does not want peace and no deal is possible as long as he is prime minister.

FACT:

Ariel Sharon has been demonized by the Arabs and caricatured by the media, which often refers to him as a "right-wing" or "hard-line" prime minister, appellations rarely affixed to any other foreign leaders. But Sharon has spent most of his life as a public servant trying to bring peace to his nation.

It was Sharon who gave then-prime minister Menachem Begin the critical backing that made the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty possible. The initial Camp David negotiations were on the verge of collapse over then-Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's insistence that all Israeli settlements in the Sinai be dismantled when Begin called Sharon and asked if he should give up the settlements. Sharon not only advised him to do so, but ultimately was the one who implemented the decision to remove the settlers, some by force (Steven Spiegel, *The Other Arab-Israeli Conflict: Making America's Middle East Policy from Truman to Reagan*; Ariel Sharon, *Warrior*).

Sharon's views have also evolved over time. While he was once fiercely opposed to the creation of a Palestinian state, as prime minister, he has endorsed the idea, in opposition to members of his own party. Since taking office, Sharon has repeatedly offered to negotiate with the Palestinians on condition only that they end the violence. He asked for only seven days of peace – a demand that some criticized despite the fact that the Palestinians had promised at Oslo eight years of peace – and later, he even dropped that demand. When he did, the Palestinians responded with a suicide bombing that killed 29 people at a Passover seder in a Netanya hotel.

Sharon subsequently proposed a peace conference, an idea the Bush administration endorsed. Even when Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah proposed a peace initiative that was filled with provisions the Saudis knew Israel could never accept, such as the condition to return to Israel's 1967 borders, Sharon did not reject the plan, and called for direct negotiations to discuss it. Now, Sharon has agreed to negotiate with the Palestinians according to the road map formula devised by the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations, despite serious reservations about many elements of the plan.

If the Arabs doubt Sharon's commitment to peace, all they need do is put him to the test – end the violence. So long as the Palestinians keep up their terrorist attacks, no Israeli prime minister can offer them concessions.

"To keep 3.5 million people under occupation is bad for us and them… I want to say clearly that I have come to the conclusion that we have to reach a [peace] agreement." — Ariel Sharon (Associated Press, May 26).

Source: Myths & Facts Online: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.*

Nothing sacred in this book

***Nothing Sacred: The Truth About Judaism*, by Douglas Rushkoff, Random House, 2003, $37.95.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

This is a misguided and often infuriating book with a chutzpahdik subtitle – especially from one whose Jewish background is limited.

The author, an Internet maven who has written several books on the subject, now offers his "working proposal for Judaism's next great renaissance."

He writes that although Judaism "finds its roots in some of the most progressive ideas conceived in history, Judaism today is nonetheless associated with superstition, racism, sexism and a haughty refusal to clean up its own act."

Rabbis and congregations, he asserts, should stop worrying about dwindling numbers or about intermarriage or assimilation. What must be stressed is Judaism as a champion of iconoclasm, abstract monotheism and universal social justice. Nowhere in the book, however, are we actually told what icons or sacred cows Judaism should be demolishing.

Rushkoff blithely insists Judaism is not a set of beliefs, but a process that must undergo constant revision and renewal. So-called lapsed Jews who are seeking spiritual meaning must be welcomed into the community even if they are unconcerned with traditional observance or adherence to the synagogue. And if all of this leads to the dilution of religion, so much the better – that's part of Judaism's iconoclastic mission. The idea of Jews as a chosen people is pernicious and hinders the spread of the faith among the enlightened. Zionism is a problem because it restricts Judaism to a "patch of sacred soil rather than a claim to the entire planet as a kind of Jerusalem."

The author stresses the need to interpret the Hebrew Scriptures, making full use of modern scholarship, and he rails against rabbis who refuse to do so in order to stifle controversy. He is convinced that if we can release the Torah from its obligation to serve as a historical record, we liberate it, and ourselves, to generate an unending bounty of new narratives through which to create new meaning.

Rushkoff says many rabbis and Jewish leaders understand that their tactics are contrary to the spirit of Judaism, but believe that "the pressing need for more bodies and wallets that can be tallied as Jewish outweighs the short-term damage caused by distorting the religion's theological and ethical foundations. But it does force us to ask who, really, is lapsing Judaism."

Where circumcision is concerned, Rushkoff is impressed by a ceremony called bris shalom, which is designed to fulfil "the spiritual and communal obligations for circumcision without the traumatic effects or violation of rights": "Should the day arise when I need to make this choice on behalf of a son, I'm glad that Judaism now offers me more than the stern voice of an intransigent rabbi or the shunning of an entire community," he writes.

The author draws much of his inspiration from Freud, Spinoza, Buber and Maimonides, who is transformed into a New Age rationalist at the expense of his major ideas and philosophy.

It is astonishing that Rushkoff is invited to speak to synagogues and Jewish organizations across North America and that this mishmash has even been praised by rabbis. Have they read it?

Baseball and Jews

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Nem mikh mit tsu der ball geym
Tsum oylem lomir dokh geyn
Koyf mir di nislekh un krekerjek
Vil ikh keyn molfun dort nit avek

Take me out to the ball game
Take me out with the crowd
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack
I don't care if I never get back...

Harry von Tilzer (born Aaron Gumbinsky) will be loved forever for creating the melody to "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?I23A34215]**. And like many of the game's greats, von Tilzer was Jewish **[http://www.city-journal.org/html/10_3_tin_pan_alley_diarist.html]**.

Rabbi Richard Agler remembers how every year he would announce von Tilzer's yahrzeit with "considerable reverence" when he was at Stephen Wise Free Synagogue in Manhattan. (By the way, the Yiddish lyrics came later, thanks to Henry Sapoznik.)

As Shel Krakofsky pointed out a few years ago in *The CJN*, one of the greatest baseball players of all time was also the "only player in Major League history to strike out in 12 consecutive plate appearances." Although his lifetime batting average was .097, he was the youngest player ever elected into the Hall of Fame. The player? Sandy Koufax **[http://www.cjnews.com/pastissues/98/may7-98/feature/feature2.htm]**.

Koufax, of course, didn't pitch for his Los Angeles Dodgers in the first game of the 1965 World Series against the Minnesota Twins because it was Yom Kippur. Sandor Slomovits captures the pride felt then by every Jewish baseball-loving fan in his article "Yom Kippur and Sandy Koufax: They'll Always Go Together." Slomovits says Koufax's decision to sit out the game transcended the sport and even had an incredible impact on people who normally had no use for the game, like Slomovits' father. "To my father, baseball was still a stupid game, but all of a sudden, it was not played by only stupid people. Sandy Koufax did not hide his Jewishness. He took a righteous stand. And my father, along with millions of Jews, was proud of him. 'He's a good Jewish boy,' my father said. His highest praise." **[http://jewishsports.com/reflections/]**

Also on the JewishSports Web site are several great baseball articles, including a look at how Jews made baseball "Our Own," and a review of Aviva Kemper's documentary, *The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*.

Here are some special treats! Fans can download Professor Eric Solomon's essay "Jews and Baseball: A Cultural Love Story" in which he argues that the game has played a crucial role in the evolution of Jewish society **[http://ls.berkeley.edu/dept/townsend/pubs/OP08_Sport_and_Race.pdf]**. After that, you can read on-line, the *entire* book, *Jewish Baseball Stars* (New York: Hippocrene Books, 1984) by Harold and Meir Ribalow **[http://www.jewsinsports.org/publication.asp?titleID=1]**. You can also read profiles of 168 Jewish baseball players, from Cal "Abie" Abrams to Eddie Zosky **[http://www.jewsinsports.org/list.asp?sport=baseball]**. And lest you believe that the only Jewish players of note are in North America, check out the action in Israel, where Amit Megiddo, Yehuda Beinin and Sholom Menorah play on teams like Shomrot Triple T, Zion Tours and the Dimona Mean Judeans **[http://www.eteams.com/israelbaseballsoftball]**.

The most eye-popping article that I have come across is Reuven Goldfarb's "Baseball Kabbalah." In it, he makes indisputable parallels between the two mystical activities: First, the 10 players (nine plus batter) on the field correspond to the number of Sefirot (divine emanations) that constitute the kabbalistic Tree of Life. About umpires, he writes, "Easy. They're Dayanim (rabbinical judges). That's why they wear dark colors. Managers? Rebbes. Coaches? Gabbais." And of the seventh inning stretch, he says, "Does that sound like Shabbat to you?" **[http://www.ascent.org.il/Surprise/Sport/baseball%20kabbalah.html]**

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* * * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Greater Toronto Area

One retires, one stays put after 26 years

Helen Senor

Helen Senor says goodbye to Israeli consulate

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Although Helen Senor has worked for the past 26 years as the secretary to Israel's consul generals in Toronto, she has begun a new job seven times.

"Each time a new consul general arrives, it's like starting over," says Senor, who retired at the end of June.

"The job has not changed, but what does change is that each consul general, who represents Israel in Toronto and western Canada, has his own style."

Senor was born in Czechoslovakia and survived the Holocaust with her mother and siblings – her father died in Auschwitz – by hiding and posing as Christian.

She says she and her late husband Jim, who was national director of Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science, were ardent Zionists. She has two children and two stepchildren, two of whom live in Israel.

When she replaced her predecessor at the consulate, who held the job for 17 years, Senor wondered how the woman could have stayed in the job for so long.

"I thought I would remain for a few years, and then I would move on.

"I felt like I was doing something worthwhile, though. I became involved in the job emotionally and intellectually. Certainly, my heart was in it."

Part of her job, Senor says, was to assist the consul general in his day-to-day activities and in his outreach to the community.

"Each time pressure builds up in Israel, we feel it here. For 26 years, I felt like I lived in Israel five days a week. I'm surrounded by Israelis and the Hebrew language, and all the concerns are about Israel."

It is important for the consul general to have a Canadian assistant, she says, "because we know the ropes. Due to my husband's involvement, I am familiar with the community

The consulate is a place like no other, Senor says. "People go out of their way to help. A while ago, the police called to tell us that an Israeli tourist had been robbed. We spent hours with him. We phoned his family and arranged for a new passport. When people need us, we are there."

Israelis are an inspiration to her, Senor says. She tries to visit the country at least twice a year and speaks to her children there regularly.

"No matter what happens, [Israelis] go on," she says, noting that while on a recent trip, "an Israeli heard I was from Toronto, and she asked if I was afraid to return home because of SARS.

"Israelis will not give in to their fears. It would be like handing [the Palestinians] a victory."

It feels like a "lifetime ago" that she started her job, Senor says. "My son was in Grade 1, and it was a real juggle managing work and home. I wouldn't have changed anything, however."

Senor says she is looking forward to having some free time and remaining active in her synagogue, Beth Haminyan, a 200-member congregation with no rabbi and no cantor. "It's a special place. We are all involved.

"I'll miss the consulate, however. I've made some warm friendships. When you spend so many days and years with people, they become part of your life."

Will she move to Israel some day? "It's not out of the question, but meanwhile, my life here is full."

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Na'amat's Levene remains active at Na'amat Canada

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After 26 years as executive director of Na'amat Canada Toronto, Lorraine Levene has no plans to retire.

"I have too many plans and too much to do. As I get older I need less sleep so I'm gaining speed," says Levene, 74, who has four children and five grandchildren.

Shortly after joining the organization, then called Pioneer Women, she took part in a leadership mission to Israel, and it was on that trip that she learned the scope of the organization, she says.

"It was mind boggling. There wasn't a service for children and women that Na'amat did not provide, but there was so much to be done.

"Many of the facilities for children were in dire need of rebuilding, and many more day-care centres were needed. At the high school in Hadera – it specializes in helping under-

Lorraine Levene

achievers who were not successful in their regular school – students were bundled in hats and gloves because it was February and the building had no heat," she says.

She returned from that trip on a personal mission. "By hook or by crook, I was going to raise the money needed to build more day-care centres and build a real high school in Hadera."

Ten years later the school was completed, "and to my surprise they dedicated the amphitheatre in my name. To this day, that school is my pride and joy."

Continued on page 16

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Israeli settlers hope to counter stereotypes

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

As far as talk show callers go, Heather has got to be one of the more extreme.

The first to phone in to a recent airing of the *Bill Carroll Show* on CFRB radio, Heather quickly launched into a lengthy tirade that employed classic anti-Semitic stereotypes and accused Israel and Israeli settlers of pretty much everything under the sun, including territorial designs on Kuwait.

Yet Heather's heated oration did not surprise three visiting Israelis, spokesmen for the settler movement in the northern West Bank region of Shomron, who were guests on the call-in show.

Forced to dodge rocks thrown at their car windshields and see their children off every morning in bullet-proof school buses, the verbal assault did not faze them.

The three, Natan Kandler, Benzy Lieberman and Pinchas Gerber, were in Toronto recently for a two-day visit that included the radio appearance, meetings with political figures and visits with supporters in the Jewish and pro-Zionist Christian communities.

While Heather may represent the extreme anti-Semitic element in Toronto, they have heard her kind of views before, they said. When given the opportunity to appear on radio shows, they try to counter the kind of stereotypes of settlers she expounded.

"We understand the need for PR that will clearly and eloquently express the needs of the

Benzy Lieberman (seated), Pinchas Gerber (left) and Natan Kandler

people in our area, [and we need] to unite with Jews and Christians in order to lobby with us...to maintain our historical ties to the land of Israel," said Gerber, deputy director of social services and director of the Shomron Development Fund.

Despite the Heathers of the world, the settler spokesmen say they have cultivated a substantial level of support among other Canadians.

"We came here because the amount of support we've been able to generate is phenomenal, to the point where people begin to understand the importance Shomron has for the security of the State of Israel," said Gerber.

Canadians "understand the unique circumstances we're living in and they want to help us politically, financially and emotionally," said Gerber, who laid the groundwork for the recent trip with a visit to Toronto a few months ago.

The settler movement, Gerber explained, is reaching out to supporters around the world to aid in providing financial support for basic social and welfare services.

In addition, "people are very much interested in hearing our point of view. They understand we have a lot to offer regarding their understanding of the geopolitical realities in that part of the world."

Kandler, who served in a variety of Jewish educational positions in Toronto from 1996-2000, said many Toronto visitors to Israel are eager to nurture inter-communal ties. Altogether, more than 30 projects require funding, he said.

Gerber said many Torontonians have already opened their wallets to support social service projects in the Shomron region, giving money for bullet-proof vehicles, electronic protection fences, mobile dental clinic ($150,000 US), funds to send kids to summer camps and even aid to send stressed-out families on holiday respites.

Lieberman, mayor of the Shomron regional council and chair of the Yesha Council (which includes communities in Shomron, Judea and Gaza), said Shomron residents are merely attempting to live normal lives, contrary to the impression broadcast on TV.

Visitors to the region "see a normal life, Jews who believe this belongs to them. They want normal security and quiet. The Palestinians are the killers, the murderers. They don't want Jewish people in Tel Aviv or Haifa and in Judea or Samaria," he said.

Lieberman, who is no relation to the U.S. senator, said settlers don't have "our voices" heard in North America. "You hear [Shimon] Peres, [Yossi] Beilin, the weak voices from Israel. This is not the mainstream of the street in Israel. The mainstream is the voice we represent. Judea and Samaria (Shomron) is part of the historic Jewish land and we will never, ever leave these places. We acknowledge the right of the Palestinians to live near to us in peace and security, but not in terror."

Lieberman said there is no quick fix to the "complex conflict" with the Palestinians. His solution: limited autonomy in which "security belongs to Israel and the civilian life is controlled by themselves."

Although he acknowledged the Palestinians would reject that position, Lieberman said "if Israel is determined, and the Palestinians know it, the Palestinians will accept the situation."

He believes Prime Minster Ariel Sharon agreed to the "roadmap" because he wanted to exhaust all avenues suggested by President George W. Bush, but he fully expects it cannot succeed.

"In the meantime, we're in the frontline and suffering this confusion," Kandler said.

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Teen to take part in chemistry Olympiad in Greece

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Ted and Heidi Winick have good reason to kvell.

Their son Jordan will represent Canada at the international chemistry Olympiad in Greece this month.

But don't expect Jordan Winick to toot his own horn. The tall lanky student is so unassuming that you would never guess he is one of the top chemistry students in the country.

The Northern Secondary School Grade 12 graduate is in Greece with three other Canadian students this month for the international chemistry competition. The Canadian team will be among 260 participants under 20 representing 65 countries.

It took some time for the news to sink in when he learned he would be going to the Olympiad, Winick said in a recent interview.

"For almost a week after, I kept thinking, 'I can't believe that happened.' It was like I had to pinch myself. It's one thing to come first in school for physics or math in nationwide tests, but it's another thing to represent your country internationally."

Over the years, Winick has participated in science and math contests because he loves the challenge, he said. "I really enjoy learning."

The road to the chemistry Olympiad began with some monthly problem sets distributed by the University of Toronto through teachers to the top high school science students. Winick worked on a monthly selection of five problem sets during the fall and early winter. In March, he received an online take-home exam with research questions.

He was subsequently invited to participate in the weekend Ontario chemistry finals held at U of T at the beginning of May. Five of the 20 participants qualified for the Canadian finals at Kingston in mid-May.

Winick was among a group of 18 students from across Canada who spent an intense week at a Kingston military college studying and doing labs.

They wrote exams throughout the week and finals on the sixth day. The selection of the Olympiad participants was based on the results of all the work.

Winick said he was surprised by the results. "I didn't feel from seeing the other kids around me that I was more advanced. I didn't really feel I was in the top four."

He said he thinks his ability to do the labs quickly raised his ranking.

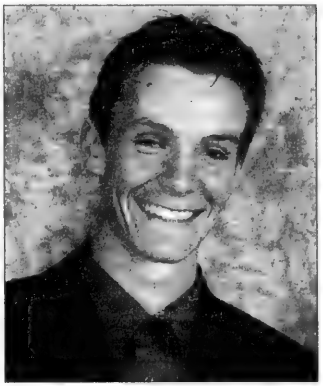
The Olympiad caps off an impressive year for Winick. The 18-year old has a lot of brawn as well. He's been rowing since Grade 9 and is a top sculler in the lightweight category for his age group.

His rowing ability caught the attention of several big-name American universities, and in August, he will be going to study engineering at Yale University with a full academic scholarship.

The schools recruited him because they said it was rare to find an athlete who also excels academically, Winick said after a little prodding.

He had perfect scores in both the English and math components of his SAT scores, the mandatory entrance exam for admission to American universities.

During the spring and fall, Winick would



Jordan Winick

row at 6 a.m. every morning for 1¼ hours at Hanlan Boat Club located east of Cherry Beach. He then would cycle 10 kilometres back to his school in the Eglinton and Mount Pleasant area.

"I like being out on the water in the early morning," he says. "There's no time to waste. It gets your day going great."

When asked if he's considering participating in another Olympiad – the ultimate international sports competition, Winick expressed uncertainty about how his athletic future will unfold. "I'm going to train hard at Yale to see how far I can get.

"I definitely think about the Olympics. It's a huge commitment. That's all you do for four years of your life. I don't know what other goals will come into play. The Olympics are one of those things you dream about."

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Levene still going strong at Na'amat

Continued from page 14

Fundraising has changed since those days, she says. "Then, we raised a lot of money from businesses, but most are no longer in operation and many of the seniors who helped fundraise have died. We had to find new ways to raise money."

Today, she says, more people tend to earmark their money for local charities. "They don't have the feeling of 'next year in Jerusalem.' They still do tzedakah, but their values are different. They want to see where their money is going.

"This challenge is making me even more passionate about my work; there's always something to do. It's hard for me to keep track of all our projects," she says.

Their newest campaign, Tree of Love, is aimed at raising funds in Canada to support all children in Israel. Funds will be raised by selling specially designed leaves which will be sold in stores, schools, corporations and community facilities, and then posted.

As well, schools throughout Canada will receive envelopes containing an information package and a white leaf. These leaves, for children, are blank, so that they can make a picture or write a letter to a child in Israel on the leaf.

"We want public school children in Canada, no matter what their race or religion, to learn about Israel. It should be part of their curriculum. People do not understand Israel, and anti-Semitism is built because of ignorance."

Levene, who has visited Israel almost 20 times, is also involved with Habonim Dror youth organization, Camp Gesher and Bialik Hebrew Day School, all part of the labour Zionist movement.

"I kvell when I see children learning Zionist values at camp or school. Put me near a child and I melt," she says.

She knows she is one of the lucky people, she says. "How many people can be a volunteer and professional in the same chair?"

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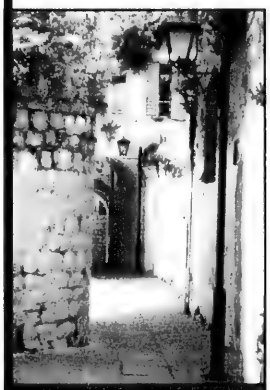

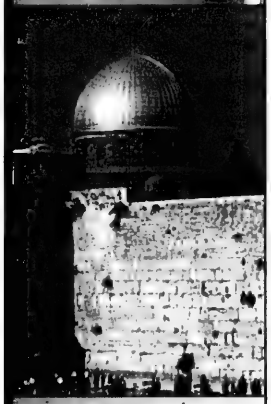

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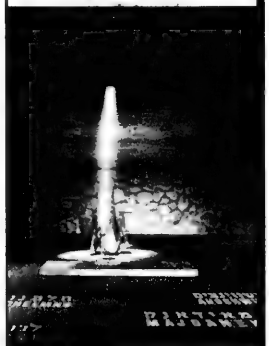

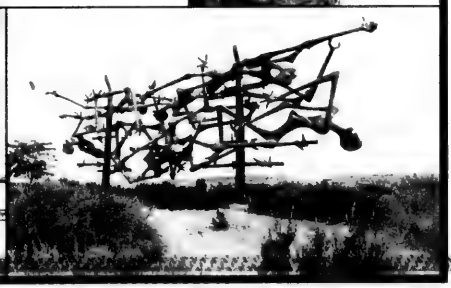

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Mazel Tov MOMENTS

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Mazel tov to Albert and Millie State, 95 and 91, who celebrated their birthdays in Hamilton at Temple Anshe Sholom on June 27.

Happy 50th anniversary Harry & Frances Forman. Love, Amy & Randel, Debbie & Roger, Noah, Heidi, and grandchildren Mila, Liza, Nathaniel and Zoe.

Yael Malka is welcomed by the Lenga and Berenstein families. Lovingly named for maternal Zaide Eric Exton, paternal saba & safta Eli Melach & Malka Lenga.

Happy first birthday to Matthew Charles Lipman. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Sammy and the gantze mishpachah.

Congratulations Hilary Wasserman, Grade 8 valedictorian at Ledbury Park. Proud parents Shirley & Elliott Wasserman, sister Alyse, grandparents Zelda Korenblum and Diane & Victor Wasserman.

Mazel tov to Sarah Jakubowicz & Joel Marans on your engagement, from your parents Sol & Necha, brothers Sammy, Allan and Ben, and Bubbie Adela Grinbaum.

Becky and Marty Goldfarb are thrilled to announce the engagement of their daughter Charlene to Robby, son of Biby and Alex Wexler. Mazel tov from both families.

Abraham & Betty Richmon and Morris & Esther Sabo announce the engagement of their children Malcolm & Lori. Mazel tov from your family and friends.

Congratulations to Heather Moore on graduating from Alberta College and going on to pursue a nursing degree and then a bachelor of science degree at the University of Alberta.

Evan Reinblatt recently celebrated his bar mitzvah. Mazel tov and love from your entire family.

Mazel Tov to Jason Kirsh and Shira Steinberg on their engagement April 17. May their future be a healthy and happy one.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

There is no paper July 24. Events occurring between July 17 and July 23 will be listed in the July 17 issue. Monday, July 21, is deadline for July 31 issue and Monday, July 28, is deadline for Aug. 7. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, July 10

BILLIARDS NIGHT

Adath Israel Young Singles is holding a billiards night exclusively for singles 21-35, 9 p.m. at Heroes Sports Lounge and Billiard Hall, 1600 Steeles Ave. W., Unit 6, west of Dufferin on the north side of Steeles. $10 at the door. For information, call 416-635-5340.

SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED

Leadership Sinai's 5th annual fundraiser, Shaken, Not Stirred, to support Mount Sinai Hospital's Advanced Surgical Technology Centre and the Leadership Sinai Chair in Surgery begins at 8 p.m. at the Courthouse Chamber Lounge, 57 Adelaide St. E. For tickets, contact **Miriam Kumer** 416-586-3192 or go online to www.mtsinai.on.ca/leadershipsinai.

Sunday, July 13

HORSEBACK RIDING

Ever feel like just riding off into the sunset? Here's your opportunity with Aish 20s' horseback riding and barbecue. Check it out at www.aish20s.com or call **Michal** at 905-764-1818, ext. 225.

55+ LOVE CONNECTIONS

Take a chance and meet someone special at an event full of fun, friendship and food. The Bernard Betel Centre presents an evening of 18-minute quick-dating for Jewish singles 55+. 7-9 p.m. $10. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. in the auditorium. For information and registration, call **Ruth Cohen** at 416-225-2112, ext. 105.

Other news

SALE EVERY TUESDAY

National Council of Jewish Women holds a closet sale of new and used items every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Council House 4700 Bathurst St. They have lots of items for the whole family and house. Come early for the best selection. For information call 416-633-5100 or visit www.ncjwc-ts.org.

KABBALAH CENTRE

The Kabbalah Centre is sponsoring two seminars. Relationship Seminar: Love and Need is Tuesday, July 15, at the Toronto Reference Library, 7-8 p.m. $10. Science and Kabbalah Seminar is Wednesday, July 16, at the Kabbalah Centre, 7-8 p.m. $10. For information, call 416-631-9395.

OKLAHOMA AT ARTPARK

Adath Shalom Sisterhood's annual trip to Artpark in Lewiston, N.Y., will be Sunday, July 20, to see the play *Oklahoma*. Ticket $60 Cdn per person includes bus and show. Call 416-635-0131.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

The BBYO/Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad's ninth annual golf tournament will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 12, at the Glenway Golf & Country Club. The day will include lunch, dinner, cart, a silent auction, prizes and more. To register, call **Debbi Silver** at 416-398-2004.

JOHN LOFTUS ON POLLARD

Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital presents **John Loftus** on the topic, The Truth About Jonathan Pollard. Wednesday, July 23, general admission $18, tax receiptable sponsorships available. Proceeds to the new Children's Medical Centre at Laniado Hospital, Netanya, Israel. For information, call 416-785-8956 or e-mail friends@laniado.ca.

Continued on page 21

On Campus

Number of programs available to study in Israel

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Cary Meister had just begun studying at a yeshiva in a small West Bank town when the second intifadah broke out.

As violence erupted close by, Meister, 20, embarked on a very meaningful, yearlong experience, he said.

"Although people were scared, I felt unity with the Jewish people," he said. "You experience it more intensely that way."

But in order for Meister to spend that time in Israel, he needed help.

"Unfortunately, it's very expensive without financial support," he said.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, the spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto, said in an interview the cost of studying in Israel can be as high as $15,000 a year.

However, he said, a number of scholarships are available through synagogues, universities and community organizations.

"Community missions and tourism are tough to sell, but the kids are going," said Rabbi Tradburks.

Meister, who is a member of Kehillat Shaarei Torah, was the winner of the Gladys Buckler Prize, which the synagogue offers to three or four students between the ages of 18 and 24 each year.

Rabbi Tradburks said in order for students to be eligible for the prize, they must express an interest in studying at a specific institution in Israel, whether it be a yeshiva or a university. The prize, which comes from the congregation's donations subsidizes, but does not fully cover the cost of tuition.

Many of the prizewinners eventually make aliyah, Rabbi Tradburks said.

The students go to "experience a deeper, more integrated Jewish experience than in Canada."

Meister, who will be going into his second year at Yeshiva University in New York City this fall, was on a National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) trip for high school students when he decided to study in Israel.

> 'Parents who appreciate the impact of living in Israel swallow their worry'

He said his first few weeks in the West Bank were "very overwhelming... it was nothing like anything I had experienced before.

"What I have gained has always stuck with me. I have a connection that won't disappear."

Although many parents worry about their children's safety, Rabbi Tradburks said they understand the religious importance of studying there.

"The parents who appreciate the impact of living in Israel swallow their worry," he said. "They say, 'This is what my kid has to do, so I'll just live with it.'"

Study programs are also offered through York University's Jewish education program.

Carla Giryitz, a York University student, sent *The CJN* an e-mail from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where she will be studying until July.

"I think it's obvious why Israel is meaningful. Learning Jewish studies in Jerusalem is like nothing else in the world," she wrote. "Given the political situation, this year has been incredibly intense and special. Everyone who is here wants to be here and wants to show their support by physically being here when so many Jews are reluctant to come. I'm sad that I have to leave."

If a particular university doesn't offer scholarships, students can contact Israeli universities directly to find out about their programs and awards. Hebrew University (www.huji.ac.il), Tel Aviv University (www.tau.ac.il) and Bar-Ilan University (www.biu.ac.il) all have different programs featured on their Web sites.

The UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Web site (www.feduja.org) also has a comprehensive list of different scholarships.

Aside from basic programs, the site includes specialized programs in the fine arts, social work, Holocaust studies and women's issues.

Richard Stoll, the federation's senior education consultant, said the organization offers three different scholarships.

The Morris M. Pulver Scholarship Fund for Israel is given to students wishing to study at any institution of higher education. The Israel Scholarship helps send students specifically to yeshivot. The Meyer W. Gasner-Joe Berman Scholarship Fund gives preference to students who intend to study Jewish education in Israel.

These scholarships, which can range from $500 to $2,500, are given on the basis of need, not of merit, Stoll said.

While they do not cover the tens of thousands of dollars it may take to study in Israel, he said, "at least if we can get them on a plane, that's a start."

CORRECTION

In the article "UJA Federation commits $1 M for campus advocacy" (*CJN*, June 26), it was reported that UJA Federation of Greater Toronto allocated $1 million for 2003-2004 to fund Israel advocacy initiatives at Canadian universities. The money was actually allocated by the Israel Emergency Cabinet, under the auspices of UIA Federations Canada. UJA Federation's campus-related allocations also total approximately $1 million: $838,000 for Hillel of Greater Toronto (an increase of $278,000) and $181,000 for national campus agencies. Between the Israel Emergency Cabinet and UJA Federation, the campus advocacy budget totals $2 million. The CJN regrets the error.

What's New

Continued from page 20

AISH20S IN NYC

Aish20s is planning a New York Leadership seminar July 22-29. For information or to register, call **Michal** at 905-764-1818, ext. 225 or check it out at www.aish20s.com.

MOSAIC GETAWAY

Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario (MOCO) offers opportunities for Jews age 25 to 65 to enjoy the outdoors. Join them at Camp Chi in Wisconsin, U.S.A., Thursday, Aug. 28-Monday, Sept. 1, for a retreat sponsored by MOCO and Mosaic Outdoor Clubs of America and Mosaic of Chicago. For information, visit www.mosaics.org/events/2003.

BLOOD DONOR CLINICS

Canadian Blood Services conducts donor clinics throughout the summer. To find out where and how you can donate blood, call 1-888-236-6283 our go to their Web site www.bloodservices.ca.

INFORMATION SERVICE

UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service can help you find information about synagogues, camps, kosher restaurants, community events and more. Call 416-635-5600 or visit them on the Web at www.jewishtoronto.net and go to Doing Jewish in Toronto.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you like to socialize with seniors and can make a commitment once a week, 3-5 p.m., for about a year, Carefree Lodge in the Bayview and Finch area is looking for an adult bar convener for their happy hour.

Northwood Neighbourhood Services in the Jane and Sheppard area needs volunteers for a variety of programs including crafts, translators, tutors, office support and youth advisory committee. These programs contribute to the settlement of the Spanish, African/Caribbean and Punjabi communities.

To volunteer for either position, call the Volunteer Centre, North York Branch, at 416-631-6117.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday dances July 12, 19, 26; Casino Rama, July 23; Casino Niagara, July 10, Aug. 28; July 13, Stouffville Flee Market; Aug. 14, Cruise and casino. Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. July 10, Noa Dori concert at Leah Posluns Theatre; July 17, bingo; Tuesday, July 22, day trip with cruise; July 31, movie. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Art Classes during July and August taught by artist, **Jean Rodak**. Monday afternoons 1:30 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. till noon. Beginners and Intermediate painters in watercolour welcome. Registration at the centre.

Israeli Film Festival with **Bill Stern**. Watch Israeli movies with English subtitles. Wednesday, July 15, through Friday, July 17, 1-3 p.m. in the auditorium. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. Call **Anna** ext. 110.

Sunday afternoon Tea Dance, Sunday, July 20, 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Members $3, non-members $6.

Kosher Meals on Wheels delivered to you home. Meat, fish or poultry. Fresh or frozen. $6.50 per meal. Call **Daniel** ext. 114.

Respite Program: seniors, 55+, looking after a loved one at home can get 1 to 3 hours per week of help at no cost. No physical care is provided. For information, call **Paula** ext. 118.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. July 15, picnic; July 22, lecture; Wednesday, July 30, all-day Israeli festival. For information, call **Anna** ext.110.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Come see the new pool! Summer memberships available.

DIG/DUG @ the Koffler Gallery with the seven exhibiting artists: **Isaac Applebaum, Adam Brickell, Adrian Fish, Simon Glass, Katherine Knight, Arthur Renwick** & **bh yael**. Moderated by guest curator **Vid Ingelevics**. Admission free.

Limited openings in the summer pre-natal course. Class meets for two intensive Sunday sessions, July 20 and 27, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a break for lunch. Cost is $136 + GST per couple, and includes 2 complimentary BJCC health club passes. To register, call ext. 390.

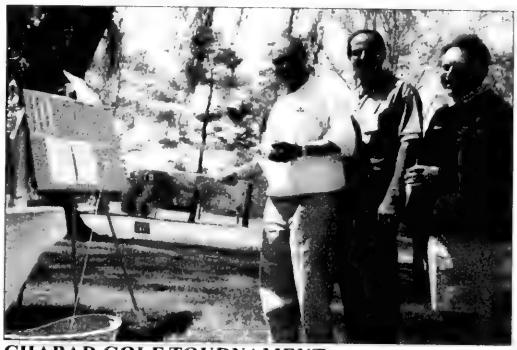
Attention former Chai Dancers. The Chai Dancers will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on Aug. 27. If you are a former Chai dancer and would like to participate, call ext. 364.

Spaces available for young children in the morning school programs, Tic Tac Two, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten and for full day care, children 18 months to 5 years of age. Call ext. 351 or 248 to arrange a tour or for a registration package.

ABOUT PEOPLE

BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY

The Toronto chapter of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University recently elected officers for 2003-2004 at their annual general meeting. Officers elected were: president, Gary Fine; vice-presidents, Bruce Bronfman, Jordan Cohen, Gerda Frieberg, Millard Roth and Carol Slatt; treasurer, Michael Wynston; and secretary, Eliane Labendz. Executive committee members are Dr. I. Louis Babb, Norman Bensky, Austin Beutel, Nani Beutel, Jack Fine, Marshall Gold, Henry Goldbach, Raymond Moscoe, Annette Oelbaum, Martin Offman, Penny Offman, Barrie Rose, Michael Spigelman, Herb Title. Members of the board of directors are Dennis Beallor, Jeffrey I. Cohen, Dr. Zane Cohen, Irving Cymber, Leslie Dan, Robert Goldberg, Dr. Bernard Goldman, Wolfe D. Goodman, Gertrude Gotlib, Alex Grossman, Frank Laurie, Jerry Lewkowicz, Robert Masters, Beatrice Minden, Dr. Mark Nusbaum, Mitchell Oelbaum, S. Richard Orzy, Batia B. Phillips, Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut, Elaine Rafelman, J. Lipa Roth, Dr. Mark Sager, Milton Shier, Louis Sklar, Arthur Stern, Ellie Tesher, Dr. Martin Unger, Irving Ungerman. For information about Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, contact **Janice Freedman** at 416-665-8054.



CHABAD GOLF TOURNAMENT: Participants in the 7th annual Golf Tournament of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham went fishing for a good cause! Seen, from left, are: Harvey Abrams, fishing for a grand prize, Raymond Katzeff, event co-ordinator, and Brian Hoffman.

CANADIANS EXCEL: Four Canadian high school students represented Canada in the 40th annual International Bible Contest in Israel. They were among 65 students from more than 20 countries who participated in the 2½-week event. The finals took place in Jerusalem on Yom Ha'atzmaut with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon present. Seen, from left, are: Gilad Ben Shach, a student at Bialik High School in Montreal; Michael Curin, a student at Community Hebrew Academy of Richmond Hill, who placed second in the Diaspora competition and eighth in the world competition; Hillel Nadler, a student at Yeshivat Or Chaim, who placed ninth in the world competition; and Laya Breslow, a student at Ulpanat Orot, who placed among the top 16 finalists.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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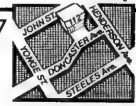

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"There's just nothing else on the market that combines those three factors," says Jay Brown, General Manager of the Brown Group of Companies, co-developer of the project. "Viva meets a real need in the Bathurst and Wilson area. Thousands of families have found it a great place to live. Our goal is to continue that sense of community."

Viva will eventually be a trio of mid-rise buildings, bringing new life and a touch of urban elegance to the west side of Bathurst Street between Charleswood Drive and Allingham Gardens, about a block north of Wilson Avenue. Currently the site is occupied by a string of post-war eightplexes, fast nearing the end of their useful life. The Brown Group and its partner The Remington Group Inc. long pondered their future.

Both companies have roots in the community dating back to the late 1940s and early 1950s. Their goal with Viva was to revitalize the neighborhood with a new landmark condominium project.

"What we wanted to do was create continuity within the community," explains Richard Tripodi, vice-president of the Remington Group's highrise division. "We wanted to preserve the rental option while adding affordable condos. That would allow first-time buyers to stay in an area they love and empty nesters to downsize in the heart of a community which has been their home for decades."

The result is Viva, a trio of glass and pre-cast concrete mid-rises, which catch the imagination, strung like urban jewels along an 800-foot stretch of Bathurst Street. A separate six-storey building will contain 82 rental units while a pair of eight-storey structures will offer a total of 219 condominium homes. The condo buildings will be joined by a single level promenade, which will serve as the entrance to both buildings and home to Viva's health club.

For singles, young couples just starting their life together or empty nesters looking to downsize in space, not style, the Viva Condominiums offer a range of options certain to suit their needs. One-bedroom units, for example, start at 530 square feet, priced at $159,900. Those needing two bedrooms can find units, which start at 785 square feet and a price of $207,900. Crowning both buildings are a total of 14 penthouses. They offer three bedrooms and 1,225 square feet of living space at a reasonable $338,900. For those looking for a larger home with all the benefits of condominium living, Viva introduces a brand new 1,350 square foot design.

All prices include a parking spot in the underground garage and a storage locker. The suites also feature either a balcony or terrace. The interiors are exactly what you would expect from a Remington project, a company whose Remington, State Park and Broadway homes divisions have long set the standards for single family homes in the Greater Toronto Area

Each suite includes extras like five free appliances, imported ceramic tiles, custom designed kitchen cabinets and 40-ounce broadloom carpeting. For early buyers there is a limited time offer of one of three opening bonuses: Either laminated hardwood flooring in the living and dining rooms, or a trio of stainless steel appliances or a granite kitchen counter top.

Nor have the partners overlooked the amenities, which will lift life at Viva beyond the ordinary. To start there will be a round-the-clock concierge at the main entrance reception desk, backed by security card entrance. Then there is the health club with an exercise gym, change room, steam room, sauna, media room and billiards room. The party room opens onto an adjacent sun terrace and the project's open-air gardens and landscaped promenade. Pedestrian walkways are trellised, adding a touch of old world charm.

Within a minute's walk are the delights of Upper Bathurst Street. For shoppers there is a Costco, Best Buy, Dominion, Winners and Home Depot almost at your doorstep. If residents are in the mood for Italian, there is Paese restaurant; if in need of a quick bite, there is Bagel World, Moe Pancer's Deli or even Starbucks. Yorkdale Shopping Centre, offering everything from knick-knacks to designer fashions, fast food to flicks at Silver City, is a short drive or bus ride to the west. The Wilson Heights or York Mills subway stations are seconds away by car as is Highway 401.

"Viva is a project we are truly proud of," says Mr. Brown. "It reflects everything our families have learned and believe in."

The families are the Browns and the Brattys. Jay Brown's grandfather Sam started the Brown Group in the early 1950s and his father Mel, a real estate lawyer, joined the family business in the late 1970s. Jay is a third generation developer and builder. The same holds true at Remington. That company was started by Donato Bratty in the years immediately following World War II. Today his sons run the show with their sons following in their footsteps. Rudolph "Rudy" Bratty is chairman and chief executive officer and Jerry Bratty is chief operating officer.

Over the course of the past half century, both families have left an indelible mark on the face of the GTA. The Browns, for example, have focused on management and land development. Today their property management portfolio covers 2,200 residential units and half a million square feet of commercial space. Three years ago they created a memorable loft condo project on Sorauren Avenue. In Miami projects have included twin condo towers on the 9000 block of Collins Avenue and a new condo underway in Hollywood, Fla.. Much of the Brown's activity has been behind the scenes, as the people who take raw land and shape it into new communities, ready for builders to work their magic. The Brown Group, for example, is the managing developer behind Tribute Communities' 2,500-home Inspiration project at Bathurst and Gamble Road in Richmond Hill.

"While we haven't focused on the condo market, this project was such a natural for us, that we had to take the opportunity," says Mr. Brown.

Remington has roots in the GTA real estate market, which run equally deep – if not deeper. The company has five divisions: Industrial and commercial construction, residential construction, land development, property management and finance and administration. Each year it builds about 700 homes through its Remington, State Park and Broadway companies. Remington focuses on starter and move-up homes; State Park creates classically inspired residences aimed at the executive market while Broadway builds unique estate homes.

In one of its most ambitious undertakings to date, Remington is developing Downtown Markham, which will eventually create 3,500 new homes in a combination of mid and high-rise condominiums in the area between Warden Avenue and Kennedy Road north of Highway 407.

"It is a 10-year project, which will not only reshape Markham but will also meet a deep need for housing options other than single family and detached," explains Mr. Tripodi. "That is where the real satisfaction comes from. It is like at Viva; we know we are helping preserve what exists while creating new opportunities for the families who love the area."

The Viva sales office is situated at 4 De Quincey Boulevard, just north and west of the site. Sales office hours are from noon to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday and from noon to 6 p.m. weekends and holidays. Telephone: 416-398-1337 or visit the web site at www.vivacondos.ca.

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JVS psychologist receives award

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Ruth Borchiver, the chief psychologist at Jewish Vocational Services of Greater Toronto, received the Benjamin S. Lowenstein Award at the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services' (IAJVS) annual conference last month in Los Angeles.

"The award honours an individual who demonstrates significant and noteworthy contributions to the JVS field and shows remarkable leadership qualities," said Genie Cohen, the executive director of the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services Affiliated Agencies in the United States, Canada and Israel.

The annual award was established by Lowenstein, a past IAJVS president.

JVS of Greater Toronto is a not-for-profit charitable organization that partners with government and business to assist individuals in overcoming obstacles to success. Last year, JVS served 12,000 people in employment, youth, and immigrant programs and services for the elderly.

Ruth Borchiver (right) receives an award at the International Association of Jewish Vocational Services in Los Angeles. With her is Karen Goldenberg, president and CEO of JVS Toronto.

"Through her leadership, guidance, direction and influence, [Borchiver] spearheaded the growth and development of this program. From one day school, JVS now operates in 12 day schools on 21 campuses with a population of more than 6,000," said Karen Goldenberg, president and CEO of JVS Toronto.

"Ruth Borchiver has been a guiding force at JVS Toronto for more than 38 years," Goldenberg said. "Her drive, professionalism and vision have been an inspiration. Ruth never hesitates to extend herself beyond expectations to meet the challenges and demands of her work and to help colleagues and clients."

Borchiver said she had an opportunity at the conference to showcase a new Toronto program, Tikun Chaim, which provides services to Orthodox day schools. "By and large, these schools had no psychological services. We were delighted with the enthusiastic response to this program."

She said the award "came as a crowning experience to a long career of serving Jewish day schools in Toronto. It was like a validation of helping children proceed through a demanding double language program of Jewish and English studies."

Children, she said, are in the forefront of social changes. "Attitudes to family life, gender issues, family breakdowns require a new approach to education. Children are impacted by these changes that require understanding and adjustment to their needs."

She noted that these changes have led to many new theories of education and have challenged schools and professionals to deal with their attendant emotional and behavioural problems.

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Israel's image on CIC agenda

Continued from page 1

The cabinet is made up of high-powered group of philanthropists and businesspeople and includes Gerald Schwartz, Izzy Asper, Larry Tanenbaum, Brent Belzberg, Julia Koschitzky, Stephen Cummings, Stephen Reitman and Ron Stern.

To better gauge the changes that needed to be made in community advocacy efforts, the CIC commissioned a massive research project by GPC International, a government and public relations firm headed by Hershell Ezrin. The polling, which was followed up by several focus group evaluations, took place between October 2002 and May 2003 and examined "the public's knowledge of Israel and Canadian policy."

More than 2,000 people were sampled, Fogel said. "There were some disturbing results in terms of the extent to which Canadians don't identify with Israel," he said. "To a majority of Canadians, Israel is not viewed as a sister democracy that practices freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion – all the touchstones of shared values we talk about. That doesn't translate down to Joe Canadian. Israel and the Middle East are seen as tent-dwellers, with sand between their toes, banana republics," he said.

"For average Canadians, there is a substantial gap between perceptions and the reality as we know it."

Without a visceral connection to Israel, Canadians take an even-handed approach to the Mideast conflict and expect their government to do the same. While there is a strong association in the public's mind between Palestinians and terrorism, Israelis too are associated with random killings, though slightly less than Palestinians, Fogel said.

Fogel suggested the Canadian public would more closely identify with Israel if the CIC and other advocacy groups emphasized the similarities between the two countries. Canadian foreign policy would likely follow.

Focus group studies showed that "when Canadians became more aware of the shared values between Canada and Israel, they approach it from a different perspective. When they learn Israel places a lot of value on education, with seven universities, a bombing of a university cafeteria takes on a different meaning," he said.

Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, whose mandate includes addressing anti-Semitism, said he had seen only an executive summary of the report. While he acknowledges there has been a shift in the public's attitudes to Israel and Jews, "this was a snapshot of attitudes to Israel at a particular point in time. It's wise to acknowledge the shift in attitudes, but I'm not going to rush to judgment."

The report does "give pause," he said, particularly its finding that "attitudes we took for granted may not be quite there… Canadians see it as a battle between two peoples and Canada should remain neutral. There's no real appreciation of the historical basis for Israel's right to exist.

"As Canadian Jews, we can no longer afford to be complacent and assume the majority of Canadians are sympathetic to Israel's cause without us doing more work," he said.

The CIC, meanwhile, has stepped up its "bread and butter" activities, increasing the number and size of its missions to Israel, Fogel said.

Where once the CIC sponsored two annual missions of six to eight participants each, missions this year are more likely to include 25-30 participants. So far this year, there were three media trips, one involving Parliament Hill staffers and grassroots advocacy leaders. Two more missions of Hill staff are scheduled for the summer.

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Aviation company flies in aid on moment's notice

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

A deadline to send Canadian peacekeepers into Afghanistan is fast approaching and Walter Arbib, the CEO of SkyLink Aviation Inc., has to find a way to get them there.

A phone in each hand, he carries on two simultaneous conversations, ironing out the details of his company's latest mission. Employees float in and out of his ornate Rosedale office, updating him on the job.

Walter Arbib

Since 1988, Arbib and his partner Surjit Babra have been in the business of transporting humanitarian aid to nations wracked by war and natural disasters.

SkyLink has sent its planes and helicopters into some of the world's most dangerous regions, including Kosovo, Angola, Congo, Rwanda and Afghanistan. While the company gets 80 per cent of its business from the United Nations, individual governments also charter its aircrafts during emergencies.

"Once we're in a place, we become a part of it," says Arbib, adding that his pilots, crew members and other employees often go beyond what is expected of them when lives are at stake.

One example is the company's commitment to removing landmines, for which it was recently honoured by the U.S. State Department.

"It's a terrible feeling to go to a place where you don't even know if you can walk because there are landmines," says Arbib, who has been recognized for his work with a salute in the 107th U.S. Congressional Record.

SkyLink made a $100,000 (US) pledge toward a project to eliminate landmines in Mozambique on the condition that the U.S. State Department match the amount dollar for dollar. The department went beyond its request, offering to give $1.50 (US) for every dollar, raising the total funds for training and high-tech equipment for de-miners to $250,000 (US).

Arbib and his staff are on call 24 hours a day, as aid must often be delivered on a moment's notice.

"We have done operations that when we started we were skeptical that we could put them together, but we did it," he says.

While on assignment, SkyLink employees must often make spur-of-the-moment decisions.

For instance, when SkyLink planes went into Rwanda in 1994, project manager Bjorn Loken found two aid workers with meagre supplies struggling to care for an enormous deluge of orphans. He immediately set up an orphanage for more than 900 displaced children. In the mission that relief workers deemed "Operation SkyLink," the company air-lifted clothing, food and medical supplies to the orphans.

During the civil war in Angola in 1992, SkyLink sent 40 helicopters into the war-torn country to transport hundreds of refugees to safety in South Africa. The fleet was dispatched within seven days, says Arbib.

"All the people around here couldn't sleep for a week because we were working day and night," he says.

Meanwhile, the SkyLink crew in the southern African nation found themselves trapped in a hail of machine gun fire and narrowly missed an exploding grenade.

Although SkyLink employees often find themselves in life-threatening situations, they are trained not to take any unnecessary risks, says Arbib.

"There is a risk even in crossing the road," he says, adding that there have only been a few casualties in the past 15 years, including one pilot who was killed by a landmine while on the mission in Angola.

"That maybe is the reason landmines came into our lives," says Arbib.

Arbib was born in Israel and worked for many years at a travel agency there. In 1988, he moved to Toronto with his Canadian wife, Edie. Though he loves living in Canada, Arbib says he still feels a strong connection to his homeland and visits there frequently.

While it is most well-known for its humanitarian work, SkyLink also operates a car rental company, an air-courier service and a discount ticket agency.

The Toronto-based company, which began with five employees and an annual revenue of $5 million (US), now has a 300-member staff and seven offices on three continents, with a new one opening up in Italy in the next few months.

Transporting humanitarian relief has yeilded enormous profits for SkyLink, but Arbib said it's impossible to separate business from personal affairs.

"It's very difficult to say you are not involved and that you are just there to do business," he said.

According to Reports Will Return

By PAUL MICHAELS

Peretz school reunion set for August

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Laurie Mainster is expecting close to 1,000 alumni from as far away as Ireland, England and Israel to be in Winnipeg on the August long weekend to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the I.L.Peretz Folk School.

"The response has been overwhelming," says Mainster, the chair of the reunion committee. "Hundreds of registrations have poured in and the excitement is growing. This is going to be a once-in-a-lifetime weekend that honours the place of Yiddish and Peretz School in all our lives and the community at large."

The alumni weekend starts Friday, Aug.1, with an evening of music and camaraderie. Saturday evening will feature a concert with professional entertainers and Peretz alumni Herschel Fox, Kenny Maslow, Aubrey Tadman and Vicki Knight, all of whom now live in southern California.

On Sunday, alumni can peruse an exhibit at the Jewish Heritage Centre and enjoy a gala dinner in the evening. On Monday, a bus tour is planned of Winnipeg's "Jewish North End," with stops at City Hall and the site of the old YMHA buildings downtown. The weekend ends with a reception at the University of Manitoba.

The Yiddish-language Peretz School was started on the first anniversary of the death of Yiddish author I.L. Peretz with North America's first kindergarten class.

By the mid-1930s, the school had an enrolment of more than 500 students, making it the largest Yiddish school in North America. Students studied half a day in English and half a day in Yiddish. Classes went up to Grade 7, with an evening program for students who wanted to continue to Grade 12.

By the 1970s, enrolment was in decline, because Winnipeg's Jewish population was shrinking and because a new generation of parents wasn't very interested in Yiddish.

In 1980, the Peretz School was forced to merge with the Hebrew-language Talmud Torah. Under the merger agreement, a Yiddish track was to be included in the combined program. The Yiddish track was discontinued in the mid-1990s when the program's teacher retired.

The spirit of the Peretz School lives on in the I.L. Peretz Folk School Endowment Trust, which supports Yiddish programs in Winnipeg such as the new Yiddish course at the University of Manitoba.

Alumni who are interested in attending the reunion can call 204-582-2003 or visit www.peretzreunion.com.

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MP calls Reena a 'gem' in the community

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Physicians need to include parents in making decisions about children with disabilities, says MP Carolyn Bennett, who chairs a parliamentary sub-committee on the status of persons with disabilities.

"No one knows better about gaps in the system than parents of children with disabilities. They know what works and what could work better," Bennett told the annual general meeting last month of Reena, a non-profit social service agency that provides group homes, residences and support services to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

"[By forming] a partnership, we can help people move through the system," said Bennett, who is a physician.

The government must learn from models that work, such as models of inclusive decision making, choice and responsibility, she said.

"Other than cloning the Reena board, we have to find ways to replicate things that are working, and we have to celebrate gems such as Reena.

"You represent [at Reena] the model on which great countries are built – little jewels threaded together."

In the past year, executive director Sandy Keshen said in Reena's annual report, the agency concentrated on such projects as the purchase of a new group home that includes rooms for residential respite for adults; and a permanent location for the Yetta Berg Family Home for Children with Autism, a specially constructed six-bedroom group home in Maple.

Awards handed out at the meeting included the board member of distinction award to Wilfred Teper; the employer of the year award (for companies employing Reena clients that have demonstrated understanding and support of people with developmental disabilities) to Hy & Zel's drug stores; and the employee of the year award to Reena client David Berg.

In addition, Alex Eisen received a lifetime achievement award and the CBC's Miriam Tenhouse received a media appreciation award.

The Reena Foundation, Reena's fundraising board, also presented its board member of distinction award to Helen Fisch; a family philanthropy award to Al and Faye Mintz; a young leadership award to Jonah Laist and Lorne Weiss; and the Sam Handler Award to Howard Ungerman and Sylvia and Irving Ungerman.

The Trevor Rosenberg Scholarship award, which allows a Reena staff member to pursue further education on social services for individuals with a developmental disability, went to Rebecca Quigley.

Jewish jokes speak volumes, says author

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to the CJN

Rabbi Joseph Telushkin has written many serious books, but he may be best known for *Jewish Humor: What the Best Jewish Jokes Say About the Jews*. Jewish jokes, he says, speak volumes about what we really believe.

Rabbi Telushkin recently spoke at Beth Sholom Synagogue, an event promoted with the line: "You'll laugh… you'll cry… you'll feel guilty that you laughed and cried." Though some people oppose all ethnic humour, said the rabbi, good jokes can help us understand ourselves better.

Our famous guilt, for instance, derives from Judaism's mitzvah orientation. Despite connotations of "good deed," the word mitzvah means "commandment." Although common sense suggests it's nobler to volunteer for a task, Rabbi Telushkin said, the Talmud has more praise for actions done out of obligation, perhaps because, once obligated, we perform more consistently.

Rabbi Telushkin gave the example of dieting. An impromptu audience poll revealed that most had been on diets – and had broken them inside of three months, or even three hours.

"Compare that with the diet known as kashrut. There's no evidence that keeping kosher will make you physically more attractive or more healthy… Nobody ever got thin over a Shabbos."

Yet because people feel obligated to keep kosher, the "diet" sticks, Rabbi Telushkin said. If somebody told him, "Don't eat that chocolate cake; you'll look better, you'll feel better… I'll be thinking the whole time, 'When is this nudnik going to go away?' But if somebody comes and says some pork fell into the mix, I'd throw it away."

Beyond guilt, humour plays on Jewish values. Other religions' jokes often don't emphasize the parent-child bond, said Rabbi Telushkin, adding that many religions actually separate parents from children. He said he was once challenged on this point by someone who told him God's first commandment to Abraham was to leave his father's house.

Rabbi Telushkin's reply: "True… but he was 75 at the time."

We also mock well-known Jewish traits, he said. Though some "would have us believe that all traits are distributed evenly through different groups… Jews are not known as being the calmest of people." This is revealed by the Jewish telegram: "Start worrying. Details to follow."

Another less-stellar trait is white-collar crime. There's something resonant, Rabbi Telushkin said, in the joke about two Jewish businessmen: "One comes up to the other and says, 'So, I hear your business burned down last night.' The other one says, 'Shh… that's tomorrow night.'"

Freud believed Jews make fun of themselves more than any other group, the rabbi said. But some stereotypes are harmful and are best avoided. He said he omitted JAP jokes from his book because they have "no purpose," and depict Jewish women as "nasty and sexually cold."

Many jokes teach us by looking inward – at relationships, religion or business. Others look outward at the world with ironic courage. Jokes mocking anti-Semites like Hitler, Lenin and others usually emerged when Jews felt most powerless.

"When they couldn't fight it, all they could do was ridicule it," the rabbi said.

Our superiority in these jokes was often reinforced by our enemies. Rabbi Telushkin, who co-wrote *Why The Jews? The Reason for Antisemitism* with Dennis Prager, has a theory: "There are two groups of people who think Jews are brighter than everybody else: anti-Semites and Jews."

In a common joke from the 1930s – "obviously, by 1940, there was nothing left to joke about" – a Jew berates his friend for reading a Nazi newspaper. The friend replies, "You read the *Forward*:… there's a Depression… Jews are assimilated… Arabs are rioting… Jews are being killed… You read the Jewish paper, you get depressed. I read the Nazi newspaper: we own all the banks, we control all the governments…"

In his talk, Rabbi Telushkin explored other subjects, from psychiatry to intermarriage to absurdist humour: A grandmother pushing a carriage says, "You think he's cute? You should see his pictures."

A theme emerged through all the jokes: Judaism's perverse optimism, which the rabbi said is typified by the Israeli who, in the midst of a gloomy discussion of current events, piped up, "You know what? I'm an optimist." A friend pointed out, "If you're an optimist, why do you always look so worried?" The man replied, "You think it's easy to be an optimist?"

The CJN **will not be publishing an issue on July 24.**

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Under pressure from France, EU decides against Hamas ban

By PHILIP CARMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — Under heavy pressure from France, the European Union (EU) has said it will not freeze all assets belonging to the Palestinian organization Hamas, stating that a clear distinction should be made between the political and social wings of the Islamist movement.

The European Commission, the EU's legislative body, announced late last month that it would not be acting against the political wing of Hamas, although it would retain an EU ban enforced last year on Hamas' military branch, which it regards as a terrorist organization.

The commission's view was confirmed on July 3 at a meeting of European ministers in Brussels, where a unanimous decision was made to delay a verdict on the political wing of Hamas. No date has been set to review the position.

The decision not to ban Hamas' political wing marks international uncertainty over whether it has a constructive role to play in Middle East peace talks or whether it is simply a terrorist entity.

The decision also marks a clear change in direction from the EU summit in Salonika, Greece, at the end of last month, when it appeared that those backing a total ban were in a clear majority.

According to a statement from commission spokesperson Reijo Kempinnen, Hamas' political wing is legitimate because it provides social welfare services such as running clinics and hospitals.

"You can't say that the whole of Hamas is a terrorist organization, and certainly that is not our position," Kempinnen told reporters in Brussels.

However, a more likely reason for the EU decision appeared to be that the union did not want to undermine the position of Palestinian Authority (PA) Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in his attempts to broker an agreement with Hamas.

"The situation is still evolving in the region, and because of that it is important to keep studying it," an unnamed British diplomat reportedly said.

One of the major EU members arguing for a refrain from enforcing a total ban on Hamas was France, which continues to believe that the organization has a role in the Middle East peace process.

The French position also appeared somewhat vindicated by the announcement early last week of a ceasefire by Hamas and another Palestinian Islamist group, Islamic Jihad, as well as by the armed wing of PA President Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization.

Dominique de Villepin

Spokespeople in the French Foreign Ministry rejected demands from the U.S. administration to place both the armed and the "welfare functions" of Hamas in the same package.

"The EU has listed the armed wing, but social organizations of Hamas have also got to be listed," U.S. national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said at a conference last month in London.

"The notion that on the one hand, Hamas is peaceful, and on the other hand, is trying to blow up the peace process is just illogical and, we're saying, will not work," Rice said.

This view, however, was rejected by a spokesperson from the French Foreign Ministry.

"There has been a very clear distinction between the two wings, and the minister himself has called for that distinction to be made between the armed wings and the social organizations in the Palestinian territories," the spokesperson said at a news conference.

François Zimeray, a French member of the European Parliament, said the position adopted by the European Commission is "totally artificial."

"Only a diplomat cut off from the human reality of the situation in the Middle East could make such distinctions," Zimeray told JTA. "There is only one branch of Hamas."

Zimeray, who has led a campaign in the European Parliament to demand an investigation into the misuse of EU funds by the Palestinian Authority, said French policy was "like running with the hare and the hounds and the highest form of hypocrisy."

Until the decision, France was the only nation among the 15 members of the European Union to publicly say it opposed a ban on the non-military branch of Hamas, a policy it said would force the organization underground and prevent any possibility that it would agree to a ceasefire.

However, most of the EU members, led by Britain, continued to support Washington's view that no distinction should be made between the different organizations operating under the Hamas umbrella.

The EU position took on a different perspective, probably because as a member of the Quartet of Middle East peace-brokers – with the United States, Russia and the United Nations – it was already aware of the likelihood that Hamas might accept a ceasefire.

At a meeting with EU leaders in Washington late last month, President George W. Bush said the group should take "decisive measures against terrorist groups like Hamas, to cut off their funds and their sources of support."

Such comments, however, drew a firm rebuke from the office of the EU's commissioner for foreign affairs, Chris Patten, whose spokesperson said the EU "does not need to take lessons from anybody about how to combat terrorism."

Ironically, the current French position regarding Hamas comes at a time when France has been seeking to present a more balanced approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Recently, a number of government ministers were present at an event in Paris titled 12 Hours for France-Israel Friendship.

The event brought together politicians from across the political spectrum who affirmed their support for the State of Israel and expressed a wish that French foreign policy would return to the more favorable stance toward the Jewish state that it had before the 1967 Six Day War.

Moreover, French Jewish leaders were keen to assert the historic bonds between Israel and France at a time when relations have deteriorated, with France adopting a strong anti-war position to the U.S.-led military operation in Iraq.

Despite a generally upbeat tone at the event, Meyer Habib, the head of the event's organizing committee and a member of the executive committee of the CRIF umbrella organization of French Jews, drew widespread applause when he criticized current French policy toward Israel.

Habib said he could not understand a policy that did not recognize Hamas and the Lebanese Shi'a group "Hezbollah as terrorist organizations, and did not recognize Jerusalem as the eternal and indivisible capital of Israel."

French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin also drew the ire of the Jewish community when he met with Arafat during his recent visit to the Middle East.

In addition, de Villepin attempted to inject his own ideas into the road map peace plan sponsored by the Quartet.

In calling for an international peacekeeping force to be sent to the Middle East, de Villepin was forced to back down in the face of a lack of support from France's European partners, later describing the plan as "neither a proposal nor a project but just an idea to launch debate."

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One moshav's ties to Canada

Continued from page 1

"Never before had such a spirit of jubilation been witnessed at a Zionist gathering. Delegates embraced one another and shouts of 'Mazel tov' resounded through the hall. With tears streaming from their eyes, the delegates spontaneously began to chant the Zionist anthem, *Hatikvah*."

Most of those present probably never dreamed what a long-term impact their decision would have. Just two weeks ago, one of the region's communities, Moshav Bitan Aharon – named after Freiman – celebrated 70 years of existence. And it is clearly flourishing.

Each of its 30-odd families has a four-dunam plot, an extraordinary amount of land in crowded central Israel; many enjoy orchards or pools in their backyards. An extension of luxury houses on the edge of the moshav's land has allowed many of the descendants of the original settlers to stay close to home, and two more neighbourhoods are currently being completed.

"None of this would have been possible without the help of A.J. Freiman," says Meir Sapir, chair of the local council, and a resident of Bitan Aharon since 1947. Pointing to a wooden sign at the entrance to the moshav, which bears Freiman's name, he says, "Everyone here knows exactly who he was, and the Canadian connection to this place."

The moshav has come a long way. When it was established in 1933, only four of the families who owned plots dared move there to eke out a living by raising cattle and chicken or tending orchards; the others chose to stay in the cities, where their income was guaranteed. Social conditions were harsh: some of the original residents were immigrants, who had no common language with the Israelis, both literally and figuratively. Physical conditions were even harsher, even by 1941, when Sapir's wife Pnina moved to the area with her parents.

"There were no roads, no electricity or phones," she recalls. "Cars would sink in the mud, so we had to use horses and carriages."

Occasionally, Arabs would infiltrate from Tulkarm and steal property. Pnina, who knew Morse code from her Girl Scouts days, used to stand guard on the water tower, signaling to neighbouring settlements.

When World War II broke out, many of the residents had to sell their plots because there was no market for their fruit.

"Much of the produce had to be destroyed," says Pnina. "People gave up."

Still, she recalls mostly happy days, often revolving around the communal activities in the social hall, which was donated by Canadian Jews, and which was initially shared with the neighbouring Moshav of Havatzelet Hasharon, named after Freiman's wife and longtime Canadian Hadassah president Lillian (*Havatzelet* in Hebrew). She also recalls the strong Zionist spirit in the Moshav; many of its sons founded kibbutzim, and took up good positions in the young Israel Defence Forces.

Ultimately, the moshav came into its own after the war, when many ex-servicemen from the British army joined, although conditions were still tough. Behind the Sapirs' current home stands a one-room tin shack, which was their first house as a married couple.

Today, very few of the residents make their living from agriculture. Indeed, its location – three quarters of an hour to Haifa, and minutes from Netanya – has turned the land into prime real-estate, with plots selling from about $1 million (US) each, so many of the newer residents are wealthy businessmen.

Perhaps this has helped Bitan Aharon stave off the fate of other small moshavim, which were forced to allow businesses onto their land to make ends meet.

"There's nothing like the quiet, calmness and colors in this place," says Sapir. "The quality of life is extraordinary."

For Bitan Aharon's birthday, many of the residents, and even children and grandchildren who had moved away, came together to perform a play written by Pnina about the settlement's history.

"It was like all times," Pnina says, "everyone united."

The moshav wanted to invite Freiman's descendants, who still live in Ottawa, to the celebration, but were unable to. Still, Canadian Jews have a special place in their hearts.

"Emek Hefer is one of the most beautiful places in the country," says Pnina. "We thank you for your role in its development."

Liberal MP meets Hezbollah leader

The Canadian Alliance and B'nai Brith Canada are calling on the solicitor-general to investigate a meeting between Liberal MP Tony Valeri and a senior leader of the banned terrorist group, Hezbollah.

Tony Valeri, an Ontario MP who represents the riding of Stoney Creek, near Hamilton, met with Mohammad Raad, the head of Hezbollah's parliamentary wing, during a recent parliamentary visit to Beirut.

Valeri said he asked for the meeting after some of his constituents voiced opposition to Canada's decision to list Hezbollah as a terror organization. He subsequently expressed his regret for meeting the Hezbollah leader.

"In retrospect, I now recognize the conversation was ill-advised, and I regret any offence which may have been caused," he wrote in a letter to Rochelle Wilner, president of B'nai Brith Canada.

Valeri's letter also noted his support for Canada's ban of the group.

Stockwell Day, foreign affairs critic for the Canadian Alliance, said in a news release, "There remain many unanswered questions about the nature of the meeting, its purpose and what was really discussed. The mysterious encounter should cause all of us to be concerned."

Meanwhile, B'nai Brith asked candidates for the Liberal leadership to clarify their positions on prohibiting the activities of terrorist organizations on Canadian soil. (Valeri is reportedly a strong supporter of leadership candidate Paul Martin.)

"We want a commitment that MPs will be told to respect both the spirit and the letter of the law and will be held to account by these potential leaders if they don't," said Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith. "If we are ever to succeed in ridding the world of the scourge of terrorism, we need to marginalize such groups as much as possible. Meetings such as the one Valeri arranged undermine such efforts."

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Prisoner issue clouds ceasefire

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — The issue of prisoner releases has leapt to the front burner of the Palestinian ceasefire.

On Sunday, the Israeli government approved criteria for releasing Palestinian prisoners, but Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said no prisoners who have murdered Israelis would be released, reports said.

Meanwhile, Palestinian groups called the measure insufficient, and said the week-old ceasefire could be in jeopardy if all Palestinian prisoners are not released. Even as the spotlight was thrown on the possible releases, other issues such as further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the progress made in curbing violence during the past week were also discussed.

At Sunday's Cabinet meeting, the measure passed in its third vote by a 13-8 count. The ministers agreed to the resolution after it was amended to include the creation of a ministerial committee on prisoner releases, and after a clause was added stressing that the release is dependent upon Palestinian commitment to fight terrorism.

During the meeting, families of terror victims demonstrated outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem against prisoner releases. The government decision is expected to pave the way for the release soon of some 400 Palestinian prisoners – about 250 administrative detainees and 135 Palestinians held for criminal offenses, reports said.

Israel is believed to currently hold about 4,500 Palestinians in detention, the reports said.

The Palestinian Authority's information minister, Nabil Amr, said Palestinians had expected a larger release.

"This is an insufficient step," he said, adding that the United States would be called on to pressure Israel to free all prisoners.

Hamas and Islamic Jihad went further. Hamas demanded that Israel release all its members, while Islamic Jihad called the decision a Zionist maneuvre, raising questions over whether the decision would affect the group's declared ceasefire on attacks against Israel.

At Sunday's meeting between Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz and Palestinian security chief Mohammed Dahlan, Dahlan reportedly asked that Israel drop the criteria it established for the release of the prisoners, Army Radio reported.

The Palestinians also reportedly demanded that the Israeli military redeploy from three more Palestinian cities, including Ramallah, and lift the blockade that still remains in effect around Bethlehem, Army Radio said.

Mofaz, one of the outspoken critics of the road map peace plan, said there have been fewer terror alerts since Israel handed over security responsibility to the Palestinians in the West Bank town of Bethlehem and parts of the Gaza Strip.

He also said after the talks that he came away with the impression that the Palestinians want to renew the peace process, Israel Radio reported.

But Mofaz said Palestinian leaders would be judged on their actions, not their words.

New Iranian missile threat worries Israel

By AMIR OREN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said last Friday he hopes the International Atomic Energy Agency and international powers will pressure Iran to allow weapons inspectors into the country and to sign additional nonproliferation agreements guaranteeing it has no intention to develop nuclear weapons.

Shalom's comments came just before a Tehran Foreign Ministry spokesperson confirmed Monday that Iran has conducted a final test on a long-range, surface-to-surface Shihab-3 missile, which has a range that can reach Israel.

"The radical regime in Iran is threatening the stability not only of the state of Israel, but the European countries also," Shalom said. "Iran is a danger to the stability of all the world."

The launch was the most successful so far of the seven or eight tests of the missile over the last five years, and has increased worries in Washington – which spotted the test with its tracking mechanisms – and in Israel.

If the assessment proves to be true that the missile, which was launched from east to west, had an effective range beyond the 1,300-kilometre red line, meaning the range from western Iran to Israel, the Iranians could position the launching pads for the rocket deeper inside their country.

The Iranian threat will be one of the subjects under discussion when Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon visits the Pentagon and U.S. armed forces bases this week.

Ya'alon's itinerary is scheduled to include the Florida headquarters of two key commands: Centcom and special operations at MacDill Air Force Base.

More data is now being collected in the West about the missile test and about the progress being made in the Iranian missile program, which is based on North Korean missiles.

In previous tests, when the rocket was powered by a North Korean engine, the tests were successful, but when the engines were Iranian-made, even with North Korean know-how, they tended to fail – despite statements by Iranian Defence Minister Ali Shakhmani in 2002 that Iran can "develop everything" and does not need help from foreign sources like China or Russia.

The report of the Shihab-3 test is an incentive for Israel equipping itself with more Arrow missiles made by the Israel Aircrafts Industries and soon to go into a joint production process with Boeing.

Israel is also concerned about the growing ties between Iran and Libya. Indeed, the Libyan threat is now the reason for a third Arrow battery even though the Iraqi threat is gone.

One response to the Libyan threat would be an Arrow battery mounted on a naval vessel.

Western experts said the 16-metre single-stage Shihab-3, which can carry up to a ton of explosives in its payload, is not very accurate, with the probability of hitting within three kilometres of any target it is launched at. But it is possible that its aim has been improved over the past year. In any case, the missile range already includes Israel, Turkey, the Indian subcontinent and American forces in the Gulf. Iran has plans for two longer-range missiles: a Shihab-4, with a 2,000-kilometre range and a Shihab-5, with a 5,500-kilometre range.

The last Shihab missile test resulted in a Bush administration statement expressing "serious concerns" about the Iranian missile project, which is a "threat to the region and U.S. interests."

The next commander of Centcom, Gen. John Abizaid, who replaced Tommy Franks on Monday, testified two weeks ago to a Senate committee that "Iran has the largest ballistic missile inventory in the Central Command region to include long-range weapons of mass destruction and delivery systems capable of reaching deployed U.S. forces in the theatre."

"Iran's long-term ability to develop nuclear weapons remains a source of serious concern," he warned.

Abizaid told the committee that "Iran casts a shadow on security and stability in the Gulf region. Iran's military is second only to the United States. U.S. allies in the Gulf acknowledge Iran's increasingly proactive efforts to soften its image and appear less hegemonic; however, Iran's military poses a potential threat to neighbouring countries."

Survey: Israeli students rank among world's weakest

By RELLY SA'AR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — One-third of Israeli 15-year-olds with 9-10 years of schooling lack basic reading skills, according to an international survey released last week.

The survey also revealed Israel to be the most polarized western country for the gaps in reading skills and knowledge of math and science between top students from well-off homes and weak students from poor homes.

The Program for International Student Assessment (PISA-2000) survey on industrialized states (OECD) was published simultaneously in the 41 countries that took part in the research. Some 4,500 Israeli youngsters scored an average grade of 453 in the reading-skills section of the survey, positioning them in the bottom third on the international achievement scale, with a ranking of 30 out of the 41 participating countries.

Finnish students ranked first, averaging a score of 546 points. American students were also placed in the top third of the scale.

To quantify the students' reading comprehension, the survey ranked their abilities according to five levels, with one being the lowest and five being the highest.

Only four per cent of Israeli students were in the fifth level, while one-third were in the first level or below. Almost 20 per cent of Finnish students were in the fifth level.

The PISA survey included some 300,000 students worldwide and was based on data collected two years ago. Head researchers Bracha Karmarsky and Prof. Zmira Mevarech, the head of the education department at Bar-Ilan University, interpreted the data.

The Israeli students also performed poorly in the other subjects included in the survey, and were ranked 33rd in both math and sciences, with a score of 433 in math and 434 in science. Their scores in reading comprehension, math and science were the lowest among the world's developed countries. The Ministry of Education decided last Monday to set up a panel of experts to look into the poor results.

June 30

• At least seven people were killed when a two-storey building collapsed in the poor Hatikvah neighbourhood of Tel Aviv. A gas leak caused an explosion that set off the building's collapse.

July 1

• Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat may travel to Gaza if he asks to do so, Ariel Sharon said. The Israeli prime minister made his comments after meeting with PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to discuss the road map peace plan.

July 2

• Israel could have done more to help the Jewish community during Argentina's 1976-1983 military regime, an Israeli panel found. Israeli officials were more interested in maintaining arms contacts with the junta than in pressing it on human rights issues, the committee found. Up to 1,500 Jews were among tens of thousands of Argentines who "disappeared" when the junta was in power.

July 3

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon accepted an invitation to meet with U.S. President George W. Bush at the White House in September.

July 4

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the government plans to make painful decisions in both the diplomatic and economic arenas to achieve peace and prosperity. "We will not miss any opportunities," he told the annual Caesarea Conference in Jerusalem. "For the first time since I entered this job, there is a real chance of halting the terror and returning to more normal life… There will be difficult days ahead, but… as in the past, when we aspired and succeeded, this time, too, 'If you will it, it is no dream.'" Sharon told the conference he would make more budget cuts, major reforms and interest rate cuts.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Which occupation are we talking about?

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

A certain serenity and timelessness descends on Jerusalem's Old City on Friday afternoons, when Muslims, Jews and Christians are busy dialoguing with their gods.

But on the last weekend in June, a walk through east Jerusalem and the Muslim Quarter left me feeling that a chasm had emerged in the Middle East, and it all revolved around the meaning of one word – occupation.

Feature

I was in Israel with a group of journalists in order to engage writers, intellectuals and artists in discussion and debate. I wanted to hear how Israelis – from left to right – and Palestinians – from leadership to street – felt about possible solutions to the violence that has enveloped both sides and the roadblocks that stand in the way of the unfolding road map to peace.

This model of Israel, the West Bank and Gaza was found last year in a school in the West Bank by the Israeli army.

The most optimistic voice was presented by Sari Nusseibeh, president of Al-Quds University and co-author of *No Trumpets, No Drums: A Two-State Settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Along with former Israeli intelligence chief Ami Ayalon, the Harvard-educated professor of philosophy heads an organization called the Peoples' Voice.

"Palestinians and Israelis are strategic allies because we share a common future. Neither the Americans nor the Arab world are here," Nusseibeh said.

Convinced change needs to begin at the grassroots, he described a full-page advertisement that his group published in *Al-Quds* newspaper on June 5 and in *Ha'aretz* on June 29. It was a petition that laid out a "destination map" – a six-point statement of intentions that could satisfy claims on both sides of the conflict. As of July 1, 1,700 Palestinians had joined his group, along with more than 10,000 Israelis.

According to Nusseibeh, a solution to the current bottleneck depends on the creation of two states for two peoples and the declaration by both sides that "Palestine is the only state of the Palestinian people and Israel is the only state of the Jewish people."

Despite insults, public criticism and death threats over his declaration that "Palestinian refugees would return only to the State of Palestine and Jews would return only to the State of Israel," Nusseibeh appears willing to hold firm on his belief that the end of the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be achieved if Israel pulls pack to the June 4, 1967, borders and ends its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Just outside Jerusalem, we met David Boulos, the Muslim public relations manager of Neve Shalom, a co-operative village that promotes itself as a home to "Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship." According to Neve Shalom's Web site, its nursery, kindergarten and primary school attempt to nurture "each child's identity by imparting a knowledge of his/her culture and tradition while inculcating a knowledge and respect for the culture and tradition of the other people."

However, one holiday the two groups can't share is Yom Ha'atzmaut – Israel's Independence Day.

"While one group wants to celebrate, the other does not," Boulos said.

For him, the occupation began in 1948 with the creation of the State of Israel, and the ideal solution to the conflict is one state for all citizens in Israel and Palestine.

Later that week, we stopped at Al-Quds University's Institute of Modern Media in Ramallah, where a few years ago, an Israeli-Palestinian version of *Sesame Street* was produced. That show has been shelved and Ayman Bardawil, the director of the educational television division, now talks mainly about the military occupation of Palestine.

Pictures such as this one of shahids (martyrs) cover the basement walls of Al-Quds University's Institute of Modern Media in Ramallah, where students gather for recreational breaks.

While Bardawil described how television is used to widen the perception of children, I watched a live broadcast of two animated cartoons. One depicted Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon smashing a dove holding an olive branch as they are revealed from underneath a hat bearing the American flag. The other portrayed U.S. President George W. Bush standing on a table dropping a yo-yo, only to quickly pull it up just as a man lunges for it.

Bardawil explained that all views are presented on the station, and then turned off the live broadcast to show a video of the institute's premises taken in April 2002, after Operation Defensive Shield. The film shows smashed furniture, broken equipment and filthy offices left in a disarray.

"A lawsuit is pending in the Israeli courts," he said.

Toward the end of my visit to Israel, I stopped at a shop in the shuk in the Old City in Jerusalem, where Arabian incense and the callings of the muezzin fill the Muslim Quarter.

Once it became clear that nothing would be purchased, conversation turned to the current conflict.

The young, Western-looking shopkeeper – who resembled many Israelis in his blue jeans and t-shirt – served sweetened Turkish coffee out of plastic cups while he explained that the only way to solve the problem is "for the Arab world to unite with one face.

"The only leader that can do this successfully is [Osama] bin Laden," he said.

"I am not religious," he added, "but I believe that bin Laden is the only one who can unite the Arab people."

While Hamas and its supporters openly tie themselves to the Islamist elements inherent in bin Laden's movement, it would appear that now many secular Palestinians also endorse his views. For bin Laden, the "occupation" includes all western elements in the Muslim world.

A survey for the U.S.-based Pew Global Attitudes Project, released last month, revealed that 71 per cent of Palestinians named Bin Laden as the world leader most likely to "do the right thing" in world affairs.

At the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in Ramallah, director Khalil Shikaki revealed that polls also indicated that most Palestinians are unaware of what transpired at Camp David and don't believe bin Laden was behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

I recalled that earlier in the week, Ruth Wisse, the soft-spoken Harvard professor of comparative literature, explained that the current dispute is not about the occupation of land and bears "no relationship to a conflict of two people over one territory.

"If it had been that, it would have been resolved a long time ago," she said.

Wisse said that Arab leaders use anti-Semitism, the occupation and the war against Israel to sidestep their own domestic problems and as a tool to legitimize their control of the courts, education systems and media.

Liberation from the occupation by the Jews becomes justification for authoritarian rule.

This is not merely a clash between Israelis and Palestinians, she stressed.

"Once Arab leaders have used Israel and anti-Semitism to their ends, the United States will be next."

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

ISRAEL BLACKLISTS THE BBC FOR "ANTI-SEMITIC" DOCUMENTARY

Israel severed all ties with the British Broadcasting Corporation in late June after the network broadcast a documentary critical of its unconventional weaponry and claiming that Israel used nerve gas against the Palestinians.

The BBC has "repeatedly tried to de-legitimize the State of Israel" and its attitude "demonizes the Israelis," said government press officer **Danny Seaman**.

Declaring that the BBC's overall attitude towards Israel was "verging on the anti-Semitic," representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, Foreign Ministry and the Government Press Office have begun discussing whether to expel all BBC correspondents from the country.

In the meantime, they have imposed visa restrictions and will no longer assist BBC staff to bypass military roadblocks in the territories, government sources said. Israeli spokespeople will also refuse all future interview requests from the network.

"The BBC will discover that bureaucracy can be applied with goodwill or without it," Seaman told the *London Times*. "And after the way that they have repeatedly tried to de-legitimize the State of Israel, we, as hosts, have none left for them."

The offending program, titled *Israel's Secret Weapon*, was first broadcast in March. "The weapons program, which contains the ridiculous false assertion that we used nerve gas against the Palestinians, was the last straw," Seaman said.

"We decided that we had to draw a red line rather than just complain about a consistent attitude in which successive BBC programs attempt to place us in the same context as totalitarian, axis-of-evil countries such as Iraq and Iran."

Given *CBC Newsworld*'s habit of televising BBC documentaries about Israel (*Behind the Fence*, on Israel's security fence, being a recent example), one hopes our national network will choose not to air this latest one and find more balanced programming instead.

* * *

Names in the News

• **Donald Molnar**, whose play *Sara's Cave* won the Jewish Canadian Playwriting Competition last year, spent time recently fighting forest fires in northern Quebec. Even so, his play *A Pair of Shorts* became a last-minute entry into last week's Fringe theatre festival to replace a cancelled production. *Sara's Cave* gets a staged reading at the Miles Nadal JCC later this year.

• Toronto-based entertainment mogul **Garth Drabinsky**, former head of the defunct theatrical producing organization Livent, manages to keep busy. Recently he acted as creative consultant to *Gospel of John*, a $17-million film about Jesus produced by Visual Bible International and filmed here and in Spain. He's reportedly lobbying hard to get the film included in the Toronto International Film Festival in early September.

* * *

Techelet TV: Shlomo Ben-Zvi, a 38-year-old British immigrant, has launched a new pay-TV channel on Israel's cable and satellite networks after winning the tender for a "Jewish" channel against stiff competition, the *London Jewish Chronicle* has reported.

A scion of a monied British clan, Ben-Zvi has named his network *Techelet*, after the indigo-like blue dye that the Torah prescribes for use on one of the strings of the tallit. (The dye's provenance, recently rediscovered after being lost for some 14 centuries, is again being used in some circles to fulfil the biblical mitzvah.)

For 19 hours daily, Techelet broadcasts a combination of local and imported fare, much of it spotlighting Jewish and Zionist history. To liven up the schedule, Ben-Zvi has commissioned a soap opera about a large and quarrelsome Israeli chassidic family, to be titled *The Rebbe's Court*.

It will be "the first-ever Jewish soap opera," he said, while the *Chronicle* calls it "*East Enders*... with fringes and a sheitl." Ben-Tvi considers the soap opera to be a Jewish form because "every 15 seconds you have a dilemma of interpersonal relationships – and you have to solve them." Techelet's studio and offices are in Neve Ilan, outside Jerusalem.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• The city's 42nd annual Outdoor Art Exhibition fills Nathan Phillips Square with art. July 11, 12 and 13 outside Toronto City Hall.

• To celebrate Psychiatric Survivor Pride Day on July 14, the **Friendly Spike Theatre Band** presents a Mad Pride Weekend, with community arts and education events from July 11 to 14. 416-516-4740.

• The ninth annual World Electronic Music Festival takes place in Trudeau's Park in Tweed, Ont. (two hours east of Toronto), July 25 to 27. Ticketmaster, 416-870-8000.

• Free guided tours of York University's outdoor sculpture collection are offered Wednesdays at noon until October. Tours meet in front of Vari Hall. Allyson Adley, 416-736-5169.

• Soulpepper's 2003 season includes **Harold Pinter**'s *No Man's Land*, **Samuel Beckett**'s *Happy Days*, **Jean Racine's** *Phedre*, **Oliver Goldsmith**'s *She Stoops to Conquer* and **Ferenc Molnar**'s *The Play's the Thing*. 416-203-6264. www.soulpepper.ca.

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Early Gitai films can be ordered

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

One of the things this column tries to accomplish is to keep readers informed of new "Jewish" releases as they become available on video or DVD. Not all of these releases will be found in your local video store. Some, such as this week's selections, are available mainly via the internet or by mail order.

Facets Multi-Media is one of the largest video retailers in the world. Located in Chicago, Facets has a huge selection of titles, many of which are very difficult, or impossible, to find anywhere else.

Facets recently released five feature films directed by Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai. Gitai is well known for such controversial films as *Kaddosh* and *Kippur*.

Now Facets has released five of Gitai's earlier films and these are available as a set, called *Amos Gitai: Exile*, or they can be purchased individually. They are also available on either VHS or DVD.

The common feature of all these films, is that they address the subject of exile. The first film, *Esther*, was produced in 1987 and updates the Biblical story of Esther.

It uses Biblical sources in an attempt to explore the world as it exists today. The second film, *Berlin Jerusalem* tells the story of two women who seek a new life in the Holy Land. One of the women, Else Lasker-Schuler, is a German expressionist poet. The other woman is Mania Shohat, a Russian revolutionary. They meet in Jerusalem and are disappointed by the real city they see but remain committed to building a better world.

Birth Of A Golem is a relative short (60 minutes) and unusual film that explores ideas for a feature film on the theme of the Golem. It has been described as a "dazzling, powerful parable about the creative process--and the many forms it takes"

Golem: The Spirit of Exile uses the Book of Ruth and other Biblical stories and fuses them with the legend of the Golem to create a parable for the modern world. Elimelech, his wife Naomi and their sons move to a new city where Elimelech dies and the sons are murdered. Afterward, Naomi becomes much closer to Ruth, one of her son's widows, and together they face the uncertain future.

Continued on page 38

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Arts & Travel

Montreal duo produces CD tribute to support Israel

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

MONTREAL — After the bombing at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in July, 2001, Lisa Rubin and Elan Kunin decided to do something for Israel.

So the Montreal duo, who call themselves "entertainers with a social conscience," wrote and produced a CD tribute to Israel, with a portion of the proceeds going to Israeli charities.

"We didn't know exactly how to help the cause as musicians and artists," says Rubin. "The idea came to us to write a song about Israel."

The sound for *Future History* is carried by Rubin's powerful vocals and Kunin's soulful instrumentals. Fans of the *Prince of Egypt* soundtrack will enjoy this single.

Kunin, 31, and Rubin, 25, say the title was the first thing they thought of. They liked it because it emphasized taking action now to create a better future.

"Jewish history tends to celebrate the fact that we survived a historical event, and as a result this song is basically a wake-up call," says Kunin.

"Jewish history is important to our survival,"says Rubin, finishing Kunin's sentences. "Today will be history for tomorrow. If you work to help Israel now we'll have a brighter future history."

The lyrics took three days to write, but the process took four months. Kunin wrote the music first, then the two wrote the words together.

"When I wrote [the music] I was thinking in terms of Hebrew words and it fell into place," says Kunin.

They came to Toronto to record the CD at Phase One studios – the same studio the Barenaked Ladies use – with the help of owner Barry Lubotta.

Rubin stresses that their music is not religious. "It's Zionist more than anything else," she says.

"And about community," adds Kunin.

The chorus of the song illustrates the themes they speak of.

"An ancient voice calls me to Zion/
The land that holds a part of me."

The lyrics continue to make reference to Israel as a spiritual home and to the soldiers who protect it.

The two have a personal connection to Israel. Rubin spent a year in Israel, and had a friend at Hebrew University when the bomber struck. Kunin's mother lives in a suburb of Tel Aviv. He and Rubin are hoping to visit over Sukkot.

Kunin, who wrote and composed the music, says his love of music stems from childhood.

"Growing up in a very Zionist home, I listened to a lot of Hebrew music and traditional folk songs," he says. Rubin reminds him that his musical background – he's also an orchestrator – helped him write the music for *Future History* because he knows how to blend the sounds into a final product.

Rubin has been studying voice, music and dance since she was a child. In 2000, she was Diana Barry in the *Anne of Green Gables* festival in Charlottetown, PEI.

The two met in 2000 in a production of *The Great Houdini* at the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre. Kunin wrote the music and played the role of Houdini, and Rubin had a solo cameo as a show girl. The next year they both had lead roles in *Double Identity* and travelled with the theatre to perform in Vienna.

Elan Kunin and Lisa Rubin.

Proceeds from the CDs go to Magen David Adom, Association for the Well being of Israeli Soldiers and Victims of Terror. The Future History Web site (www.thefuturehistory.com) is scheduled to be up and running shortly.

Rubin and Kunin will be performing in Toronto at Shuk in the Park on Sept. 7.

Young filmmaker's project explores an unusual career

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Filmmakers are taught to write what they know, but sometimes a piqued curiosity can spark research into original territory. Yon Motskin, 25, explored a job many people barely recognize: that of the cutman.

Motskin, a Toronto native recently transplanted to Los Angeles, wrote and directed his thesis film *The Cutman* for his final year at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. The 27-minute short, which has been receiving acclaim in festivals across North America, was screened at Toronto's Worldwide Short Film Festival in June.

The Cutman was recently chosen best short at the Atlanta Film Festival; as a result, the film is now being considered for an Academy Award nomination for best live action short in 2004.

Motskin says *The Cutman*, which took two years to complete, tells about the fall of a boxing cutman, the grizzled man who sews up cuts and stems bleeding between rounds. Family tension figures prominently after the cutman is fired and moves in with his son.

"I had no idea a lot of people would want to see a movie about an old guy losing his job," Motskin said from his new home in west Hollywood. But word spread about the film's artistic merit and people arrived in surprising numbers to check out what the young filmmaker had produced.

The awards piled up: NYU's Wasserman/King best film and best director prizes; Gold Jury special prize at Worldfest Houston; the Brett Ratner Film award; and an invitation from FOX Searchlab to develop a script of his choosing.

The excitement is opening doors for the Thornlea S.S. graduate. He recently got an agent and a manager, and said he is writing a feature film script for *The Cutman* and shopping the idea around to such film companies as Miramax and Showtime.

"I've been shaking so many hands I feel like a politician," he said half-jokingly, remarking on how filmmakers must not only perfect their craft but also hone their business skills.

"I'm goal-oriented and I'm not waiting until I achieve a goal. I can handle the ritual, the day-to-day stuff. It's part of the package."

The Cutman had its roots in a journalistic seed. Motskin's friend at NYU, Timothy Fitzsimmons, was working on an article about infamous cutman Al Gavin, who works with boxers such as Oscar de la Hoya and Lennox Lewis.

When Motskin heard about the idea, he thought even though he doesn't like boxing, it would make an interesting film. He cast Fitzsimmons as the cutman's son, then cast a former firefighter chief in the lead role.

With Gavin as the technical adviser, teaching the youngsters about coagulants and stitches, *The Cutman* was shot on a $25,000 budget. Despite the inexperience of the actors, the film conveys a perfect balance of emotion and tension, woven between scenes that are both artistic and gritty.

"I immersed myself in that world," Motskin said, and he recalls the gym in Long Island where he learned from Gavin about relationships in the boxer's corner. The cutman may only have 30 seconds to temporarily heal the wounds, but Motskin says there are enough politics to fill a book.

The film develops a strong father-son theme, focusing on a tempestuous bond that reflects Motskin's early times with his own father.

"We disagreed a lot," he said, "even disagreeing about my chosen line of work."

Motskin first followed in his father's footsteps in Montreal, where he studied photography at McGill University. Finding his father's passion didn't reflect his own, Motskin switched to film at New York, watching 10 movies a week to fuel his hunger.

"I thought, 'Am I overexposing myself? Is it bad seeing so many of these movies?' No way, because in the end I have to see what came before."

The direction taken by the writer-director's career may have been set very early in his life: his mother has recorded on her camcorder every pivotal moment in the Motskin family saga, and appropriately enough, Motskin is now filming his own version.

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Author was inspired by Holocaust survival of five siblings

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The survival of the five Garfinkel siblings struck Suzan Hagstrom as nothing less than a small miracle.

Nathan Garfinkel and his sisters, Sonia, Regina, Helen and Bela, lived through the fire and the storm of the Holocaust as virtually a family unit.

"The story of a sole survivor is common, but five in one single family is really amazing and rare," explained Hagstrom, a freelance journalist from San Diego.

Hagstrom was so impressed by their tale of fortitude and endurance that she wrote a book about the Garfinkels, *Sara's Children: The Destruction of Chmielnik*, published by Sergeant Kirkland's Press.

[Frances Kraft photo]

Suzan Hagstrom

Since it came out two years ago, Hagstrom has made the rounds of book stores, libraries and organizations in the United States publicizing it.

Last month, Hagstrom discussed her book at the Toronto conventions of the Association of Jewish Libraries, the Canadian Library Association and the American Library Association.

Sara's Children has not exactly soared to the top of the best-seller lists, but this is of little concern to her.

"I didn't write it to make money, but as a journalistic response to a great story of survival. Anyone who has met the Garfinkels has said, 'Someone should write a book or make a movie about them.'"

Hagstrom, a seasoned 49-year-old reporter who has worked for newspapers in Florida, Virginia and California, stumbled upon the Garfinkel saga in 1990.

While gathering data for a magazine piece for the *Orlando Sentinel* about the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center in Orlando, the first Holocaust museum in Florida, she met Helen Garfinkel Greenspun.

"When Helen, a museum volunteer, told me that not only she, but her brother and three sisters survived exploitation in slave-labour camps in Poland, transfer to worse camps in Germany and a death march in the final month of World War II, I was amazed."

So amazed that she decided to write a book, her first one.

Hagstrom, a business writer of Scandinavian, British and French ancestry who was born in Kansas and grew up in the San Francisco area, wrote *Sara's Children* in her spare time.

She interviewed the Garfinkels – three of whom now live in Detroit – and talked with other survivors from Toronto, all of whom are originally from the Polish town of Chmielnik.

The Torontonians include Bela Nozyce Sztrauch, Mandzia Wajchendler Mapa, Faye Goldlist, Irving Buchbinder, Esther and Usher Tarek, Kuba and Cesia Zaifman and Lola and Jakob Sylman.

During the Holocaust, Nathan, now 83, was incarcerated in four camps in Poland and one in Germany.

Sonia and Helen, 79 and 76 respectively, stuck together as they struggled through the war. Regina, 73, and sister Bela, who died in 1997, also made it through the Holocaust together.

Hagstrom said the sisters always helped each other, and that was the key to their survival.

Toward the close of the war, the five Garfinkels were reunited in an ammunition factory in Czestochowa, Poland.

Three of the sisters married Holocaust survivors, and all the siblings immigrated to the United States.

"They worked hard and realized the American dream," Hagstrom said. "They are now comfortably retired."

She spent seven years researching, writing and trying to sell the manuscript. Fifty publishers rejected it, and still others liked it but found it of no commercial value.

Finally, Hagstrom settled on Sergeant Kirkland's Press, an independent publishing house in Spotsylvania, Va., that specializes in the U.S. Civil War.

Much to her delight, the Garfinkels were happy with the book. "They're grateful their story has been recorded."

To Hagstrom, the Holocaust was not a new topic. "I've always been interested in it."

But she can't say whether she will address it again as a writer. "I don't know what the future holds."

Hagstrom regards Holocaust deniers with contempt. "I just find their revisionism preposterous. They do it just to hurt Jews. It's a form of anti-Semitism, basically."

Ralph Lauren: portrait of an iconic fashion designer

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Like novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald's mysterious man about town, Jay Gatsby, iconic fashion designer Ralph Lauren is a figment of his own imagination.

Previously known as Ralphie Lifshitz, Lauren epitomizes the self-made man of the fabled American dream.

He is a lower-middle class Jewish boy from New York City whose success hinges on his understated clothes and a line of subsidiary products symbolizing Anglo-Saxon gentility and wealth.

As Michael Gross, the author of *Genuine Authentic: The Real Life of Ralph Lauren* (HarperCollins), claims, Lauren's modus operandi is "faux authenticity."

Lauren designs and markets high-fashion garments, from khaki pants to Oxford shirts, that emphasize pedigree and style. They are bought neither by the elite nor the masses, but by well-off consumers seeking a happy medium.

"I present a dream," Gross quotes Lauren as saying in this thoroughly researched and informative biography.

The "dream" he cannily promotes is upward mobility, and that has earned him a secure place in the cutthroat world of fashion, as well as a fat bank account.

According to *Forbes* magazine, Lauren has a personal fortune of $2 billion (US) and counting, and is the 97th richest individual in America.

Lauren's empire encompasses eight lines of clothing for men, three more for women and a licensing company that churns out a dizzying array of goods from underwear and eyeglasses to luggage and fragrances.

And these pricey brands are dispensed in shops bespeaking elegance.

In fiscal 2002, Lauren and his partners rang up $10 billion in sales. No wonder his company can afford to spend more than $200 million a year in advertising.

Lauren's ancestors hail from Pinsk, which was at various times in Lithuania, Poland and Russia. His family is related to the founders of several chassidic dynasties, Karl Marx, Helena Rubenstein and Moses Mendelssohn.

Frank, his father, fancied himself as an interior decorator, but in fact he was a house painter, a *schmearer*.

Frieda, his mother, wanted him to be a rabbi, and due to her influence, he briefly studied at a yeshiva.

Even back then, Lauren was light- years ahead of his classmates in terms of the preppy clothes he wore. After his bar mitzvah, he began buying his own clothes.

He changed his surname in 1959 because he could no longer abide it. "The name was a problem," Lauren said. "Kids would laugh."

While studying nights at City College, he landed successive jobs as an assistant furnishings buyer, sales assistant and supply clerk.

He found his niche as a designer, first with men's ties and shirts and then with suits and sport coats. Gross writes at length about Lauren's skills as a businessman and promoter and his fierce determination to be rich and famous.

Gross credits Lauren with reviving the Levi denim shirt and the Polo knit shirt. He is skeptical about Lauren's claim of having pioneered western wear. As he puts it: "Never mind that there was a west before him."

Lauren's greatest coup, perhaps, was appropriating WASP (White Anglo-Saxon Protestant) culture and rebranding that image.

Jonathan Yardley, a *Washington Post* reporter, recognized Lauren's strategy. "Millions of Americans want to be something they are not and are prepared to spend ludicrous amounts of money in the hope of transforming themselves... Lauren's primary market is among the arrivistes."

Despite a few catty asides, Gross draws a balanced picture of his subject.

In public, Lauren is modest, gentle and purposeful. In private, he can be a terror toward those closest to him. "They are left reeling by the assaults on their self-esteem, by his need to diminish people and make them feel helpless, infantile and inept in his presence," Gross quotes a person who has known him for years.

Without the slightest substantiation, Gross claims that Lauren's "relationship to Judaism remains uneasy at best." In the next sentence, however, he blithely lists Lauren's links with Judaism.

Despite such lapses, *Genuine Authentic*, an unauthorized biography, usually makes for intriguing reading.

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Russian theatre is 'born again' in Toronto

By SVETLANA BARKAN
Special to The CJN

The Phoenix Cultural Diversity Theatre, one of Stage Door's theatres, has a unique name and purpose. It refers to the mythical bird that was said to have lived 500 or 600 years by repeatedly burning itself to ashes on a funeral pyre and rising again from the ashes for another life.

The name also refers to its multicultural goals. Artistic director Olga Chvedova and general manager Vladimir Milman founded the Phoenix in February 2002 as a theatre that would deliver Russian theatrical traditions to North American audiences.

Playwright's vision was based on the ideology of Aleksander Tairov, a Russian Jew born in Romny in 1885

In an interview, Chvedova, a well-known theatrical producer and playwright from Moscow with more than 20 years of experience, said her vision was based on the ideology of Aleksander Tairov, a Russian Jew born in Romny in 1885. Tairov developed his philosophy of modern theatre at the beginning of the 20th century, at the same time that world-renowned Russian actors and producers Constantin Sergeyevich Stanislavsky and Vsevolod Meyerhold were developing their own visions. Stanislavsky felt strongly that theatre should resemble real life, and Meyerhold wanted an abstract, experimental theatre.

Tairov's vision was different from the others. He felt that the theatre didn't have to resemble real life, and the barrier between the stage and the audience should remain in place. His productions were meant to be visually and audibly rich, combining elements of drama, humour, dance, tragedy and *joie de vivre*.

Encouraged by her Jewish father to start a theatrical career

Encouraged by her Jewish father to start a theatrical career, Chvedova said she was attracted to Tairov's ideology since the beginning. She said she felt strongly that such elements of theatre as dance, movement, stage and costume design, satire and humour should be accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. According to Chvedova, performances are unifying experiences. Audiences become united through their feelings and reactions to a production.

The Phoenix's leading actor and choreographer, Valentyn Ovsyuk, has been a recipient of Russia's best actor award twice in the last 10 years. If Chvedova is responsible for the content and the stylistic aspect of the theatre's plays, Ovsyuk is responsible for every movement that happens onstage. As a choreographer, he invests countless hours into creating physically smooth, aesthetically pleasing performances. As an actor who plays leading roles in both Russian and English, and who conquered, many years ago, Moscow's critical audiences after only two years of acting, he sets a high standard for the rest of the cast, and for the students of the acting and modelling studio at Artwille Academy, where both Chvedova and Ovsyuk teach.

Milman, the theatre's general manager, is an information-technology specialist from a Russian-Jewish family of mathematicians. When he co-founded the Phoenix, the theatre became a vital part of his life. He and Chvedova decided then to extend their outreach beyond the Russian-speaking community. They felt it was necessary to produce and perform plays in English in order to attract English-speakers to their performances.

The Phoenix's first English-language performance, *Sylvia*, was put on Dec. 13, 2002, and was a groundbreaking performance. Milman's 17-year old daughter, Jane Milman, performed the lead and title role. Chvedova said her performance was "unique in the sense that she successfully combines the elements of acting with movement and dance, and weaves a story through her body, as well as words."

In another play, *The Devil of Fantasy*, based on the novels of Russian/English writer Vladimir Nabokov, Jane played eight different women without saying a word.

Chvedova and Milman's latest project is to adapt a play with a Jewish theme and turn it into another successful production. Meanwhile, this fall, Phoenix will be putting on another English play, *I Ought To Be In Pictures*, by Tony Award-winning playwright Neil Simon.

The Phoenix Cultural Diversity Theatre is located at 35 Tillplain Rd. in North York. For more information, call 416-923-6641 ext.2654.

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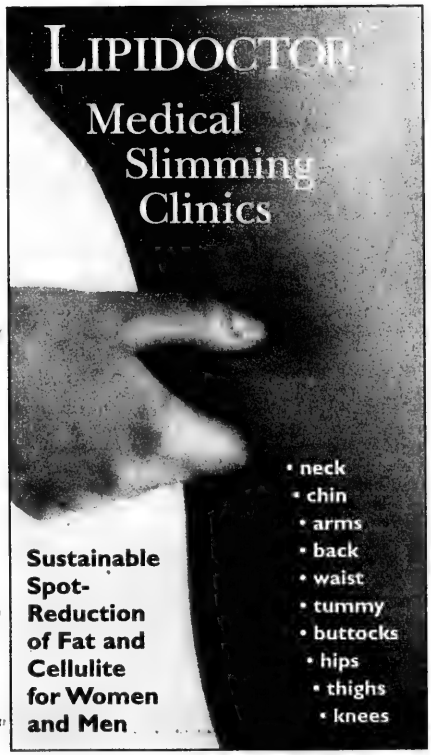

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'Without our volunteers, we would close our doors. The Centre is like a family and volunteers are the heart of the family.'

More than 200 volunteers attended the 2003 volunteer banquet dinner recently held at the Bernard Betel Centre.

Volunteers, the heart of Betel Centre

During his life in Montreal, Ed Kogut worked as a guidance counsellor, teacher and school principal. "I taught everything except French," he says. "I had the brightest kids in the school .... I even taught badminton; we won, too."

Retiring in Toronto after a lifetime in education, he brought his love of learning to the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. There he shares his experience as volunteer facilitator of the weekly Book Club. "Because we have more women in the group, I'm a feminist ... I choose stories which are sympathetic to women, that are honest and fair," he says.

Ed, 80, has high literary standards. "I don't like lewd stories, I prefer things that are more high-class, like [French author, Guy de] Maupassant, I've used almost all of his." The group of about 20 also enjoys Jewish authors.

Says Barbara Zigler, co-ordinator of Lifelong Learning at the Centre: "Ed reads the short story, researches it, discusses the symbolism, the feelings under the words. Heputs an outstanding effort into finding appropriate stories."

Beyond the Book Club, Ed stays busy around the Centre on most days, whether in the office counting money from "pushkes," or in the cafeteria picking up kosher Meals on Wheels or helping members carry food trays.

"Ed is a warm, giving volunteer," says Zigler. "He's a first-class example of what volunteering is all about in a Centre like ours."

The Centre recently honoured its 500 volunteers, most of whom are also Centre members, at its volunteer banquet. Pins and certificates were awarded for those who had served five, 10, 20 and 25 years.

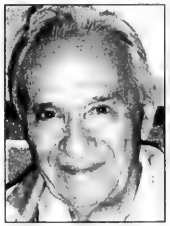
Several members were singled out this year for special honours, including Sadie Rose, 89, who received the Queen's Jubilee Medal from MP Monte Kwinter for lifelong community service. This year's Lou Goldenberg Volunteer Award went to Members' Council Chair Marion Greenberg, 79. Marion is well-known at the Centre for her active participation and her no-nonsense attitude.

Larry Smith, president of the Centre called volunteers a "pillar of support," contributing ideas and injecting spirit into the daily life of the Centre. In the past year, he said, volunteers have contributed over 44,000 hours. "If I were to estimate that, it would translate to between $400,000 and $500,000 worth of time."

Volunteers are involved in every aspect of the Centre, says Sharon Chapnick, Co-ordinator of Volunteer Services. They visit homebound seniors, provide care-giver relief, deliver meals, sell event tickets, plan programs, teach courses, and assist in the office.

Chapnick believes master of ceremonies Judy Cohn is a great example of volunteers' unflagging enthusiasm. A five-year volunteer, Judy, 69, serves on Members' Council, works at the ticket sales desk and helps in the office.

"Without our volunteers, we would close our doors," Zigler says, and Chapnick agrees. "The Centre is like a family... and volunteers are the heart of the family."



Ed Kogut

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New Orleans celebrates bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase

By VIC PHILLIPS
Special to The CJN

NEW ORLEANS — Jazz streaming out into the streets, corks popping, laughter everywhere. These sounds are heard year-round in New Orleans. But this year the entire state of Louisiana is celebrating like never before as it marks the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase.

And what a deal it was: the United States purchased 828,000 square miles of territory from Napoleonic France for $15 million. Napoleon Bonaparte wanted the money for his army and he didn't have to do any fast talking to convince U.S. president Thomas Jefferson that he was getting a bargain.

The land was later broken up into 15 states, and to this day in this part of the U.S. South, European traditions blend with Caribbean influences, and the food and the music are the stuff of legend.

There are many jazz clubs in, or within walking distance of, New Orleans' French Quarter, where the sweet trumpet of Louis Armstrong was first heard. Pete Fountain, Al Hirt and today's most popular jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, have all helped make "the Crescent City," as it's often called, a 24-7 kind of town. Besides jazz there is a large canvas of sounds, including cajun, R&B, and even Celtic music, which many natives love.

The music offers visitors a sheer sense of joy as they stroll the picturesque streets of the quarter. The heart of the area is Jackson Square, a park that at one time was the site of public executions but is now crowded with clowns, musicians, acrobats and white-faced mimes. And artists working on canvas charge reasonable rates to draw portraits. Not too far away, riverboats pound out jazz on the Mississippi River.

For a change of pace, try a leisurely ride on a river barge and travel to places off the beaten path. R/B River Explorer offers excursions that range from four to 10 days. Guests are immersed in the heritage and culture of nearby towns and cities in a safe and comfortable setting. The 730-foot-long barge holds 198 passengers and has 98 identical staterooms. At night, it's tied up to trees along the shoreline, reminiscent of Huckleberry Finn's trip down the river.

Guests can experience the mystical world of Cajun life, enjoying festive zydeco music from the locals while journeying through serene bayous and rivers. Experience the thrill of seeing wildlife up close and personal, whether it's alligators or ducks.

It wouldn't be a trip to New Orleans unless you sample the local fare. And, somewhat surprisingly, I found a glatt kosher restaurant in the heart of the French Quarter called Creole Kosher. It features tasty Creole and Cajun dishes, minus the shellfish, and Chef Gideon Daneshrad also serves up a panoply of Persian dishes from his native Iran.

[Photos courtesy of Louisiana Office of Tourism]

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, Americans arrived in New Orleans en masse. As they were often unwelcome in the Creole enclave of the French Quarter, the Americans often clashed with the more established population. Even now, in the wake of recent diplomatic tension between France and the United States over the Iraq war, some insensitive citizens have gone beyond the bounds of patriotism and suggested re-naming the French Quarter.

The original New Orleans Creoles were urban-dwelling descendants of early French and Spanish settlers, and born in the colonies.

Cajuns, on the other hand, are descended from a group of Catholic, French-speaking Acadian trappers and farmers who were exiled from Nova Scotia by the ruling English Protestants in 1755. To this day, Canadians are loved and very welcome in Louisiana. The Acadians' expulsion was Louisiana's gain and the state is proud of the joie de vivre it received from French Canada.

By 1860, Louisiana had the largest Jewish population in the South. Most were descendants of Sephardi Jews who migrated to the Americas after Spain expelled them in 1492.

As well, Alsatian Jews were attracted to Louisiana by its landscape and by the area's slow southern lifestyle, both of which reminded them of what they had known in Europe. Alsation Jews began immigrating in large numbers again when Germany occupied Alsace after the Franco-Prussian war.

Ten thousand Jews fought on the Confederate side during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865. Jews were accorded the opportunity to be complete equals in the Old South, and Confederate general Robert E. Lee allowed his Jewish soldiers to observe all holy days.

Today Louisiana lingers between the Old World and the New, between history and legend. Like the Creole dish gumbo, Louisiana is a spicy mix of ingredients that complement each other. They really do speak a different language in Louisiana, the language of good food, good times and good music. All the ingredients are there for a year-round musical celebration.

For more information on Louisiana call 1-800-99-GUMBO. Visit www.louisianatravel.com

Michael Rubinoff brings affordable theatre to Toronto

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Two summers ago, then-articling law student Michael Rubinoff produced and directed an original production of *A Chorus Line* at Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre with the understanding that no one in the cast or crew would get paid unless the venture turned a profit.

Perhaps because tickets were going for as little as $26 in a market where $100 tickets are not unheard of, Rubinoff's *Chorus Line* was a sell-out for seven of its eight performances, and Rubinoff happily signed 38 cheques afterward.

Since then, the 27-year-old native Torontonian has stopped trying to get the theatre out of his blood. Instead, he's developed plans to revolutionize the mid-sized theatre scene in Toronto by presenting a series of popular and affordable musicals geared to the budgets of city residents as opposed to tourists.

Since the success of *Chorus Line*, Rubinoff has staged several other productions, including *Free To Be You and Me*, a show based on a children's book edited by Marlo Thomas, and *Side By Side By Sondheim*, showcasing the music of theatre composer Steven Sondheim.

An upcoming production of *Evita* opens Aug. 8 and runs for three weeks at the Jane Mallett Theatre of the St. Lawrence Centre. The highest ticket price is $40. The lowest, for a preview performance, is just $5.

People who embark on somewhat risky sideline ventures are often advised not to give up their day jobs, but Rubinoff, until recently a lawyer with Goodman and Carr, has done just that.

"My whole concept is to present shows for shorter runs that had not been to Toronto for a while but had great success in London and New York," he says. "I thought that if they were affordable, people would come to see them."

At a time when top productions such as *The Lion King* and *Mamma Mia!* are closing down because of the SARS scare, Rubinoff is hoping to fill a gap in the local theatre scene. He says reasonably priced theatre can usually be found only in the suburbs.

He says he hopes to remove some of the costly sets and sensationalism from the stage in exchange for audience-friendly ticket prices.

"You won't see flying helicopters or huge chandeliers in my shows," he says, "but you are going to see great singers singing great songs from great shows."

The son of a real estate lawyer and a social worker in Thornhill, Rubinoff was drawn to show business at an early age. As a child, he acted in numerous film and television productions, including a Disney-CBC co-production in 1988.

(He briefly resumed his acting career for *Side by Side By Sondheim*, in which he appeared as the narrator, but said he intends to remain behind the scenes and concentrate on producing and some directing in future.)

During law school, hours after writing an exam, Rubinoff hopped on a flight to Liverpool to see an original production of *Blood Brothers*, then met playwright Willy Russell backstage. He later staged the musical in London, Ont.

Rubinoff also discussed his theatrical plans with Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the famed producer of *Les Miserables*, *Cats* and other celebrated shows, whom he met in London. Rubinoff says both meetings left a permanent imprint on him.

Evita is Rubinoff's most ambitious project to date. The original Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical won seven Tony awards and was beloved by an earlier generation of theatregoers. It tells the story of Eva Peron, the revered, saintlike figure who wielded enormous wealth and power in Argentine politics, and whose signature song is the familiar *Don't Cry For Me, Argentina*.

"In Toronto you have a chance," he says, regarding his dream of luring the crowds with low prices and strong talent. "You have a chance as long as you don't get too ambitious and you keep your runs short, and you keep the production values in check so that people can afford to buy a ticket. It shouldn't burn a hole in their pockets."

For tickets to Evita, call 416-366-7723 or visit the Web site, www.stlc.com. For group discounts, call 416-497-0965.

Gitai films

Continued from page 31

In the final film, *Golem: The Petrified Garden*, Gitai puts the collapse of the Soviet Union under the microscope and makes it the subject of this film. The main character of the film, Daniel, is an art dealer who travels to Birobidzhan in Siberia and witnesses the aftermath of the downfall of the Communist system.

Facets has also released an Italian film called *The Sky Is Falling*. Set in Tuscany in 1944, it tells the story of an Italian woman and her Jewish German husband, who live in a grand villa and have taken in the orphaned children of the wife's sister. All seems safe and normal, until the Gemans decide to enter the home.

All of these unusual films are now available directly from Facets at www.facets.org or as follows: Facets Multi-Media Inc., 1517 West Fullerton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, 60614. Telephone: (773) 281-9075 Fax: (773) 929-5437 e-mail: sales@facets.org

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55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
67 HOUSE SITTERS WANTED
68 HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE
70 UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION
75 APARTMENT FOR RENT
78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE
80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED
81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET
82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT
84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT
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105 COTTAGE FOR SALE
110 COTTAGE FOR RENT
115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE
120 COTTAGE WANTED
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143 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. AVAIL.
145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. WANTED
147 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION
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175 ISRAEL ACCOMMODATION WANTED
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190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE
195 VACATION PROPERTIES WANTED
196 VACATION PROPERTIES-EXCH./SHARE
198 SPACE FOR LEASE
199 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AVAILABLE
200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
201 OFFICE SPACE WANTED
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203 STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE
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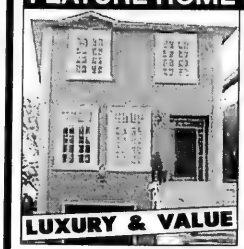

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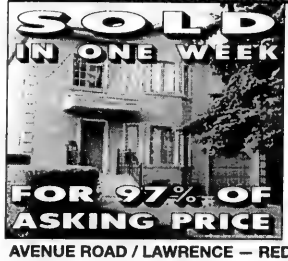

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WINSTON, Harold – on June 19, 2003, late of Michigan.
WEISS, George Gerzson – on June 20, 2003.
PINES, Molly – on June 20, 2003, late of 131 Beecroft Rd.
TEPERMAN, Rita – on June 21, 2003.
DUSKES-BELLIN, Claire – on June 21, 2003.
WEINBERG, John – on June 22, 2003, late of 550 Cummer Ave.
BRICKMAN, Marilyne – on June 23, 2003, late of 348 Patricia Ave.
KADIS, Estelle – on June 25, 2003, late of 605 Finch Ave. W.
SCHULBERG, Salek – on June 25, 2003, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
PROSKUROVSKY, Mikhail – on June 27, 2003, late of 4300 Bathurst St.

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GOLDSMITH, Ghita – on June 13, 2003, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
KAPLAN, Blanche – on June 12, 2003, late of 10 Nadolny Sachs.
TOBEN, Helen – on June 12, 2003, late of 110 Joanna Cres.
SEIGEL, Morris – on June 12, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
LEVINE, Freda – on June 12, 2003, late of 1166 Bay St.
TISHMAN, Avrum Howard – on June 12, 2003, late of 32 Heathdale Rd.
ZALKIN, Sydney – on June 13, 2003, late of 2700 Bathurst St., #20.
WEISDORF, Maurice – on June 14, 2003, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
WEISDORF, Maurice – on June 14, 2003, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
WINTROB, Benjamin – on June 15, 2003, late of 3900 Yonge St., #100.
JACOBSON, Clair – on June 18, 2003, late of 39 Brockington Cres.
HENDELES, Ida – on June 17, 2003, late of 37 Meadowbrook Rd., #2.
MOSSANEN, Mozaffar – on June 20, 2003, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
PEPPER, Seymour – on June 20, 2003, late of RR #6, Bau Rd.
MARGOLES, Cecil – on June 21, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
KOVEN, Harriet – on June 20, 2003, late of 55 Ameer Ave., #117.
TOPOREK, Szapze (Sam) – on June 22, 2003, late of 90 Fisherville Rd.
HERZOG, Miriam – on June 22, 2003, late of 36 O'Meara Crt.
SOLOMON, Mark – on June 21, 2003, late of 37 Lynhaven Rd.
VITRIOL, Herbert A. – on June 23, 2003, late of 1166 Bay St., #1903.

SPIEGEL, Sydney – on June 24, 2003, late of 104 Brant Ave.
STEINER, George – on June 26, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
LECHEM, Belle – on June 26, 2003, late of 16 Mistflower Rd.
ANISMAN, Arthur – on June 25, 2003, late of 4 Canadian Dr.
ROTENBERG, Jack – on June 25, 2003, late of 28 Edmund Cres.
SWARTZ, Yetta – on June 26, 2003, late of 300 Antibes Dr., #61.

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Thornhill teen hopes for shot at NCAA school

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Josh Lipsey will be looking to make an impression over the next few weeks when he participates in a basketball summer league at Irvine Valley College in California.

It gives the 19-year-old Thornhill resident an opportunity to showcase his skills in front of a number of NCAA Division One coaches, and he hopes one will recruit him for a spot on their school's roster.

While he has already given Irvine Valley coach Jerry Hernandez a commitment for the fall, Lipsey said he would really like to get into a four-year school. For the time being, he's enrolled in the two-year kinesiology program at Irvine.

Lipsey is back home after a year at Vermont Academy, where he got an education both on and off the court. He completed grade 12 at the college preparatory boarding school, improving his SAT score to the NCAA qualifying level, while also getting himself noticed by American schools thanks to his stellar play.

"I did a lot better academically and learned how to manage my priorities," he said. "At Vaughan [Secondary School in Thornhill the year before], I would play basketball, go hang out with friends, and homework didn't come into mind a lot."

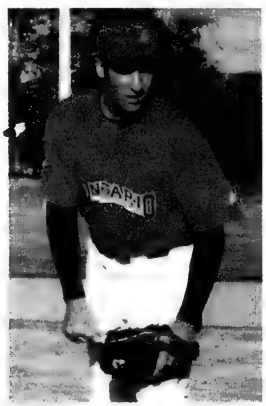
The six-foot-two, 195-pound point guard was Vermont's team MVP, averaging 20 points per game while leading the school to a five-win improvement over the previous season.

Lipsey said the guys down south played a lot harder, were a lot bigger and more athletic than in Canada. To keep up with the stiff competition, he would get up at 6 a.m. to lift weights or do agility drills .

Lipsey is hopeful he can make a career out of basketball after he finishes college.

"My major goal is to play professionally in Israel or somewhere in Europe," he said.

Josh Lipsey (left) was Vermont Academy's basketball MVP. Lipsey is seen here with the rest of the team.



Sean Valentine

Team Ontario pitcher gearing up for U.S. tournaments

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Like a lot of teenagers, Sean Valentine is pretty good at sports. Unlike many, however, he combines athletic excellence with grades in the 80s.

The honour roll student is a small forward on his high school basketball team, he plays for the school volleyball squad, he's a bronze medallion swimmer and in his younger days, he dabbled in soccer.

This past season, he was recognized as Thornhill Secondary School's "junior male athlete" of the year, as well as the basketball team's MVP.

Not too shabby, especially when you consider those sports take a back seat to his real passion, baseball.

Valentine has always loved baseball – particularly the strategic aspects of the game, the intricate interplay between players, their positioning on the diamond, the way a given situation makes you think.

As pitcher/third baseman for the Team Ontario Sophomores, the highest level provincial team for his age group, Valentine, 16, gets to experience strategic baseball at its best.

Not only does the team compete with other top clubs from southern Ontario in the CEBC (Canadian Elite Baseball Conference), the team is also on the road throughout the summer, barnstorming U.S. tournaments and taking on tough American competition.

It takes Ontario's best to compete against American teams, which seem to be blessed with good hitters and pitchers who throw the ball about 10 m.p.h. faster than Canadians do, Valentine said.

With his own fastball in the 83-84 m.p.h. range, Valentine should be able to hold his own against the big American bats.

So far this season in the CEBC, his ERA over 27 innings is 1.57 with 29 strike outs – one of the better stats among starters – and he's batting .318, which is fair to middling on a team with several players hitting in the .400 range and many others in the mid-.300s.

At 6-1, 200 lbs. – and still growing – Valentine has the size to generate pitching speed. Three-quarters of the pitches he throws are fastballs, with the rest more or less equally divided between curves and change-ups, depending on the batter. Although he's developed his own unique style, when pressed, he admits that he most admires former Toronto Blue Jays hurler Roger Clemens. When Clemens played for the Jays, Valentine never missed a game."He's overpowering," he said. "A very intelligent pitcher."

Valentine will need to have his best stuff ready when Team Ontario ventures to the U.S. Deep South in early August for the East Cobb CABA World Series in Marietta, Ga.

"It's the biggest thing we do," said Valentine. Some of the best teams from the American South are invited – along with Team Ontario. Prior to that, the Ontarios will play in the Welland (Ont.) Rawlings Canadian Classic and afterwards in the Indiana Bulls Brickyard Classic in Indiana.

The U.S. tournaments should provide a real test of just how good Valentine and his teammates are, said Team Ontario head coach Mark Picard. The American players are used to good pitching and the stuff Canadian pitchers can get away with north of the border, such as fastballs in the middle of the strike zone when behind the batter, will cost them dearly in the United States, he said.

The U.S. tournament will be a good learning experience and Picard expects his players to experience "some rough spots" this summer. It's how they respond to that adversity after being so dominant at home that could well determine whether they advance to the next level of U.S. college ball, he said.

Since being with the club, Picard said, Valentine has improved his work ethic, has been willing to learn and has worked hard on getting better placement of his pitches within the strike zone.

"He's one of our top three or four pitchers and he gets a lot of work starting and coming out of the bullpen" as a closer, Picard said.

Between games and practices, Valentine's summer is pretty busy, but he's leaving room for yet another trip south of the border in late August, when he'll rejoin the Toronto Maccabi junior baseball squad in Tenafly, N.J. The team will be trying to improve on last summer's silver-medal performance.

For Valentine, it will be his third time suiting up for the Maccabi team. Two years ago in Philadelphia, the boys finished fifth, while last year in Montreal they got to the final before losing to a good Los Angeles team in a blowout on a blustery, rainy day.

Maccabi coach Howard Kideckel knows he's getting a blue-chip pitcher in Valentine. "He's going to be my ace this year down in New Jersey," Kideckel said.

He plans to start Valentine in the opener and the semi-final – that is, if the team gets that far.

On other occasions, Valentine will likely play at third base. "He has a gun of an arm," Kideckel said. "He throws it from third base to first base on a line, with no arc at all."

Kideckel also expects to make good use of Valentine's bat. Three years ago, when Valentine was the youngest player on the team, he was already designated cleanup hitter, the coach recalled.

What's more, "he's an exceptional kid. He's a superstar, but he doesn't act like a superstar," Kideckel said.

What about inter-dating?

By JODI KOVITZ

My parents' divorce gave me a total of five siblings and two wonderful families that celebrate both Chanukah and Christmas every year. Given that I was born a Jew, and that I lead a fairly modern-day Reform Jewish life, you might be surprised to know that in fact I love everything about Christmas. For those of you who have never tried it, I won't lie. Decorating a Christmas tree and opening a mountain of presents is almost as fun as searching for the afikoman at Pesach.

While I was open to celebrating non-Jewish holidays with my family, and have many fond memories of those times, I have never questioned my own Judaism. I think my connection to Judaism is so strong, even with the presence of intermarriage in half of my family, in part because I saw intermarriage from a distance (my father married a non-Jew). I actually grew up with my mother and stepfather in a Jewish home. My Jewish identity may have been entirely different had I grown up in a home with my parents practising two different religions.

The issue of intermarriage is not new. Many famous authors have explored what factors lie at the root of the supposed "intermarriage problem," and have attempted to explain why it is such an urgent issue that needs fixing. I will leave that discussion to the experts.

From a 20-something perspective, the issue is a little different. Deciding whether or not to date non-Jews presents a host of questions. What is love? Is it based on choice? Are we restricting ourselves if we limit our selection to Jewish people? Is marrying someone Jewish important to us as individuals, or do we only want to marry Jewish to please our parents?

What if Bill, who sits next to you every day in your MBA class, isn't Jewish but makes you laugh? You become close friends, and consider taking it to the next level. But wait – Bill isn't Jewish. What do you do?

For those of us who have made the decision for ourselves that we will only date people who are Jewish, there is certainly a great solution – J-Date. Although many of us say we would rather not be caught dead on the J-Date Web site, most of the people I know are using it. How else, except through friends, can you meet people in their 20s who are Jewish, have good Jewish values and come from nice Jewish families?

But what solutions are there for those of us who might be affiliated with Judaism in some way, but who are not sure about dating only Jews? What about those of us who are unaffiliated (and are, in fact, adamantly against affiliation), but whose parents would freak out if we were to bring home a non-Jewish partner? What about those of us who always thought we would only date someone Jewish, but happen to fall in love with someone Catholic who is unwilling to convert?

One reader recently wrote to me, "I dated non-Jewish girls in high school and at university, but though I had some passionate relationships, something was missing with them."

He continued, "As unaffiliated as I was with Judaism religiously, I knew deep down inside I could never marry outside my culture."

This is such a difficult issue that I don't even know what I would do personally if I found myself in such a position. When we face these types of decisions, the best we can do is take the pressure off by not trying to please anyone but ourselves. I welcome your insight and feedback at jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

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32 vanilla wafers
1/3 cup cold brewed coffee
8 oz. cream cheese; softened
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1/2 tsp. vanilla
2 cups whipped cream; divided

Reserve 4 wafers for garnish. Coarsely crush remaining wafers; place in small bowl. Drizzle with coffee and mix lightly. Beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until creamy. Stir in 1 1/2 cups whipped cream. Spoon 2 tblsp. cream cheese mixture into each of 4 dessert glasses. Top with 1-2 tblsp. soaked wafer crumbs. Repeat layers. Cover with remaining cream cheese mixture. Refrigerate 1 hr. Garnish with a dollop of remaining whipped topping and reserved wafers. Yield: 4 servings.

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Epi on Education

Three stories about the humble kippah:

• While working for the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), I was travelling with a colleague in Russia soon after the collapse of communism. David was a retired Israeli educator who had risen to the top of the bureaucracy at the Ministry of Education. Born in Vilna, educated in an Orthodox setting before the war, David had made aliyah, moved to a kibbutz and was now a secular Jew who had lived most of his life in Israel.

David is a giant of a Jewish educator with vast experience and knowledge in both pedagogics and Judaica. We were working with Russian Jews who had recently become aware of their Jewishness, some of whom were fast becoming Jewish educators. One of them entered a room in a battered synagogue where we were meeting and put on a kippah. David's response was one of cynicism, thinking that our new friend had donned the kippah to impress us, mistaking us as representatives of some religious organization. My Diaspora perspective permitted me a more generous interpretation.

• I was working in a Toronto day school and attended the school's staff orientation in August. The principal spoke proudly of the fact that every boy in the school was expected to turn up each day with a kippah in his pocket. He wanted the teachers to know and enforce this rule. A brand new Israeli teacher just off the plane innocently asked: "Wouldn't it be better on his head?"

• A veteran statesman of the Jewish people and my former boss at JDC, Ralph Goldman, was speaking at a fundraising dinner in a New York hotel. Since the sponsoring organization was Orthodox, kippot were handed out at the door. When Ralph rose to speak, his new kippah kept falling off his head. He quickly replaced it with one from his pocket, and said: "It fits better when it's your own!"

The expression in Hebrew is, "*Ha-ma'ivin yavin*!" If you need that translated, ask a friend…

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

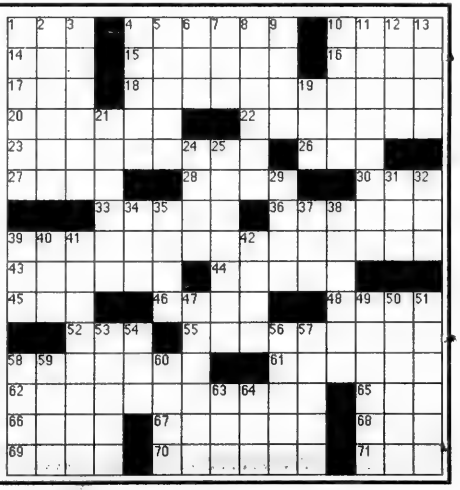
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 32.)

Summer Fun Stuff
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Family member
4. Scores most golfers would settle for
10. "_____ she blows!"
14. Explosive
15. Harvester
16. ____-copter
17. Lynn ___ Lowe, Judaica artist
18. Great for grilling steaks (2 words)
20. Part of building open to sky
22. Motion sickn. remedy (take this in your wallet or purse!)
23. Long trek live-in vehicle
26. Important sleep phase
27. Appear to be
28. What you need to pay for that cottage by the shore
30. Mama sheep
33. What playtime is when everything is perfect
36. _____-skelter
39. The kind of times-off that this crossword is all about
43. Microbe you want to stay away from when you travel
44. Adjective for keeping music in key
45. Second added note at end of letter
46. Zeh or esta in English
48. What dad needs to be able to find the right routes
52. ___-light
55. Get this salad in a Venetian restaurant
58. Visit Des _____, city NW of Chicago
61. Yout don't want to _____ on gas in the desert
62. This Bergman classic would be worth watching on a rainy afternoon
65. Friend, in Montreal
66. Doctor or washing machine cycle
67. Makes grooves in dirt road again
68. Nothin' but norths
69. Neap or spring
70. One who is lovingly admired
71. Oolong or pekoe

Down
1. Used to sip soft drinks
2. A draw: two teams ____ (3 words)
3. Tristram Shandy author
4. Debate, disagree
5. Astros, Expos, Oilers
6. Step, in Quebec
7. Police radio communiq.
8. Words to one who hasn't reached the right page
9. Maine's Sandy River freight line
10. Topic or motif
11. In summer pulp reading, 'the hero regained consciousness' (3 words)
12. Grad
13. Nothing, in Nimes
19. Expresso or Harry's
21. Marceau starred ____ (2 words)
24. Arabia, in Hebrew
25. Jello ingredient
29. Comparative word
31. Skin tumor or cyst
32. Vocal hesitations
34. Teen-age coming-out girl
35. Latin for 'it was'
37. Airport acronym
38. Words of endearmt. for a boy
39. Runs in trees in spring
40. Baseball referee, for short
41. Eagerest
42. How much did the trip ___?
47. Minced meat or potatoes
49. On a slope
50. Food poisoning you want to stay away from
51. To plant seed corn, you _____ furrow (3 words)
53. _____risch, Viennese in Vienna
54. Small hotel to stay at
56. Very angry
57. Heartbeat
58. Vocalization to get one's attention
59. Starter for butterfly, moth order
60. Lawyer Donald ____, appointed by Bush to Holocaust Memorial Council 6.03
63. Theater sign
64. Cont. of Denmark and Holland



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YOUR HOSPITAL, YOUR NEWS

Health care workers saluted at annual general meeting

Ontario health care workers deserve thanks for their vigilance, dedication and perseverance during the SARS outbreak. This was the message that Ontario Premier Ernie Eves and Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Tony Clement brought to an audience of more than 200 members of Mount Sinai's community on Monday, June 16th. The occasion was the joint Annual General Meeting for Mount Sinai Hospital and the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation. The Premier and the Minister were special guests. They both commended Mount Sinai Hospital for its leadership, not only during the SARS outbreak but also in the provision of the best patient care, teaching, and research. Microbiologist-in-Chief, Dr. Don Low, was presented a plaque for his work in the SARS outbreak - which he accepted on behalf of all Mount Sinai health care workers. Calling the outbreak "an incredible experience" and referring to the risks faced by health care workers he said, "Nobody should have to test themselves under such difficult challenges."

Mount Sinai President and CEO Joseph Mapa and Chair of the Board Lawrence Bloomberg spoke about the Hospital's key achievements of the past year: the opening of leading-edge patient care and research centres at the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Building on Murray Street; a governance review to optimize operations; and the attainment of full accreditation from the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation.

(Left to right) Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care Tony Clement; Microbiologist-in-Chief Dr. Don Low; Premier of Ontario Ernie Eves; Mount Sinai Chair of the Board Lawrence Bloomberg; and Mount Sinai President and CEO Joseph Mapa

MSH Chair of the Board and President receive distinguished awards

Congratulations go to MSH Chair of the Board, Lawrence Bloomberg, who was named the 2003 Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the Philanthropy Awards Luncheon. Congratulations also go to Mount Sinai President and CEO, Joseph Mapa, who was the recipient of the 2003 Chairman's Award for Distinguished Service by the Canadian College of Health Service Executives.

1st Annual Run/Walk for *The Best Medicine*

We couldn't have ordered a brighter or sunnier day for the 1st annual Mount Sinai Hospital Run/Walk for *The Best Medicine* which featured a community run/walk for the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre.

Close to 2,000 participants showed up at Queen's Park early in the morning on June 22. After a brief welcome from Joseph Mapa, President and CEO of Mount Sinai, the 10K race was off and running - led by Lawrence Bloomberg, Chairman of the Board, Mount Sinai Hospital and Michael Bregman, Chairman of the Board, Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation.

After the start of the 10K, Joseph Mapa then welcomed the 5K runners and walkers and the 5K was quickly underway led by Nicholas Offord, President, Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation.

While race participants crossed over the finish line, various mascots such as Carlton the Bear, mascot for the Maple Leafs, Barbie and Yogi the Bear wandered the park entertaining the kids while their parents enjoyed the food tent and music. Kids also had the opportunity to have fun in the Scotiabank Kids Tent where they could paint their own t-shirt and have their faces painted.

Many thanks to our presenting sponsor Scotiabank, as well as Running Room, Town Shoes and Echo Advertising for contributing to this event. A huge thanks to all the participants who made this event such a great success. Congratulations to Billy Berger and Frank Miller, Co-Chairs, and their great team of volunteers. We are looking forward to next year!

Start of 10K race

5K runners pass Mount Sinai Hospital

Nicholas Offord, President, Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation presents Dayl Marks, Manager, Sponsorships and Special Events of Scotiabank with a token of appreciation.

Time is running out... do you have your tickets yet?

Shaken Not Stirred is one of Toronto's most happening events. Come out and enjoy a special evening of great food, dancing, silent auction, and much more! Proceeds will support the Leadership Sinai Chair in Surgery and the Advanced Surgical Technology Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital.

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WHERE: Courthouse Chamber Lounge, 57 Adelaide Street East, Toronto

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RAFFLE: $10 per ticket

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12 Liberal MPs, senators urge shift in Mideast policy

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A dozen Liberal MPs and senators are asking the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) to "improve and refresh" its Mideast policy – in effect shifting to a more pro-Israel stance.

In a paper submitted to the department as part of its comprehensive review of foreign policy, the MPs advance a broad range of recommendations that would see Canada recognize Israel's legitimate need to fight terrorism, marginalize Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, end its use of the term "cycle of violence," and alter Canada's voting pattern on United Nations resolutions that single out Israel for criticism.

MP Joe Volpe

MP Art Eggleton

If adopted, the report suggests its recommendations would add "a number of corrections... in the current Canadian foreign policy towards the conflict... [by] bringing our policy up to date and resolving the inconsistencies between our stated policy and our implementation of that policy."

The policy paper states it "offers a comprehensive vision of proactive, Canadian Middle Eastern diplomacy in the 21st century and it gives hope to this region in turmoil."

The policy proposals were submitted by Toronto-area MPs Carolyn Bennett, Art Eggleton, Jim Peterson and Joe Volpe; Montreal-area MPs Raymonde Folco, Marlene Jennings, Bernard Patry, Irwin Cotler and Senator Leo Kolber; Winnipeg MP Anita Neville and Winnipeg Senator Richard Kroft; and Vancouver Senator Jack Austin.

The MPs represent ridings with the largest Jewish population concentrations in Canada.

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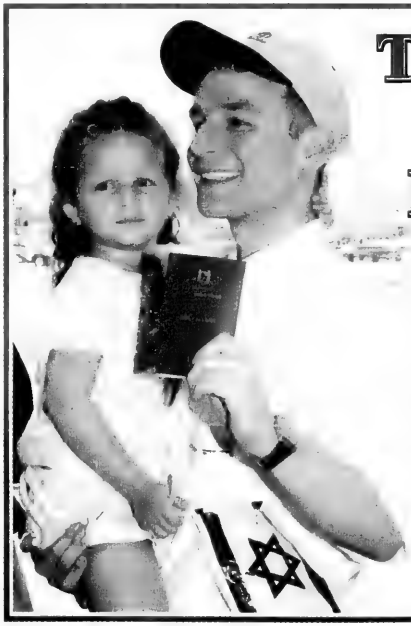

Nearly 1,000 North American Jews will realize their dream of making aliyah this summer with the help of Nefesh B'Nefesh, a U.S.-based organization that financially aids families wishing to immigrate to Israel. The first 500 olim arrived in Tel Aviv last Tuesday and were welcomed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Sallai Meridor, chair of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

[Israel photos]

Shabbat: Pinchas
Candlelighting: 8:37
Havdallah: 9:42

Greater Toronto Area

The CJN *is taking a vacation. Our next issue will be July 31.*

The News in Brief

CANADA

Abella Wins Award

TORONTO — Ontario Court of Appeal Judge Rosalie Abella was announced last week as the co-winner of an international prize for her contribution to breaking "barriers limiting women's participation in the legal system." She shares the $200,000 Justice Prize of the Peter Guber Foundation with retired judge Bertha Wilson, the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. The foundation is based in the U.S. Virgin Islands and is named for U.S. hedge fund manager Peter Gruber. Abella, 57, became Ontario's first Jewish woman judge in 1976 and headed a 1984 federal royal commission on equality in employment.

Tikkun Olam Mission

TORONTO — A group of Canadian professionals with expertise in street outreach and youth in distress completed a 10-day exchange program in Israel earlier this week. They were sent by Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee and while in Israel worked closely with Elem, an organization that works with street youth. The trip was to include visits to coffee shop counselling centres in Acco, Tel Aviv and Ramle, as well as working with youth in Jerusalem and discussions on poverty, volunteerism, addiction and counselling at Tel Aviv University.

ISRAEL

Foreign Enrolment Up

JERUSALEM — Overseas applications are up at Israeli universities. Tel Aviv University said it has already accepted more than three times as many students as last year into an English-language graduate studies program, *Ha'aretz* reported. The report said that applications to master's programs for overseas university students at Hebrew University in Jerusalem are also returning to pre-intifadah levels. Before the latest intifadah, some 340 students were enrolled in the programs through the Rothberg International School for Overseas Students, the report said.

WORLD

Troy Appointed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Bush administration has named domestic policy adviser Tevi Troy, brother of McGill University professor and new *CJN* columnist Gil Troy, as its new liaison to the Jewish community. Tevi Troy was a policy director for U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft when Ashcroft was a senator from Missouri and publicly defended him against criticism from Jewish leaders during Ashcroft's confirmation hearings for the attorney general post in 2001. Troy will retain his domestic policy portfolio. He replaces Adam Goldman, who earlier announced he was leaving for the private sector.

Tel Aviv Honoured

NEW YORK — Tel Aviv's "White City" architecture and Prague's Jewish Quarter have been designated as world heritage sites by UNESCO. The two Jewish sites were among 24 added earlier this month to UNESCO's list, which now includes 754 entries. Tel Aviv was recognized for its white, Bauhaus-style architecture.

Irving Film to be Shown

MELBOURNE — An Australian tribunal refused to block the screening of a 1993 film made by Holocaust denier David Irving. The president of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria, Michael Lipshutz, asked the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to grant an injunction to prevent the screening of the film at the Melbourne Underground Film Festival last week. Irving made the movie *The Search for the Truth in History* after a decision by the Australian government banning the Briton from entering the country. The film is believed to be the speech he intended to make at that time.

Mass Aliyah

NEW YORK — Some 500 North Americans making aliyah arrived in Israel last week, where they were welcomed by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Sallai Meridor, head of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which handles immigrant absorption. A second flight with 350 North Americans olim is to leave later this month. As well as an absorption package worth several thousand dollars that each immigrant will get from the Israeli government, many are receiving financial aid from Nefesh B'Nefesh, a private Florida-based group.

Jewish Leader Resigns Over Drug Charges

BERLIN — German Jewish leaders are supporting Michel Friedman, one of Germany's most prominent Jewish officials, after he announced he will pay a fine to close a cocaine possession investigation and will leave public life.

He "showed a certain human greatness" in his handling of the situation, said Salomon Korn, head of the Jewish community in Frankfurt, after Friedman's news conference last week, where he accepted the charges against him and said he is giving up his public posts. He also asked forgiveness from the public, his colleagues and his girlfriend.

As well as hosting two TV shows on public affairs, Friedman, 47, served as vice-president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany and president of the European Jewish Congress. He has agreed to pay a $19,000 (US) fine for 10 counts of cocaine possession.

Korn said Friedman has not damaged the German Jewish community's reputation.

The news of Friedman's transgressions broke June 11, when, prompted by testimony from two prostitutes in an unrelated court trial, police raided his Frankfurt home and law office, confiscating evidence they say turned out to be cocaine. Hair tests confirmed Friedman's use of the drug, police said.

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Same-sex marriage ruling recognizes diversity: activist

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Joanne Cohen predicts that some day, same-sex marriages will become as common as the bat mitzvah.

"Whereas the bat mitzvah used to be viewed as a scandal, it is now ubiquitous across Jewish life," says the first openly gay representative to Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

First openly gay rep to Congress speaks out

The co-ordinator of the Canadian Coalition of Liberal Rabbis for Same Sex Marriage, comprised of 25 Reform and Reconstructionist rabbis across Canada, Cohen, 40, is a published author whose recent chapter in the book *Queer Jews*, edited by David Shneer and Caryn Aviv, was recently nominated for a Lambda Literary Award for gay and lesbian writing. She is currently working on her PhD at York University, focusing on theories of law and society.

She applauds the governments of British Columbia and Ontario for recently endorsing the right for gay and lesbian couples to marry, and says it was she who brought the B.C. case to the attention of the rabbis' coalition in 2002.

"As the daughter of a Holocaust survivor, I was particularly alarmed to see the length to which the moral majority would go to fight same-sex secular marriage."

She arranged a meeting with the Greater Toronto Association of Reform Rabbis and convinced them to form an intervener group to present arguments in the B.C. and Ontario court cases.

She then applied for and obtained a $35,000 grant from the Court Challenges Program, a national non-profit organization set up in 1994 to provide financial assistance for court cases that advance language and equality rights guaranteed under Canada's Constitution, and went on to gain permission to present the rabbinic coalition's arguments to the courts.

The rabbis argued that they recognize the diversity of opinion on the issue of same-sex marriages, and that they support the right for clergy to choose whether or not to perform them, says Cohen.

"Recognizing that there is a choice does not force anyone to perform same-sex marriages," she says.

Joanne Cohen

The coalition believes the religious freedoms and equality rights of the clergy were impeded by the continued prohibition of same-sex marriage, says Cohen.

In the Ontario court case, the coalition's lawyer, Ed Morgan, a professor of international law and human rights at University of Toronto, argued that support of gay and lesbian families helps to strengthen the Jewish family in its diversity, and allows all community members to participate in the committed and loving relationships fostered by the Jewish faith.

"We received a judgement that was hands down," says Cohen.

The real importance of the case, says Cohen, who took more than a year off from her studies to prepare for it, is that "we are recognizing diversities at a time when the community needs to come together. It is only a matter of time, she says, before changes in secular society lead to changes in religious communities."

There is no justification for people's efforts to argue against the equal rights of gays and lesbians, she says. "We need to have respectful discussion, and provide education on this issue."

The challenge, Cohen says, is to overcome thousands of years of repudiation. "We are still dealing with catching up, but we are making progress. It has been an exciting time.

"I'm delighted and exhausted, and I wish the fights were not necessary, because we should not have to fight for our right to exist. I am honoured and humbled to be part of this change."

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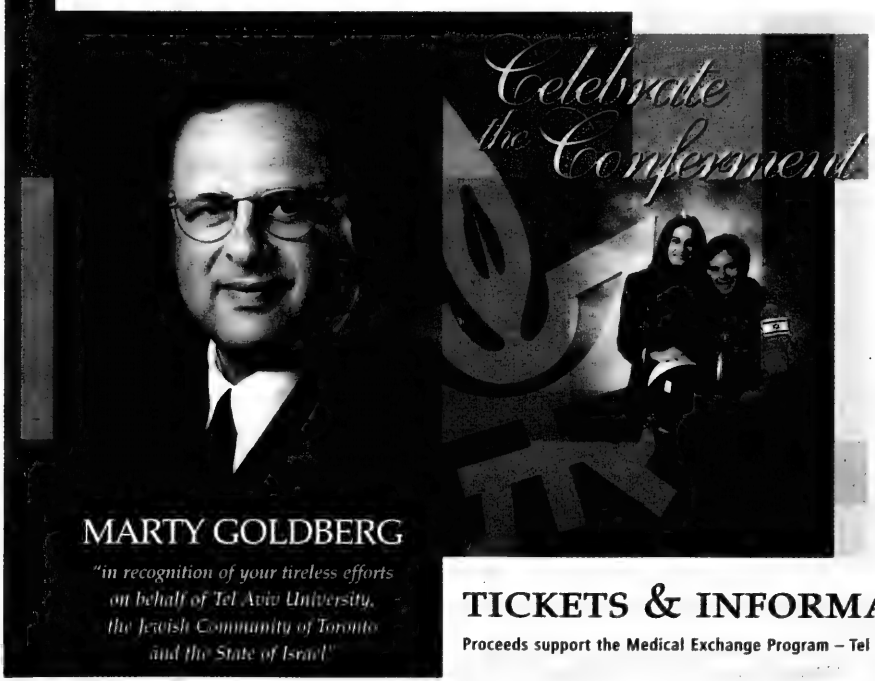
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Greater Toronto Area

Rhapsodic recollections

From the editor's desk

Recently in this space, I wrote about a small anthology of writing by and about the noted Israeli author Aharon Appelfeld, entitled, appropriately, *Encounter with Aharon Appelfeld*.

One of Appelfeld's most penetrating insights in the book concerned the way children, as opposed to adults, internalized the experience of the Holocaust.

"Children did not absorb the full horror, only that portion of it which children could take in," Appelfeld writes.

"Children lack a sense of chronology or of comparison with the past…

"Now we have a body of testimonies, oral and written, by child survivors, and they are different from the testimonies of the grown ups. Their testimony is closer to literature…

"[I]t was from them [the children] in the course of time that artistic expression arose."

For Solo Violin: A Jewish Childhood in Fascist Italy, A Memoir by Aldo Zargani, (Paul Dry Books, 2002) is one such recently published artistic expression. Beautifully written, powerful, Zargani's work is a spellbinding testament to the wisdom of Appelfeld's observations. Translated from the Italian *Per violino solo* by Marina Harss, Zargani's memoir is a veritable rhapsody of recollections.

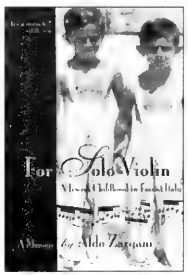
Zargani skillfully integrates history, custom, lore and theology with memories and observations he recalled through the wide-eyed vulnerability of his childhood.

His personal story before and during the war, of course, is also the story of Italian Jewry.

During World War II, some 7,500 Italian Jews were killed; approximately 28,000 Jews survived.

The fascist regime of Benito Mussolini enacted racial laws that discriminated against Jews, but Italy's entry into the war occasioned no physical threat to the security of the country's Jewish community. Although about 200 Jews were interned in concentration camps established by the Italian government along with several thousand Jews of foreign nationalities, there were no deportations to death camps nor any of the mass executions that were staining the villages and forests of eastern Europe dark red. By and large, the Italian people did not accommodate or co-operate with the annihilation of Jews.

The organized, methodical round-up, deportation and killing of Italian Jews did not begin until the summer of 1943 when the Mussolini government fell and surrendered to the advancing Allies. Italy was essentially cut in half. The Allies controlled the south; the Nazis controlled the centre and the north. It was only then that the Jews of Italy became as the Jews of eastern Europe – despised, hunted and murdered.



The Zargani family lived in Turin, in northwestern Italy. Nazis surrounded them.

Zargani's memoir of their survival, written more than a half century later, is a rich, poetic, deeply moving pastiche of cinematic-quality scenes. He introduces us to the colourful members of his family, to the many "ordinary," brave Italians whose resistance to the Nazis made the author's survival possible, and to the fabled northern Italian countryside whose sylvan landscape was as sheltering a sanctuary as were the generous individuals they met along the harrowing way.

Zargani is a gifted writer. His use of imagery is magical and he is able to develop a concept and expand upon it in multi-layered nuances. For example, Zargani recalls one of his schoolteachers in the following few words: "Miss Amar was an armoire from the shoulders to the hips, an armoire in a black dress from which emerged two, normal feminine legs."

As relief against the many remarkably portrayed, but inevitably sad details of the story, Zargani constantly relies upon his wry, deft sense of humour.

He describes an encounter with a troublesome, even dangerous playmate: "This child, who, like me, was eight or nine years old, was living proof of the power of DNA: he was perfidious, insinuating, pornographic, fascist and anti-Semitic. Just like his father. Thin, pale, neurotic, and elegant, he asked me one day, with a snakelike air, staring with his green eyes into my own and shaking bifurcated tongue, "Do you know where you people are circumcised?" And I answered, "Of course I know. In the lower back."

Episode by episode, with razor-sharp insight and achingly evocative descriptions, Zargani recalls the harrowing but ultimately redemptive passage of his family through those terrible war years. The tender core of that passage is the author's loving recall of his father, a concert violinist who was stripped of his career by the fascists and who strove with guts, guile and luck to keep his family safe from the ubiquitously encroaching evil.

Per violino solo was first published in Italy in 1995 and won several literary awards. It is an endearing testament to Appelfeld's acute assertion regarding the literature that is now emerging from children who survived the Holocaust. It is a wonderful book.

SeeJN

BEIT HALOCHEM CELEBRATES: Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel/Beit Halochem Canada, held "A Celebration of Life" concert last month at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. Seen are: second from left, Beit Halochem Canada president Toby Feldberg; beside her, Israel Consul General Meir Romem. Centre, from left, Beit Halochem Canada founder Bernie Weinstein, Belle Weinstein and Alex Eisen; far right, executive director Lisa Levy, with the Carmelim, a group of young Israeli performers. [David Levy photo]

Secular/haredi tensions in Israel will ease: author

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel is embroiled in a cultural war pitting secular Jews against haredim, but in a generation this struggle will ease, says the Israeli author of a new book on the subject.

Noah Efron

Noah Efron, a professor of history and philosophy at Bar Ilan University, writes that the vast majority of secular Jews hate haredim because they are blatantly trying to shape the fundamental character of the state.

And they are pushing for these changes even though they constitute a small proportion of the population.

"One of the few values shared by most secular Jews in Israel is rage aimed at the ultra-Orthodox," he observes in *Real Jews*, published by HarperCollins Canada.

In an interview to promote his book, Efron said the success the Shinui political party enjoyed in the last Israeli general election is symptomatic of the widespread discontent haredim have engendered in the country.

The anti-clerical party's leader, Joseph (Tommy) Lapid, harped on the theme that haredim had to be beaten back.

One in seven Israeli voters bought his argument and Shinui won 15 seats, making it the third largest party in the Knesset, said Efron, a 42-year-old modern Orthodox Jew and American who has lived in Israel for the past 20 years.

In his estimation, Lapid touched a raw nerve. "He was electrifying. People would clap and cheer."

Despite his downbeat assessment of the abysmal state of relations between secular and very religious Jews, Efron sees a ray of hope in the future.

"A generation from now, the tension will be much less severe. Haredim are becoming acculturated into secular Israeli society."

Citing a recent example, he referred to the landslide victory of a haredi candidate in Jerusalem's last mayoralty election. The victor, Uri Lupoliansky, promised to work on behalf of all the city's residents.

Still, Efron pointed out, haredim are often their own worst enemies.

"They have forced [taxpayers] to pay the bills for their values, which is unacceptable and untenable," he said, referring to haredi demands for financial assistance for their institutions and schools.

"This can't last. The country can't pay for it."

Haredim "do themselves a disservice by trying to impose values on the rest of us."

Efron, who describes himself as a liberal, said he expects Lapid, the justice minister, to modify the agreement that governs Israel's relations with the haredi community.

According to Efron, Lapid intends to pass legislation that will require haredi men to serve in the army or perform national service, eliminate the principle of preferential funding and remove haredi influence in such civil matters as marriage and divorce.

Efron rates his chances of achieving these objectives as good. "He will partially succeed."

The anemic state of Israel's economy is also working against the haredim, he noted, saying that Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has already cut child-care and yeshiva subsidies.

Efron suggested that the haredi community, which has a high birth rate and forms about 10 per cent of Israel's Jewish population, is generally misunderstood.

Through their political parties, haredim wield greater power than their numbers warrant. Yet they are less powerful than they are perceived.

"They are heartbroken at how little power they have," said Efron, whose late grandparents lived in the haredi enclave of Bnei Brak, near Tel Aviv.

BBYO LEADERS: **BBYO Lake Ontario Region recently elected the new N'Siah and Godol (presidents) for he 2003-2004 year. They are Marcel Nekbis, Godol; and Stephanie Fenyes, N'Siah. Planning for the upcoming program year is well underway. For more information on the Teen Connection program (teens in grades 7&8) or BBYO, call 416-398-2004.**

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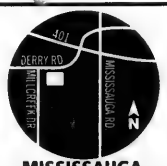

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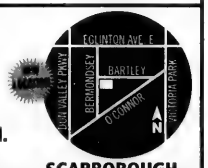

SCARBOROUGH

Jacob's Ladder seeks to raise awareness of disease

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Six-year-old Jacob Schwartz was born with Canavan disease, a rare, fatal, genetic condition that causes progressive mental and physical disabilities. There is no cure.

Children affected with Canavan disease are unable to sit, crawl, walk, eat or even speak. It is unlikely that Jacob will live past his 10th year.

Despite the difficulties they face, Jacob's parents, Ellen and Jeff Schwartz, created the organization Jacob's Ladder: The Foundation for Control of Neurodegenerative Disease, which has raised more than $600,000 in less than five years to advance the research into neurodegenerative diseases.

Jacob's Ladder is holding its first annual Family Fun Day fundraiser at Ontario Place on Sunday, July 27, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The Fun Day events will include clowns, magicians, jugglers, carnival games and many other special prizes and treats.

Among the featured guest artists will be children's entertainers Jack Grunsky, Kayla and Ralph the dog, The Stylamanders, Craig Douglas, The Travellers and others. "It's like a mini Woodstock for kids," Ellen said.

The foundation helps fund research at The Hospital for Sick Children, which the Schwartzes hope will lead to a treatment and a cure for Canavan disease. They have also broadened the mandate to provide funding to try to find a cure for other neurodegenerative diseases, including Tay Sachs, Familial Dysautonomia, Alzheimer's, Epilepsy, Parkinson's, Huntington's.

In an interview, his parents described Jacob as "a happy, gentle child." He requires ongoing, round-the-clock care.

"Jacob is a true miracle," Jeff said. "Although he cannot do more than recline and smile, he is bright-eyed and enjoys listening to music, swimming and playing. He is truly a joy to be with."

Jeff (above) and Ellen (at right) created Jacob's Ladder after their son was diagnosed with Canavan's Disease.

Ellen, a day school teacher and Jeff, a business entrepreneur are trying to help all those affected by these diseases. They said Jacob's Ladder has already achieved a critical goal in the area of disease prevention by introducing prenatal genetic screening.

"As a direct result of the initiatives taken and funds raised by Jacob's Ladder," Ellen said, "anyone at risk in Ontario can now be screened for Canavan disease at no cost, and we hope this will be available across Canada before long, which is a major step towards disease prevention."

Jeff explains that the three main goals of Jacob's Ladder are to make genetic screening available to at-risk population at no cost, to increase funding for research into therapies and potential cures, and to make the public more aware of this rare and devastating disease.

The funds raised also provide an international research prize for innovative research in neurodegenerative diseases. The recipient of the award presents his research to physicians from around Ontario at The Hospital for Sick Children.

Canavan disease affects parents of Ashkenazi families. Both parents contribute a defective gene to their child. Jeff and Ellen have two other healthy children, Beverly, 4, and Benjamin, six months old.

"Jacob is an inspiration to us because he is so disabled yet he enjoys his life more than anyone else. The journey we have taken has created stress and disappointment, but we are grateful that it has provided a positive contribution to help others in the future.

"We know it won't end up happy, but we enjoy every day with Jacob."

Tickets for the Jacob's Ladder Family Fun Day are $20, which includes access to Ontario Place. It is free for children under three. Tickets must be bought in advance by calling 416-597-5497 or visiting the Web site, www.jacobsladder.ca.

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LIONS SHARE: The Forest Hill Lions Club recently marked 50 years of community service by donating $10,000 dollars to the Zareinu Educational Centre in Toronto. Lions Club charter member and past president Mickey Snow (middle) made the presentation together with past presidents Sol Mednick, Allan Brown and Bert Jacobs, who is also a past district governor. The funds will be used to purchase specialty equipment and help provide vital and specialized therapies for children. From left, Mednick, Brown, Snow, Zareinu executive director Randy Spiegel and Jacobs.

Community challenged to live up to ideals

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Earlier this spring, during the Shavuot holiday, Ilana Etienne delved into the writings of the Kotzker rebbe, a 19th century Polish sage renowned for his vast body of knowledge.

Reading about the rebbe, she was struck by the high expectations he had of people and how there was something in the way he saw others that seemed kind of familiar.

She soon realized, "I'm a little Kotzker-ish in my views of how Jews should behave."

As Etienne gazes out on the Jewish community in Toronto, her Kotzker-ish nature emerges and she instinctively challenges the community to live up to its ideals and professed values. She asks, "who are you inviting in?" On what basis do you think Jews should all resemble the European stock which forms the majority of the local Jewish community?

Like the colourful artwork she paints and the Creole cooking that is her specialty, Etienne is also a mix of heritages and colours, but in the end, she's 100 per cent Jewish. Still, she knows that when other Jews see her for the first time, they're apt to assume she's not. "If I walk into a shul with a blonde, blue-eyed girl, people think she's the Jew and I'm not," Etienne said. "People are surprised that a Jew can be like me, 100 per cent kosher to the bone."

Ilana Etienne

A native of Moncton, N.B., Etienne is the daughter of Gerard Etienne, a Haitian-born author of 23 novels, and Netanya Feuerwerker, the daughter of a rabbi.

Being both Jewish and black, Etienne believes, enhances both experiences. "It's being more of something and that makes everything I experience in Judaism more intense. It's almost like knowing an extra language.

"Being black gives me an in into a world. It's music, art, dance, science. I'm seeing it from a different perspective. It's in my DNA.

"Because I have this black gene within me, I know that Jews in Europe were packed up because they were different."

Straddling both worlds, Etienne believes she possesses particular insights on assimilation, personal identity and acceptance.

The Jewish community in Toronto, she said, is in danger of adopting the way of thinking of the majority culture, and that can only lead to assimilation. This "homesteader culture," which views latecomers to the city as not really Canadian, ignores the fact that "Jews around the world are ethnic-looking people," she said.

She's experienced that attitude in her own life, where she finds that "in Toronto, people don't realize that mixed marriages are possible. They're stunned to hear that black Jews exist...I explain to people that God doesn't have a colour."

Etienne, who also goes by the nickname Mika, has a message for the Jewish community: to live up to its ideal of being a light unto the nations, Jews must disregard stereotypes they hold about each other.

During the Passover seder, she points out, your door must be opened and strangers allowed in. That's a fundamental precept of Judaism, she said.

Like other 20-somethings in Jewish Toronto, Etienne is interested in meeting her soulmate, but she finds the Jewish singles scene quite sad. "The same people who make stereotypes will do it regarding women, for their size or their salary," she said.

Moving to Toronto from Moncton, Etienne thought it would be easier to practice Judaism, remain pious and sanctify her home and family. Conservative by nature, Etienne sees too much idolatry in the lives of Jews – "with no God" in what they do.

In Moncton, life for her was sometimes difficult. Keeping kosher was always a challenge but more difficult was the kind of racism she experienced. "Being black was okay, being Jewish was not."

As an eight-year-old, she recalls, there were Nazi symbols and books in her school, which was where anti-Semitic author Malcolm Ross taught.

Here in Toronto, Etienne is working long hours in her brother Joel's law office. She's a popular speaker on black-Jewish relations and she feels she can serve as a role model for people in the Jewish community who might feel marginalized, like adopted children and agunot.

Often she'll refer to traditional Jewish texts, like the Book of Lamentations and Song of Songs, which she feels speak to the needs of Jewish women.

Song of Songs is particularly inspiring, she said. "In the love poetry the woman is so glorious, it's where women are at their best and that glory is given when a woman is respected, when a person finds it within to affirm themselves."

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The bully's rules: threats, blackmail

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas last week resigned from the Fatah central committee and threatened to resign as prime minister following a dispute with PA President Yasser Arafat and the Fatah ruling council over the way Abbas was conducting negotiations with Israel.

In partial response to Abbas' ultimatum, the Fatah central committee and various Arafat loyalists demanded that the powers of PA Security Affairs Minister Mohammad Dahlan be reduced. They further demanded that Dahlan's hold on the PA's interior ministry be relinquished and that all security matters be handled by the "national security council" that Arafat established after he appointed Abbas prime minister.

Last week, senior Hamas spokesperson Abdul Rantisi threatened to escalate violence against Israel unless the Jewish state released Hamas and Islamic Jihad prisoners being held in Israeli jails. Rantisi's threat followed by two days the suicide bombing by Islamic Jihad at Kfar Yavetz that killed 65-year-old Mazal Afari.

Hamas' spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, reinforced Rantisi's remarks by saying that Israel's unwillingness to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners could undermine the cease-fire and that Hamas' "patience has its limits."

On Thursday, Dahlan "urged" Israel to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners. He said this would be "vital" to bolster a shaky truce with those factions he called the "militants," such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Al Aqsa Martyrs and Tanzim.

Is it not so surreal as to be beyond belief that Israel is being asked to appease the very groups that are planning its demise? The logic is as absurd as the purposes are transparent. In order to bolster Abbas and Dahlan, the appeasers claim, Israel must comply with Hamas' blackmail. How Abbas will be able to assert more control over Hamas by actually strengthening Hamas' ranks is a mystery. How Abbas will be able to assert more control over Arafat by diminishing his own ability to rein in Hamas is a riddle.

How disappointing it is then, that the United States has joined those groups urging Israel's acquiescence to the "militants' demands.

U.S. special Mideast envoy John Wolf last week, among other things, called upon Israel to release more than the 320 Palestinian prisoners the cabinet recently approved. In response, Israel announced it would likely add some Hamas and Islamic Jihad members to the original figure, but only those not involved in the killing of Israelis.

In the murky world of Palestinian politics, one thing is clear: the bully always triumphs.

Unfortunately, because of the interwoven intricacies of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Israel is unavoidably swept up in the opacity of Palestinian politics. But Israel must not be expected, let alone forced, to submit to the bullying that is one of the chief hallmarks of those politics.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THE BUTCHER OF BAGHDAD IS FOUND?
THAT'S SIMPLE.
EUROPEAN DIGNITARIES WILL LINE UP TO KISS HIS CHEEKS AND SHAKE HIS HAND.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!!
AND THEIR MEETINGS WITH ARAFAT DO MAKE SENSE?

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Gratified by praise of Mulroney

It was a pleasure to read Morton Weinfeld's column on former Canadian prime minister Brian Mulroney ("The best prime minister – for the Jews," *CJN*, June 26). I can endorse his evaluation of Mulroney as "good for the Jews" from personal experience.

I first met Mulroney when he was leader of the Opposition. Canadian Jewish Congress executive vice-president Alan Rose and I went to see him about the problem of Nazi war criminals who had been living in Canada since the war.

His intense response surprised us. He told us he considered the war crimes question a deep moral issue and offered to raise it in the House of Commons if we did not get satisfaction from the Trudeau government. He also promised to deal with this issue if he became prime minister.

I must admit I didn't pay much attention to his promise. Promises by Opposition leaders are easy to give but difficult to honour once they achieve power. Joe Clark's promise to move the Israeli embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem was still fresh in my mind.

The next day, I got what I considered to be a satisfactory commitment from the Minister of Justice, so we never tested Mulroney's offer to raise the question in the House.

Unfortunately, the Liberal government dragged its feet and ended up doing nothing. When the Mulroney government set up a royal commission in 1984 to inquire into the presence of Nazi war criminals in Canada and to recommend measures to the government to deal with the problem, inter-ministerial correspondence was tabled, and we learned that the Liberal government had not been telling me the truth. In fact, they had decided to do nothing.

But after Mulroney became prime minister, he delivered on his promise to Rose and myself to an extent I could not have believed possible.

First of all, he appointed the royal commission without putting the question to Cabinet. Justice Jules Deschenes of Quebec was appointed to lead it.

Then his government made an astounding decision – it accepted Deschenes' recommendation to amend Canada's Criminal Code to allow prosecution of war criminals in our courts for crimes committed outside of Canada. We were the first country after Germany to amend its criminal law in this way.

Unfortunately, this initiative was frustrated by government bureaucracy, with the result that there have been no convictions under this section of the Code.

Other than the many Jews who were close to Mulroney, the Jewish public has not been aware of the high regard – even affection – he has had for our community.

So it is very gratifying to read Weinfeld's excellent comments in response to Mulroney's two recent speeches on anti-Semitism and Israel. It's about time we took public steps to rectify the historical record to honour one of our greatest friends in Canadian political life.

Milton Harris
Toronto

Response to Shainhouse 1

I read with amazement David Shainhouse's letter to the editor ("Tuition fees unavoidable," *CJN*, July 3). Shainhouse's analysis of the high cost of Jewish education at Associated Hebrew Schools is based almost entirely upon a dispassionate perception of reality. Contrary to Shainhouse's "viewpoint," a quantitative analysis of Associated's financial assistance files clearly dispels the notion that "subsidies are offered, but only for parents willing to beg for funds." The fact is that more than 70 per cent of applications for financial assistance are approved based solely on fulfilling the reporting requirements and the criteria set out by the Board of Jewish Education/UJA Federation, without the necessity of conducting an interview.

The allegation of "waiting until now to advise parents of the shortfall... (in community funding)...," is inconsistent with the fact that Associated's financial statements have been presented and approved at the annual general meeting of the corporation for decades.

While Shainhouse's point related to new programs introduced in the last six years at a substantial cost is well taken, the fact is virtually every new initiative implemented by the school was a result of a strategic plan approved by the board of directors based on input from dozens of focus groups made up of literally hundreds of parents, as well as other strategic partners.

Everyone who accepts the importance of Jewish literacy through formal Jewish education laments the fact that the cost of Jewish education has risen precipitously over the last decade. The notion that Associated should be exempt from underlying environmental forces (for example, uniform collective agreements with bargaining groups) that critically affect tuition increases throughout the day school system in Toronto and elsewhere is wishful thinking.

Shainhouse begins his letter by saying that "insults and old clichés (attributed to Associated's president Sheldon Carr) will not make the situation any better." Our conclusion: neither will unresearched allegations.

Arthur Landa
Executive Director, Associated Hebrew Schools
Toronto

* * *

Response to Shainhouse (2)

As co-chairs of the Associated Hebrew Schools tuition committee we are sorry to see misinformation being spread in David Shainhouse's letter about parents who receive subsidies not being asked to make sacrifices, while those who pay the full fee must forego vacations, summer camps and planning for retirement. This is simply false.

The inference that those receiving financial assistance are getting away with living a comfortable lifestyle without sacrificing the very things that Shainhouse lists is a dangerous canard that pits one group of parents against another without any knowledge of the facts. All applicants for assistance are asked to make sacrifices within strict guidelines prepared by the Board of Jewish Education and the sacrifices of all Jewish parents in sending their children to day schools should be equally recognized.

James Klein and Mark Zigler
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

A year to remember

By MINNA F. WOLF

Despite the 2½-year crisis in Israel, which has dramatically reduced the number of tourists to the Jewish state, many young adults continue to enrol in year-long educational programs there.

Students who came to Israel during the 2001-2002 school year encountered one of the worst periods in the young state's recent history, marked by an increase in the number and intensity of suicide bombings. The situation hit its low point during Pesach, when Jerusalem, normally full of holiday visitors, turned into a ghost town. Yet the majority of students on year-long programs completed their studies. Who were the students who arrived in Israel when many of their peers chose to opt out? What structures were in place to help them survive emotionally during the more difficult times of terror and complete their programs?

'Five factors helped participants remain and complete their programs in Israel'

As part of an effort to answer these questions, the research and development unit of the department of Jewish Zionist education of the Jewish Agency commissioned Sharon Kangisser Cohen and me, both doctoral students at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, to conduct a study on North American students in Israel during the 2001-2002 school year. We interviewed directors and students of four different programs: Project Otzma, Hebrew Union College, Young Judaea's year course and Midreshet Lindenbaum. The participants came to Israel for ideological, religious, professional and personal reasons: to learn or study with particular scholars, to explore the land and the people, or to fulfil academic requirements. They also came to volunteer, to explore personal options in Israel or to take time off from hectic lives. In addition to having varying goals, they were of different ages and came from different backgrounds. Nonetheless, they all shared similar experiences. The research indicates five factors that helped participants remain and complete their programs in Israel, despite the surrounding tension.

Support from the institutions

Participants needed to feel "looked after" and "cared for" by their programs during periods of crisis. During these intervals, students relied heavily on the guidance of their program's administrators to address their informational and emotional needs. Recognizing the students' inability to follow the local news (due to limited Hebrew skills), institutions provided English news resources and direct updates and staff briefed students on current events, especially after attacks. Staff supported students' emotional needs by offering to speak with parents directly, by providing access to psychologists and social workers at the institution's expense, and by making themselves available to students who needed encouragement.

As one young man noted, "When you hear a madrichah say, 'I'm scared, too, I am dealing with this, too, and it is hard to be here,' it makes you feel it is okay to go through this, to express fears, to not go out, to feel these things."

Support from families abroad

The attitude of parents played a significant role in the students' decision to come and to stay in Israel, regardless of the students' age. Parents also played an important role in how participants dealt with their emotions. In cases where parents were unsupportive, students constantly felt stressed, placating their concerned families while simultaneously trying to cope with the pressure of being in Israel under trying circumstances. One young woman said, "I have always told them everything, but now I leave things out, or I feel guilty when I am doing things... It is the first time I have felt I have to look out for my parents instead of them looking out for me, to make them feel safe and dumb it down to make them feel better about it."

Overseas students on campus at Tel Aviv university. [Photos courtesy CFTAU]

These students were much more likely than those with supportive parents to leave Israel before their programs ended. In contrast, students whose parents supported their decisions were most likely to complete their programs.

In the words of one young woman, "I was glad that they were always supportive... because I think that was a big part of my year...being able to talk over everything with my parents and not having to deal with them saying, 'Maybe you should just come home,' or them not at all supporting what I was doing. That definitely helped in being here."

Visits by parents during the school year were generally successful in increasing the level of support for children. Students themselves saw that "the people that have problems dealing with their parents on the security level are those parents who had not been to Israel before or didn't come to Israel this year."

Another student mentioned that when her father came to visit, "He saw that the situation was not as bad as they thought."

Interpersonal connections with Israelis

The more involved participants became with Israeli society, the more they felt a sense of belonging rather than a sense of isolation. Seeing that even Israelis were afraid and needed to find ways to cope with the terrorism, many participants felt better about their own fears and struggles in deciding where they should or should not go. Their Israeli relatives advocated for them with their families in North America, and helped them negotiate boundaries of safety – that is, determining where to go and what to do. One student who spent much time with her relatives said, "I trust them in terms of security of where they would like to go, even if it is contrary to the [program's] restrictions."

Feeling part of Israel's destiny

In the process of discussing and negotiating with their parents about coming to Israel for a year, some students began to grasp the extent of their commitment to the Jewish state and how important it was for them to spend the year here. One woman said, "Only at the point where they said I couldn't go did I realize how badly I wanted to go... I just explained that it was imperative that I go to Israel, like I owe it to myself, to Israel."

Ongoing negotiations with parents, combined with the experience of being in Israel during a period of insecurity and hardship, allowed students to develop a strong allegiance to Israel and a greater understanding and closeness to Israelis.

'Chance to discover what it means to be a Zionist'

One young woman said, "Because of all the stuff going on, and [seeing] my teachers going to *milu'im* [army reserve duty], I saw what it means to have a commitment to something. I learned about myself that I stayed here through this... I never would have thought that I could do something like that... I definitely think that I am much more committed to coming back here [because] you really realize how much each person makes a difference here and each person's presence sort of uplifts other people."

Trusting oneself in negotiating boundaries of safety

In addition to relying on information given to them, participants also followed their own instincts in negotiating boundaries of safety. Students spoke about just doing what made them feel comfortable, and most agreed that the best thing they can do is to create boundaries and say, "This is what I feel comfortable with."

For some, this meant not taking buses, while others took buses but avoided cities or city centres at particular times of the day or week. For most, feeling comfortable meant avoiding crowded areas and making sure there were security guards at places they frequented. Students also spoke about doing things that were "scary" if they deemed them "appropriate and necessary" to the goals they had set out to accomplish while in Israel.

In describing what they considered important in creating boundaries, students exuded a sense of confidence that developed as they became more accustomed to their surroundings. Still, they understood that their boundaries were somewhat arbitrary. One student said, "I can't expect my boundaries to be rational because I am judging something completely irrational." As time passed, students accepted this level of uncertainty within their everyday lives.

Although bringing young people to study in Israel during periods of violence and insecurity is a difficult endeavour for all those involved, students on year-long programs during the 2001-2002 school year emphasized the positive aspects of being in Israel in a time of crisis. Those who had been in the country during more tranquil times agreed that they encountered a "different Israel" than before, but they felt that being in Israel during a crisis afforded them several unique opportunities. Many students said the situation gave them a chance to discover what it means to be a Zionist or what it means to be truly committed to the Jewish state. One woman suggested that experiencing an insecure period makes any future peace agreement "so much sweeter for us [because] we'll truly understand what it means."

Other participants spoke about the wealth of opportunities for intimate encounters and relationships with Israelis. In describing the significance of his year, one young man said, "The more someone talks to me, finds out what we did, why I came, what I received being here this year, they understand that it was worth it and I might not have gotten half of what I did out of this year if it wasn't for being in the country the way it is."

Minna Wolf is a doctoral student at the Melton Centre for Jewish Education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

What worries me

Once again, Israel is frequently in the news and, as happens so often, the newscasts rarely have anything good to report. The image of Israel that is conveyed to the world is thoroughly unattractive: it features both internal and external conflicts. But the Israel I know and love has made wonderful achievements, has a strong education system and, above all, has survived successfully in an area of the world that would rejoice in seeing the Jewish state disappear altogether.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

This worries me no end. I am not afraid that Israel will be unable to withstand the pressures to which it is exposed. My fear is of a different kind: I worry not so much about the people of Israel as I worry about the Jewish people worldwide. In various conversations I have had with members of the Diaspora Jewish community, I have detected a note of troublesome fatigue. The old sense of firm resistance – expressed by the Hebrew phrase *im kol zeh*, "despite everything" – is heard less often nowadays, and I would like you, dear reader, to ask yourself whether you have yielded to the negative pressure of our environment. Are you silent when negative thoughts and feelings are expressed, or do you voice your own confidence – if indeed you have it, as I hope you do?

Yes, these are difficult and often troublesome times. But trouble is nothing new for Israel and the Jewish people. We have always managed to stand up against inimical forces and prevail. I like to think that we have not lost that capacity. I would welcome your response to this, how you react to the onslaught of negative news reports. Have you done anything about it?

I know that you would like to help correct the negative impressions these reports about Israel create. It will take only a small amount of your time to write a brief note to an offending publication and tell its editor that there are people who want to read the truth and not a repetition of someone's prejudice. You don't have to compose a whole megillah; all that is needed is a brief but clear expression of your opinion, backed up with relevant facts.

To write a brief but meaningful note supporting Israel and signing your name to it is a true mitzvah. There is a possibility you may have to express yourself in a less-than-friendly environment, but remember that our people need you to stand up straight and express the sense captured in the phrase *ani kahn*: "Here I am, ready to do my share."

So much for vacation...

Summer is in full swing and that usually means things have screeched to a grinding halt on campuses and at educational institutions everywhere.

We finally have time to do the things we've always wanted to do: read soul-inspiring books, go for windswept bicycle rides by the nearest body of water (cycling hard enough to narrowly escape accompanying mosquitoes by said body of water), and sit down to write that masterpiece we dream of creating, but keep putting off for whatever reasons seem plausible at the time.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

Yet somehow it never works that way for me, though my intentions are always good to begin with.

I vowed to re-read through some of my all-time favorite novels – literary classics everyone should read at least once: *High Fidelity*, *Flowers for Algernon*, and the incredible, life-changing epic by Holocaust survivor and renowned psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning*.

In scrapbooks with spines still stiff from not being cracked open, I put aside recently acquired doubles of all my photos from programs I've participated in, including Birthright and Do the Write Thing, a conference for Jewish journalism students and young professionals, as well as a General Assembly conference I attended in Washington, D.C.

But between going to weddings of old friends, working 12-hour days at a job where the bulk of my paycheque is handed over to the government and searching for my first apartment, I'm finding it hard to keep track of – much less organize– my memories.

Yet I feel lucky to be a student in Calgary – we have the highest employment rate in the country and a market that is very kind to those looking to rent a new home.

Wait a second… did I just use the word "kind"? Maybe I should take that back.

In the search for my first apartment, the first place I went to go see was a basement suite owned by a "sweet little old lady," I was assured by people who knew her.

But the suite turned out to be more like a hole. The door to the house opened and an 85-year-old woman resembling Gollum from *Lord of the Rings* came down the stairs to give me the grand tour.

There was no kitchen and the ceiling was unfinished, but the last straw was the stained mattress in the bedroom. When I said I would be bringing my own bed, the lady said, "No, that's not going to work for me. There's no sense wasting a perfectly good mattress."

The next advertisement I saw was for a "quiet young woman to share our quaint 1910 character home with."

Great, I thought to myself. I love quaint character homes. So I dropped by, only to find that there were four women sharing what looked like what was once a nice quaint character home but was now a pigsty.

"I have a cat – is that okay?" asked one of the women showing me around the house.

"Oh yeah, I don't have any allergies or anything," I said.

"But did my roommates tell you about my allergies?" she asked, and I shook my head no, warily.

"Well, I'm allergic to all shampoos, perfumes and soaps – do you use any of those things?" she asked.

Well, I like to wash myself as much as the next person, but I only wear perfume on special occasions, I replied.

"Do you mind if I smell you?" she asked, then leaned over and took a gigantic whiff before I could reply.

She exclaimed, "Wow, you're not very scented at all! I guess you'll do."

Since I did not plan on subjecting myself to being smelled every time I walk out of the house, I politely told her that this arrangement was not going to work for me.

"Well, give us a call if you change your mind! There are other options, you know," she said hopefully.

Yeah, like her moving out and my moving in, perhaps, I thought as I smiled weakly and bolted out the door.

All in a day's work, I suppose, though at the end I found myself drained of energy. Apparently the term "summer vacation" is an oxymoron. Though I'm not Orthodox, I'm discovering there is a great deal of good sense in keeping the Sabbath as a day of rest.

For somewhere in my room a forgotten bicycle is calling my name…

Barbara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

Leaving home in order to find it

It is always a challenge to come home from vacation. Returning to work and routine is no fun, but you have to do it.

I have been home from Israel for a week now, but as I can still taste the falafel on the tip of my tongue, I find myself suffering from a bad case of culture shock. Leaving Israel was very much like leaving home. I was stepping out of a life in which I fit so well.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

After a month of travel and 10 days on a Birthright trip, I settled (pardon the word choice) in Jerusalem. In my own apartment, I quickly found myself at home in "real life" living. Grocery shopping, running errands and going about my daily business, I was immersed in the daily flow of things. And as a student at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, my days were filled with learning.

I always have difficulty classifying Pardes. It is best described as a pluralistic and liberal beit midrash/yeshiva. It is a place where Jews from all religious and educational backgrounds come to learn. Through the Tanach and Talmud, liturgy and Jewish thought, a group of divergent individuals connect with their common heritage.

My month of learning was a composite of eye-opening, revelatory experiences. With each successive day and class, I came to look at the material I was studying, and more importantly, myself, through changing eyes. As I learned and acquired textual skills and knowledge, my mind opened up and my attitude and perceptions changed in ways I never could have predicted.

Learning from teachers of all Jewish backgrounds and philosophies, and with students of so many different outlooks and ideologies, I quickly began evaluating myself, looking to understand where exactly I was coming from and where I was going.

During my month in Jerusalem, I found myself free of the monotony of a "normal" life and thus removed from its comfort. Through that departure, I experienced a transformation. That experience and its significance was reflected in the very text I was studying.

Every morning, my chevrutah partner and I would sit and dissect the words of Bereshit in the beit midrash. Focusing on the story of Avraham Avinu, we looked to Lech Lecha and the messages it conveys. One of the first questions asked in the class was why must Avraham leave his land, his birthplace, and the house of his father in order to wholly begin his journey before and toward God?

A personal reading seemed to make things clear. Sometimes we have to escape our surroundings to allow ourselves to change. When we remain in our "home" environment, happily confined to our comfort zone, it becomes easy to accept the givens. Life is so hectic, so static, that it is only natural to become complacent about both the state of the things that surround us and our own selves.

Avraham had to leave his home – his land, his birthplace and his family – but in leaving all that, he found something far greater. He had to leave his physical home in order to find the real home he needed.

Back in Canada, I found myself trapped. I had left a new home that felt so right and comfortable for the home I have always known and loved. It never ceases to amaze me that through leaving the comfortable, one gains so much. It is as if you need to step outside of things in order to truly stop and see the whole picture and decide if it matches the vision you hold of it.

Since I cannot simply pick up and move to Israel tomorrow, the challenge that lies before me is to try and meld the two worlds. After stepping outside of life in its normalcy, the struggle comes in stepping back in without retreating to the way things were. It is far less of a challenge to open your eyes and see the big picture from a distance, but it is far more difficult to retain that vision from up close. The goal is to retain a balance; with a modified goal comes a modified journey.

The Kirshner File

A cornucopia of books...

It's summer, time to sit back and read a good book (and enjoy the balmy weather).

Ahron Bregman's *A History of Israel* (Palgrave) is a useful primer. He starts with the 1897 Zionist Congress in Basle and concludes with the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising. Bregman builds his narrative by fleshing out three grand themes: Jewish immigration, Israel's wars and Israel's quest for peace.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

A recently re-issued version of Walter Laqueur's classic, *A History of Zionism* (Random House), touches all the bases: the philosophical underpinnings of the movement, the contributions of early ideologues such as Theodor Herzl and Nathan Birnbaum (who coined the term Zionism), the settling of the land and the campaign for statehood.

Traditions and Transitions in Israel Studies (State University of New York Press) unfolds through the medium of erudite essays by specialists and covers a great deal of territory. Among the topics: the 1956 Sinai war, Palestinian Arabs in Israel, post-Zionism and the peace process. Neil Caplan, one of the editors, teaches at Vanier College in Montreal. Norman Spector, Canada's former ambassador to Israel, writes about the Arab-Israeli conflict and the new era of international terrorism in *Chronicles of a War Foretold* (Douglas & McIntyre). In *Terrorism: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press), Charles Townshend puts the problem in perspective.

Albert Hourani's re-issued *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Harvard University Press) treats this complex subject with empathy and balance. Hourani's observations concerning pivotal events – from the rise of Islam to the ascendancy of Arab nationalism – are penetrating. *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam* (Oxford University Press), edited by John Esposito, is comprehensive yet accessible. *Islam: Religion, History, and Civilization* (HarperCollins), by Seyyed Hossein Nasr, deals clearly with a cascade of relevant issues. In *Means of Escape* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), seasoned war correspondent Philip Caputo vividly recalls his experiences in, among other hot spots, the Middle East.

Walter Pitman's *Louis Applebaum: A Passion for Culture* (The Dundurn Group) chronicles the late Canadian composer's life. And in a fine work of scholarship, Henry Abramson, a Canadian historian who teaches at Florida Atlantic University, delves into the troubled relationship between Jews and Ukrainians in *A Prayer for the Government* (Harvard University Press). Abramson focuses on the tumultuous period from 1917 to 1920, when a short-lived Ukrainian state, buffeted by anarchy, tried but failed to protect its Jewish citizens from rampaging pogromists. At a Winnipeg conference in the mid-1990s, Jews, Ukrainians and Mennonites gathered to reflect on their similarities and differences. *A Sharing of Diversities* (Canadian Plains Research Center) contains a selection of the papers delivered there.

The Oxford History of Byzantium (Oxford University Press), edited by Cyril Mango, traces the rise and fall of a far-flung empire. Mango claims that in its treatment of minorities, Byzantium was less tolerant than Islam and treated its Jews with contempt. Isaac Luria, the great Jewish mystic, comes alive in the pages of Lawrence Fine's *Physician of the Soul, Healer of the Cosmos* (Stanford University Press). Luria is inextricably linked with Safed, the Galilee town that spawned an impressive array of kabbalists.

Avraam Uri Kovner (1842-1909) was an author and critic who typified the struggle of assimilated Jews to integrate into Russian society, but who was ultimately ostracized by both communities. Harriet Murav, in *Identity Theft* (Stanford University Press), analyzes this curious figure from the past. How did the culinary traditions and habits of the Jews, the Italians and the Irish enhance their respective identity in the United States? Hasia Diner, in *Hungering for America* (Harvard University Press) elaborates on this theme in inventive fashion.

Jews have played a markedly disproportionate role in America's entertainment industry, having been closely identified with movies, radio and television. *Entertaining America* (Princeton University Press, by J. Hoberman and Jeffrey Shandler, explores this theme through punchy essays, arresting photographs and graphic posters.

Ruth Harriet Louise, who was born Ruth Goldstein, photographed the creme de la creme of Hollywood royalty from 1925 to 1930. In *Ruth Harriet Louise and Hollywood Glamour Photography* (University of California Press), Robert Dance and Bruce Robertson chronicle her brief career and showcase her stunningly sensual photographs.

In *Civility in the City* (Harvard University Press), Jennifer Lee, a Korean-American sociologist, zeroes in on an untouched topic: the relationships between Jewish, Korean and Afro-American merchants and their black customers in New York and Philadelphia. Lee's stock-in-trade is separating myth from reality.

When chassidic Jews opened a kosher slaughterhouse just outside a small town in Iowa, this rustic pocket of America was never the same again. With verve, Stephen Bloom, a gifted writer, tells of this clash of cultures in *Postville* (Harvest).

The Rebbe's Army (Random House), by Sue Fishkoff, is a discerning and empathetic portrait of Chabad Lubavitch. Ruth Gruber, the first newspaper reporter to cross the Soviet Arctic, recalls her student days in pre-Nazi Germany and her early years as a foreign correspondent in *Ahead of Time* (Carroll & Graff). *The JPS Guide to Jewish Women* (The Jewish Publication Society) profiles the role of outstanding Jewish women through the ages.

In *Resilience and Courage* (Yale University Press), Holocaust survivor and sociologist Nechama Tec compares the coping strategies women and men used in confronting Nazi terror. Yet another exemplary work by Tec. The Struma, bound for Palestine, was sunk by a Soviet submarine in 1942 after Turkey ordered it out of its territorial waters. All but one of the passengers, Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in Romania, drowned after it capsized. *Death on the Black Sea* (HarperCollins), by Douglas Frantz and Catherine Collins, relates the tragic story of the Struma and the valiant effort of a Jewish diver to salvage it from its watery crypt. *Sole Survivor* (Oxford University Press) is the incredible saga of a Chinese sailor who clung to a raft for 133 days after his ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat in 1942.

Irenka Licht, a Jewish girl from Poland, survived the Holocaust disguised as a Catholic. Licht, now Theresa Cahn-Tober, remembers the fear and confusion of her childhood in a remarkable memoir, *Hide and Seek* (University of New Mexico Press). Apart from Denmark, Bulgaria was the only German-occupied country whose Jewish citizens were not turned over to the Germans. Tzvetan Todorov explains why in *The Fragility of Goodness* (Princeton University Press), a nuanced account of courage and calculation. *Image and Remembrance* (Indiana University Press), edited by Shelley Hornstein and Florence Jacobowitz of York University, intelligently examines the ways in which the Holocaust is represented in monuments, memorials, movies, photography, painting and architecture.

The death throes of the Third Reich in the final months of World War II is the subject of Anthony Beevor's *The Fall of Berlin* 1945 (Viking), a first-rate book based in part on newly opened archives. *Shadow Enemies* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), by Alex Abella and Scott Gordon, is a fast-paced account of Nazi Germany's plot to wreak havoc on key installations, train stations and Jewish department stores in the United States.

And in general... The granddaddy of all reference books, *Who's Who 2003* (Raincoast), is filled to the brim with more than 32,000 concise biographies of personalities from all walks of life. It will be of interest to anyone who follows the news. *The Internet Handbook for Writers, Researchers and Journalists* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside) is a godsend, not only for professionals but for students. Keep it close at hand.

Going down the road... The season for exploring old and new destinations is upon us. Let's start with a cautionary note. *The World's Most Dangerous Places* (Raincoast), by Robert Young Pelton, alerts travellers to the myriad perils lurking beyond their doorsteps and lists countries to be avoided at all costs. The advice is dispensed in a no-nonsense style. As a companion volume, consider *The Travel Doctor* (Firefly Books), a sensible compendium that covers all situations.

Lonely Planet guidebooks, distributed by Raincoast Books, are extremely handy. *Miami & and the Keys* introduces you to Miami's must-see attractions, the upper, middle and lower Keys, the Everglades and Fort Lauderdale. *Florida* tells the rest of the story. *Los Angeles Condensed* zeroes in on interesting neighbourhoods, golden beaches, swanky restaurants and alluring wilderness preserves. *Las Vegas* is your ultimate guide to a neon oasis. *Arizona* gives you the lowdown on stunning desert vistas, exquisite national parks and native American culture. *Hawaii: The Big Island* is big on outdoor activities from swimming to surfing. The eighth edition of *Canada* is packed to the gills with facts, maps and evocative photos. *Quebec* offers insights into a beautiful destination. *New York City* fills in the blanks about the most exciting city in North America. *Costa Rica* and *Jamaica* explain why this Central American republic and this Caribbean island are so worth visiting. *Mexico's Pacific Coast* concentrates on such favourites as Acapulco, Puerto Vallarta and Mazatlan. *New Zealand* is an excellent primer on a captivating country. *Delhi* celebrates a colourful, frenetic city, while *Rajasthan* highlights one of India's greatest regions. *Bangkok Condensed* and *Singapore Condensed* are portraits of fascinating southeast Asia cities. *East Coast Australia* homes in on vibrant towns and unrivalled coral reefs. Have a good vacation.

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Writing while running from the Cossacks

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Roots & Remembrance

Born about 1620 in Ostrog, Volhynia, Rabbi Nathan Hanover, along with his family, was among the countless Jews in Ukraine and eastern Poland whose lives were disrupted by the Chmielnicki massacres of 1648 and the intermittent attacks that continued for years after.

Author of several books, Rabbi Hanover's most famous work by far is *Yeven Metzulah* ("The Abyss of Despair"), a graphic and gripping account of the horrors that occurred in Ukraine and eastern Poland when Bogdan Chmielnicki led the Cossacks into attack.

Tatars from the Caucaucus region joined the Ukrainians in their nationalistic rebellion against the Polish nobility and their largely Jewish landlords. By conservative estimates, tens of thousands of Jews were slaughtered and many Poles also died.

In 1648, Rabbi Hanover was living in his wife's town of Zaslaw, one of the first places to be hit. He and his family fled but most of the town's Jews, including his father-in-law, were killed. While on the run, he learned that his own father had also been killed in a Cossack raid on Ostrog.

A gifted orator, Rabbi Hanover supported his family as an itinerant preacher. Wandering through eastern Poland and Ukraine, he spoke with refugees from many ravished communities and heard many horrific stories.

In Ostropol, Rabbi Samson exhorted the community to repent of their sins so the town would be spared from attack. The community followed his advice but, Rabbi Hanover writes, "the evil decree had already been sealed." In Polannoe, he says, thousands died like lambs without fighting back: "A single Ukrainian invading a dwelling which housed several hundred Jewish persons would kill all of them and would meet no resistance."

In Tulczyn, the Ukrainians assembled the Jews in an enclosed garden, where several rabbis exhorted the community not to abandon their faith. Three times the Cossacks invited the Jews to convert and save themselves, but not one Jew took up the offer and some 1,500 perished.

In some towns, women escaped certain rape by jumping into moats surrounding the fortress walls; many drowned or were shot or stabbed in the water. Rabbi Hanover tells of a beautiful maiden from a wealthy family whom a Cossack forced to become his wife. Convincing him that she possessed a certain magic and that no weapon could harm her, she urged him to shoot her. He did "and she fell and died for the sanctification of the Name, to avoid being defiled by him, may God avenge her blood."

As the invaders besieged one village after another (more than 700 in total), the villagers fled. "Whoever had a horse and cart travelled in it. Those who did not possess a horse and cart, even though they had sufficient money to buy them, would not wait, but took wife and children by the hand and fled on foot, casting away all belongings." Rabbi Hanover describes roads clogged for miles, the air charged with wild rumours and panic.

Rabbi Hanover's somewhat embellished historical account stands as the most enduring memorial to both himself and the destroyed communities it describes. (The above quotations are taken from Abraham Mensch's English translation, published by Transaction Books in 1983.)

For centuries before 1648, Jews had been moving eastward into Poland and Turkey from Spain, Alsace and the Rhineland. After 1648, the eastward trend was reversed. Many historians argue that the Chmielnicki massacres set the stage for the emergence of the false messiah Shabbetai Tzvi about 1666, as well as the revolutionary chassidic movement of the next century.

Patron of the golden age

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Through A Sephardi Window

The period from the mid-10th century until 1400 is often referred to as the golden era of Spanish Jewry. The beginning of this era can be traced to one individual, Chasdai Ibn Shaprut. In his time, Spain was no longer Catholic, as all but the northernmost territories had been conquered by the Muslims of North Africa.

In the 10th century, the entire territory was under the rule of a powerful and charismatic leader, Caliph Abdel al Harachaman. He succeeded in consolidating the newly captured provinces under his rule, a situation that continued until his passing in 961. His home and capital was the city of Cordoba.

Abdel al Harachaman was not only an astute politician but also a liberal and enlightened individual. Under his sponsorship, the arts and sciences flourished in Muslim Spain. This caliph chose as his personal physician a Jew by the name of Chasdai Ibn Shaprut. In medieval times, Muslim rulers also entrusted their physicians with administrative and political responsibilities. The position was highly regarded, considered as a combination of guru, confidant and soothsayer.

Chasdai Ibn Shaprut gained the full trust of the caliph, and the two men set out to develop the kingdom. The caliph soon elevated Chasdai Ibn Shaprut to the highest level of his cabinet. A visible Jew, he was sent by the caliph to be his personal representative in the northern territories to negotiate treaties between Muslims and Christians. Chasdai Ibn Shaprut also used his position of power and wealth as a diplomat with connections all the way to the caliph to further the cause of his brethren.

In the same way that the caliph nurtured the development of knowledge, Chasdai Ibn Shaprut became a patron of Torah scholarship in fields as diverse as biblical grammar, poetry, mathematics and astronomy.

The imprint of Chasdai Ibn Shaprut in his broad and scientific approach to the world of nature, his love of beauty and art and, of course, Torah scholarship set the agenda for the next era known as that of the Rishonim.

His influence remains until today in defining a unique Sephardi outlook.

Indeed it can be said that one of Chasdai Ibn Shaprut's accomplishments was that he became a prototype for many courtiers who followed thereafter, and for men of nobility who used their position and power to advance their community. His influence remains until today in defining a unique Sephardi outlook. Hence, the name of Chasdai Ibn Shaprut is venerated as one of the first and noblest names of Spanish Jewry.

Jewish Life

The grand dream of King James

***God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible*, by Adam Nicolson, HaperCollinsPublishers, 2003, $38.95.**

When James VI of Scotland ascended to the throne of England in 1603 as James I, there were two competing Christian bibles: the Bishops' Bible, preferred by the church authorities, and the Geneva Bible, the favourite of the people.

Books
Bernard Baskin

The Bishops' Bible was royalist and anti-puritan: the Geneva Bible was explicitly anti-royalist. James, a great lover of language, and no mean diplomat, seized the opportunity to bring his people together by decreeing a new translation. He had a grand dream of forging a harmoniously united realm out of the faction-ridden one he inherited from Elizabeth I. Of course, no such thing happened. Dissent and disunity continued unabated and would eventually spill over into civil war.

The king called together a group of theologians and churchmen at Hampton Court in January 1604. Fifty-four "learned men" were divided into six panels: three for the Old Testament, two for the New Testament, and one for the Apocrypha. They began their work in 1606, meeting at Oxford, Cambridge, and Westminster Abbey.

The esteemed translators were a highly diverse group of writers, poets and scholars. The author provides a colourful depiction of many of these personalities, with all their faults. Although their collective expertise in biblical languages and related fields has never been matched, they were fallible human beings: muddled, sometimes drunk, self-serving, ambitious, pedantic and not above a kind of scholarly ruthlessness.

This gaggle of fifty animated translators pored over the Greek and Hebrew texts, comparing the accuracy and felicity of previous translations, arguing with each other over the finest details of chapter and verse.

Nine-tenths of the words they chose were of Saxon derivation, and, surprisingly, the translation has a vocabulary of only 8,000 words. Taking into account the translations of their predecessors, especially the martyred William Tyndale, they kept his many Hebraic turns of phrase. These included "to die the death," "the Lord's anointed," "the gate of heaven," "a man after his own heart," "the living God," "sick unto death," "flowing with milk and honey," "to fall by the sword," "as the Lord liveth," "a stranger in a strange land," "to bring the head down to the grave," and "apple of his eye." It is said that he also introduced into English the adjective "beautiful," and was the first to use the name "Jehovah" for the Lord.

Once people were free to interpret the word of God according to their own understanding, they began to question the authority of their inherited institutions – both religious and secular. This led, in time, to reformation within the church and the rise of constitutional government in England. In a very real sense, the King James Bible changed the course of human history.

The English translation of the Jewish Publication Society in 1917 was essentially a modest revision of the King James Bible in its 1885 version.

In 1985, the JPS published its Tanakh, which was translated directly from the traditional Hebrew text into modern English. It eliminated all Christological emphases, took into account new archeological and philological findings and made use of Jewish commentators. Of course, much of the beauty of the King James version was retained.

Adam Nicolson has been both a publisher and a travel writer. In *God's Secretaries*, he offers the general reader a dramatic and measured account of how one of the great, enduring and influential works of English literature came into being.

Tisha b'Av and the three weeks

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Is Tisha b'Av relevant to Jews today? What importance does the 17th of Tammuz have or the three weeks of mourning that bridge these two fast days? Those questions are central to a debate you'll find on many Web sites as we enter what is traditionally the most mournful period in the Jewish calendar. Starting with the 17th of Tammuz and culminating on the Ninth of Av, these three weeks recall the destruction of the First and Second Temples and many other persecutions of the Jewish people. But what importance do they have now that we have a vibrant State of Israel and a rebuilt Jerusalem?

First, some background. Several sites offer excellent overviews of these two fast days and the period between them, such as Virtual Jerusalem **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/3 weeks/]**, Aish HaTorah **[http://www.aish.com/holidays/tisha_bav_and_ the_3_weeks/]** and Jewish Heritage Online Magazine **[http://www.jhom.com/calendar/av/]**. When you need a break from the reading, you can listen to related lectures and songs at 613.org **[http://www.613.org/3weeks.html]**.

In "Some Reflections on the Modern Meaning of Tisha b'Av," David Janus asks how one is supposed to mourn for Jerusalem when the city "is now home to more Jews than ever before in its history, it is a city filled with synagogues and houses of study, it is a city filled with light and with life." Although we now have political sovereignty, Janus contends, "We mourn for the loss of spirituality in individuals. We mourn because so many people do not realize what is missing in their lives, we mourn because so many people do not have within themselves the notion of the divine. We mourn because Jerusalem is not completely rebuilt" **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?K2C512225]**.

Ismar Schorsch, chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, supports the observance of Tisha b'Av but has concerns about the three weeks. He writes, "One day of remembrance, enacted wholeheartedly, is sufficient. Three weeks of escalating mournfulness, beginning with the fast day on the 17th of Tammuz, threatens to turn martyrology and victimhood into a world view. The creation of Israel has endowed the Jewish people with an unprecedented degree of power that is ill-served by a festering sense of resentment, an abiding angst over insecurity and a messianic zeal to right past wrongs. To brood on our long history of impotence can only blunt our political judgment in an age when so much has changed and obscure the ideals of justice and righteousness that were to mark the descendants of Abraham and cast a beacon for the world" **[http://learn.jtsa.edu/topics/parashah/5758/mattotmasay.shtml]**.

Responding to Schorsch, Jonathan Rosenblum writes in the *Jerusalem Post* that the three weeks play a crucial role as a time of preparation for Tisha b'Av. He asks whether a soccer team would consider skipping training to better concentrate on the World Cup itself. As for Schorsch's concerns about victimhood, Rosenblum says the purpose of this period is not to dwell on our oppression by others but to focus on our own "collective failings for which the Temple was destroyed and has yet to be rebuilt" **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?K2C512225]**.

Just months after 9/11, Daniel Treiman wrote in the *Forward* that several congregations saw a newfound relevance in Tisha b'Av and decided to observe the date for the first time in several years.

Jaime Shpall, a cantor at Congregation Beth Israel, a Reform synagogue in Austin, Tex., writes, "It just seems that with what's happening in Israel and the world this year after Sept. 11, it would be something that our congregation really is looking for."

Rabbi Jerome Epstein of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, adds, "All of the significant occasions that Tisha b'Av commemorates are potentially possible again… If you look at Europe today, it's not hard to imagine what potentially could happen to our people." Just a few years ago, he says, "Everybody said, 'Why should we even observe Tisha b'Av? Israel is so strong; Israel is flourishing.' And there was a tendency to say, 'Tisha b'Av is irrelevant'" **[http://www.forward.com/issues/2002/02.07.12/fast 4.html]**.

* * * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers .com.

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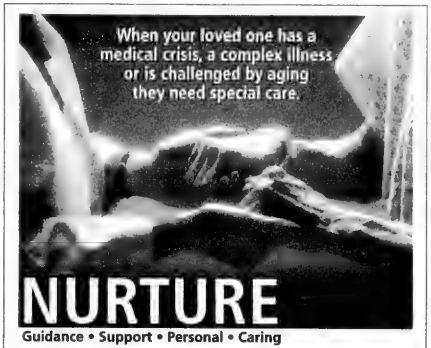
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Women head overseas to reconnect with their pasts

Chandler meets relatives in Australia

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

A Toronto woman was recently united with descendents of the relative who saved her life in the Holocaust.

Elsa Chandler, 70, and her husband Howard flew to Australia last month to meet the grandchildren of her great-uncle Ephraim Ratz.

Chandler never thought she had living relatives. Her daughter Hedy, who found the new cousins through JewishGen, a Jewish genealogy Web site, was stunned.

"How could I make this discovery after all these years?" she said.

Ratz's three adult children left Poland in 1939 and settled in Australia under new names. Siegfried Ratz became Stanley Reed; Leonhard Ratz became Lou Rae; Erna Ratz married and took her husband's name. Meanwhile, Chandler's family was caught in Lvov, Poland, when the Germans invaded and World War II began.

Chandler was eight when the war started. She knew of Ephraim Ratz, but didn't know that he had children. When she was liberated from Bergen-Belsen six years later, she thought that only she and one other relative had survived.

She came from a well-to-do family. Her mother had been educated at the music conservatory in Vienna, and her great-uncle was a wealthy industrialist who owned property in Krakow.

Chandler's family was separated in the Lvov ghetto and she and her mother were taken to the Krakow ghetto, where her great-uncle was living. She later learned that Ratz had arranged for the move, she believes by bribing the German guards.

When the Krakow ghetto was liquidated, her mother and great-uncle were taken to Plaszow, and Chandler, along with all the other children, were left behind in the burning streets. Soon someone came and called her name. Ratz had sold "half of Krakow" to get her out of the ghetto and bring her to Plaszow. There she was the only child; her mother hid her from the guards.

"Because of his intervention I stayed alive," she said. "Otherwise I would have perished."

Chandler never saw her uncle after that. She was transferred with her mother to a series of slave labour camps. Ratz was sent to Mauthausen; she later learned that he died three weeks after his liberation, his body beaten by the harsh camp life.

At the war's end, Chandler was a 13-year-old orphan. Her mother died in Bergen-Belsen shortly before they were liberated. The memory still pains her.

While recovering from tuberculosis in Sweden, Chandler contacted her father's sister in Toronto, who brought her to Canada. Here she rebuilt her life. Her sole connection to her past was a photo of a monument near Vienna erected in honour of Ratz by an uncle who survived Mauthausen, the only other living relative she knew of.

Sixty years later in Sydney, Australia, Paul Reed, who was raised as a non-Jew, was searching for his roots. His father

Elsa Chandler with her cousin, Paul Reed, a descendant of Efraim Ratz, the man who saved her life. [Photo courtesy of Peter Rae/The Sydney Morning Herald]

Stanley never talked about his past. Reed knew his grandfather's name, a "funny-sounding European name," and that he had a photo of a monument erected for Ratz near Vienna that a relative in the United States had sent him in the '60s.

Reed posted a notice on JewishGen.

At the same time, Hedy Chandler was in Toronto searching for relatives of Ephraim Ratz. She discovered several people searching for members of the Ratz family and sent them e-mails, but got no response.

"About three weeks later I went back and something was nagging me. I swear it was bashert. As far as I'm concerned this is all fate. I wrote a letter to only one person, and it was Paul Reed," said Hedy Chandler. "I got a letter back from him. It said, 'I'm happy to share with you whatever information I have. My grandfather was Ephraim Ratz.'"

The discovery shocked everyone.

"It made us all get goosebumps because we knew right away we were connected," said Elsa Chandler. She carried Reed's letter in her purse for weeks after that.

Not only did Chandler have relatives, her cousins in Australia also had family photos from Poland before the Holocaust, of her great-uncle and his wife, faces she barely remembered.

"Sixty years later, she has a validation that what she remembers before the war is true," said Hedy Chandler. "I feel like this is a gift for my mother."

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Silverman drawn to German birthplace

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Last fall, Esther Silverman visited Bad Wörishofen, the town in southern Germany where she was born in 1949, because she says, "It was important for me to see it. I just had to do it."

It was something she couldn't do 20 or even 10 years ago, "but now I was compelled in a challenging way to fill the gap in my life." She compares her feelings to an adopted person who wants to find his or her birth parents.

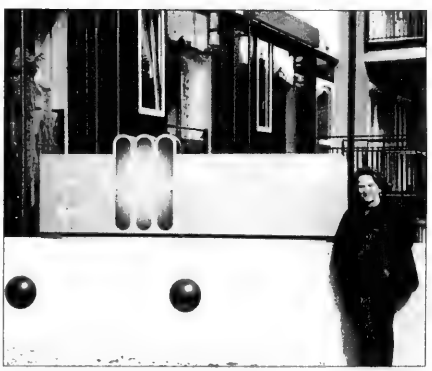
"I needed to put the pieces together – to connect because my parents were Holocaust survivors, and losing my father when I was young made it even more important."

Her parents, Helen (Goldband) and Chaim Rosen, both from Lodz, Poland, survived Auschwitz and met in Germany. They married on Feb. 17, 1948, in Bad Wörishofen, a town near Augsburg, Bavaria.

"My parents' wedding was performed in an outdoor chupah with guests who where all survivors and came from different parts of Germany."

Silverman's parents emigrated to Toronto in the fall of 1950, when she was 1½ years old. "They wanted to go to Israel, but while waiting for papers in Germany, they decided to join my mother's older sister in Canada."

Although her mother rarely spoke of the war years and



Esther Silverman is seen in front of a seniors home in Bad Wörishofen, Germany, situated on the property where she was born.

hated being in Germany, Silverman said she described Bad Wörishofen as a "beautiful and tranquil spa area."

Continued on page 16

Toronto rabbi experiences 'new guy' phenomenon

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When Rabbi David Bauman walks through the doors of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda synagogue, congregants literally flock to him.

"You walk into the room and there's a flood of people coming to you. That's never happened to me before," says the newly hired assistant rabbi, who started in mid-June.

Rabbi Bauman

"It's really nice and very warm."

Rabbi Bauman is experiencing the "new guy" phenomenon. Synagogue members are eager to meet and greet this fresh new face, to get a taste of who he is and what he stands for.

Rabbi Bauman, in turn, says he wants to have a positive impact on his congregants.

"I think and I hope that first and foremost, I'm a mensch, that I'm a down-to-earth person who is willing to listen and connect with people," he says.

"Once that's established, I think I'm the type of person who is very charismatic, energetic and excited about Jewish living… I hope that will rub off onto other people."

Rabbi Bauman's philosophy is in sync with Beth Emeth's traditional conservative ideology.

"I believe in classic, rabbinic Judaism. That is a Judaism that evolves and develops over time, but works within the parameters of Jewish law," he says.

"That traditional aspect is what made me interested in Toronto and specifically Beth Emeth," says Rabbi Bauman, who recently wrapped up rabbinical duties at a small New York synagogue before heading to Toronto with his wife, Elly, and two young sons.

With nearly 1,500 families, Beth Emeth's sheer size has necessitated two full-time rabbis for many years.

Senior rabbi Howard Morrison says along with other duties, Rabbi Bauman's primary responsibility "is to in-reach and outreach… the younger echelons of the congregation.

"We have put him in areas where we need more personal rabbinic involvement," Rabbi Morrison says.

Rabbi Bauman's journey to the rabbinate, like many rabbis today, did not start off with an observant upbringing.

But the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) graduate was raised to have a strong Jewish identity during his childhood in Reading, Penn.

"It was very important for my parents to make sure my sister and I had a Jewish education, meaning [attending evening] religious school. We were very active in the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization."

Befriending the son of an Orthodox rabbi, Rabbi Bauman started to become more interested in his faith while in high school and university.

By the time he was in graduate school at New York University working on a master's degree in education and counselling psychology, he was increasing his level of observance.

"My observance had been growing, but I really wanted to get back in and learn some classics of our tradition," he says.

While working at a college in Buffalo, N.Y. about seven years ago, Rabbi Bauman became active in a local conservative synagogue.

"The rabbi kind of ignited a spark - you could do this, too."

Rabbi Bauman applied to JTS, was accepted and officially completed his studies on May 22.

He says he is in Toronto thanks largely to three colleagues.

Rabbi Bauman's friend, Rabbi David-Seth Kirshner, worked at Beth Emeth during the High Holy Days last year and told Rabbi Bauman that the congregation and city is "the perfect place for you."

He then consulted with the dean of students at the seminary, Rabbi Joseph Brodie, who is a mentor and close friend of Rabbi Morrison.

Not surprisingly, Rabbi Brodie also encouraged Rabbi Bauman to head north.

Finally, there was Rabbi Morrison.

"Rabbi Morrison was what ultimately attracted me to come here and work in this community," Rabbi Bauman says.

"I'm looking for someone who will teach me, challenge me, who will let me grow and make mistakes so I will learn. I couldn't have found a better person."

Sitting with the two rabbis, it's evident they are on the same page.

"We see ourselves as rabbis to the Jewish people," Rabbi Morrison says.

"Our Judaism is not an all-or-nothing Judaism. Our Judaism is not a coercive Judaism. Our Judaism is to experience learning, climbing the ladder one step at a time… always with the idea that I can strive to do more with guidance and respect."

With a focus on younger congregants, Rabbi Bauman hopes to spend time at local university/college campuses and even play basketball with teens. He is relishing his new role.

"Coming from a non-traditional background… I can understand their struggles between the traditional and the modern world in which they live," he says.

Rabbi Morrison, who has been an ordained rabbi for 16 years, believes he and his new young colleague will be of great benefit to their congregants.

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Greater Toronto Area

New Beth Tikvah choir director also a composer

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Eyal Bitton had three potential strikes against him when he was applying for the position of choir director at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

He has no formal music education other than a couple of months of guitar lessons at age 14, he doesn't play much piano, and he was late for the interview. (A native of Montreal, he had yet to learn about Toronto taxis at rush hour, he explains.)

But the personable 33-year-old – a composer, lyricist and librettist and executive producer of his own company Kahina Productions, as well as a musical director – won over choir members and search committee alike, said Heather Shapero, who headed the committee that screened 12 "strong candidates.

"What made him stand out was his talent, his breadth in terms of what he does in music, his background in both Ashkenazi and Sephardi music, and his experience in choral directing," she said.

The fact Bitton is also a composer – like his predecessor, the late Srul Irving Glick, who was choir director and composer-in-residence for 32 years – was a bonus, Shapero said.

Bitton, who moved here from Montreal to become choir director on May 1, was 13 when he joined the choir at Montreal's Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, where he became choir director at age 19. At the same time, he developed a passion for rock music, got an acoustic guitar and "started to understand how harmony works."

Eyal Bitton *[Frances Kraft photo]*

A native of Montreal who spent his early years from 1971 to 1978 in Zaire, Bitton also enjoyed writing poetry and had acquired a love of literature from his mother, an English teacher. Although there are no other professional musicians in the family, Bitton's father, an electrical engineer, and his 93-year-old grandfather were always singing, he said.

Bitton started to write '80s-type rock music after he finished high school, but these days his compositions are more likely to reflect elements of classical music and musical theatre – epic themes rather than show tunes, he said.

"With my love of literature and poetry, songwriting came together pretty quickly."

He also wrote Jewish liturgical music (he has directed a number of Jewish choirs), and branched out into larger-scale projects with an oratorio inspired by Jerusalem's 3,000th anniversary in 1996.

"As I wrote it, I was on fire," he recalled. "I was very encompassed in the process. I would stay up until 3 or 5 a.m., and it was a joy."

RIGHT OF PASSAGE: The Journey To Jerusalem was performed in Montreal before an audience of almost 1,000 people as an official Jerusalem 3000 event under the auspices of the Israeli consulate, he said. It featured a 25-piece orchestra and a 175-member choir.

Bitton followed that success with more original productions, including *KING DAVID The Musical*, a two-hour show for which he wrote the book, music and lyrics. He also wrote the lyrics for the musical of Mordecai Richler's *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, among other projects, and is currently working as a script consultant on a movie.

His work has drawn on his Jewish heritage, but is not aimed exclusively at Jewish audiences, he added. A graduate of McGill University, where he majored in Jewish studies, Bitton writes music "to communicate and to make a connection with the audience," he said.

His work also connected him with his fiancée, actor Michèle Tredger, when she auditioned for his musical production, *THE CHILD*, an Arthurian-type legend.

Although she was "ultimately the reason" he moved to Toronto, he also felt it was time for a new phase in his career.

Working with choirs, he relishes transmitting his passion for music, he said. His next appearance with Beth Tikvah's synagogue choir will be on the High Holy Days. He is also working with the synagogue's community, or non-liturgical choir, called Kol Shira.

Bitton has already started work on one of his own compositions with the choir, and he expects to introduce some Sephardi elements as well. (Bitton's father is Sephardi and his mother is Ashkenazi.)

Although he knew Glick only by reputation, Bitton said their music was featured together in a Montreal concert by the St. Lambert Choral Society a few years ago.

"I see my mission here as preserving Srul Irving Glick's music, but also building on it," he said. "One of the things he left here was a passion for creativity. He gave [choir members] a thirst for new challenges."

Silverman drawn to German birthplace

Continued from page 14

Silverman met her husband Len, a retired teacher, at the University of Toronto. After graduation, he continued his studies at the University of Ottawa, receiving a master's degree in science. She worked as a successful insurance agent for 18 years with Co-operator's Insurance and Financial Services before retiring a year ago. The couple have two sons, Stuart and Ryan.

Six years ago, Esther, her mother, two sisters, a brother, an aunt and uncles and cousins went to Poland were they visited Lodz as well as Krakow and Warsaw. "We wanted to discover where my grandparents and other members of our family were buried. We put up a stone in Lodz and we had a ceremony to commemorate their lives there."

In October 2002, as part of a visit to their son Stuart who was studying in Finland, Esther and Len, who now writes science textbooks and teaches part time, decided to go to Bad Wörishofen to see the house where Esther was born. It's now a modern seniors home.

Esther says, "I don't remember anything about the town, but when I arrived at the place where I was born, it felt familiar and comfortable, as I had heard so many stories about the house and the town."

The Silvermans also visited the Josefsheim Convalescent Hospital, where her father and uncles recuperated after the war.

"The hospital was celebrating its 75th anniversary with an open house the very day we visited. Coincidentally, a brief tour of Josefsheim added to the already surreal day. My uncle, Abram Rosen, had recently died, unexpectedly. This tragedy made the visit with him in Frankfurt and our visit to Bad Wörishofen all the more poignant."

Esther believes that she went there "because I wanted to test myself. I didn't want to eliminate the early part of my life, and although I was fearful of how I would react, it was very important for me to see."

The Silverman's spent only one day in Bad Wörishofen. She describes the experience as "almost like going over a large boulder. After 50 years, I finally accomplished what I was determined to do since I was a teenager – to visit my birthplace. It was putting the pieces of my life together."

Greater Toronto Area

12 Liberal MPs, Senators urge shift in Mideast policy

Continued from page 1

Volpe said the MPs wanted to get away from a purely "reactive" approach to Mideast events.

"We said we have to come up with something coherent and encompassing, rather than piecemeal reactions to issues as they come up," Volpe said.

"It's not just a critique of our foreign policy regarding the Middle East, it's a road map for understanding what is going on and suggesting solutions from a Canadian perspective.

"My critique of the Canadian position has been that we're trying to have a balanced position so we can be the honest broker," Volpe said. "Give me a break. People are dying every day."

Volpe said Canada must stand for Israel's right to peace within secure and recognized borders.

Peterson said he's disagreed for some time with some aspects of Canadian policy, including part of its UN voting record and its criticism of Israel when it responds to terrorist attacks.

"One of the most egregious occasions was when we said Israel does not have the right to pursue terrorists in the territories and defend itself against them," he said.

Eggleton, Canada's former defence minister, said the report addresses some deficiencies in Canadian policy, such as criticism when Israel responds to terrorism. "It's not proper to think of those situations of Israel attempting to defend its people as some sort of attack or retaliation on the Palestinians. It's part of a police action" aimed at dismantling terrorism, he said.

Canada, Eggleton noted, took part in the Afghan campaign against terrorism, much as Israel is doing when it defends itself against Palestinian terrorism.

Neville, who recently visited Washington, D.C., on a program sponsored by parliament's Canada-Israel Friendship Group, said "it's important that the politicians, not just the bureaucrats, have input on the policy-making process."

She said the report asks policy-makers to consider Arafat an impediment to meaningful peace.

The MPs and senators agreed Israel enjoys support in the caucus beyond the dozen who signed the report. With the document on the table, their next step will be to meet colleagues, DFAIT officials and representatives of the Jewish community to solicit broader backing for the initiative, Neville said.

Among the recommendations outlined in the report:

- Canada should not use the term "proportionate response" in connection with Israeli security measures and should not second guess legitimate measures aimed at combatting terrorism;
- Canada should not used the term "cycle of violence," as that equates terror attacks with their response;
- Canada should reverse its earlier policy of recognizing Arafat as head of the PLO and simply recognize the Palestinian Authority as the principal representative of the Palestinian people;
- Canada should endorse the road map for peace and contribute to the plan's multilateral track;
- Canada should lobby the UN General Assembly, western democracies and other international organization against the politicization of the UN;
- Canada should work with the Lebanese government to remove the military presence of Syria and Hezbollah in Lebanon;
- Canada should urge Saudi Arabia to tackle the underlying causes of Islamic extremism in that country;
- Canada should demand that Iran stop supporting terrorism and it should call on the UN Commission on Human Rights to re-establish its rapporteur there.

CORRECTION:

In "Number of programs available to study in Israel" (*CJN*, July 10), the scholarships offered by UJA Federation were inaccurately explained. The Morris M. Pulver Scholarship Fund for Israel is awarded to full-time students at a recognized institution of higher education in Israel. The Israel Scholarship helps send students only to hesder yeshivot. The Meyer W. Gasner-Joe Berman Scholarship Fund Gasner/ Berman Scholarship assists students who are studying primarily at non-hesder yeshivot in Israel. Preference is given to students who plan to follow a career in Jewish education upon their return from Israel. *The CJN* regrets these errors.

SUMMER EXPERIENCE: Sheldon Friedman, principal of CHAT, Tanenbaum campus, shares a happy moment with three students who recently left for a summer experience in Israel. From left: Robbie Goldberg and Omri Viner will be doing research at the Weizmann Institute of Science, while Evan Singer will attend a similar program at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

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(A2)

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel

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(A3)

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Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

(B1)

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Israel
Carol, Judith and Nachum
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

(B2)

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year

The Israel Family
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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: There is no issue July 24. Monday, July 21, is deadline for July 31 issue and Monday, July 28, is deadline for Aug. 7. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Friday, July 18

CONCERT IN THE ROUND

Temple Sinai's Our Musical Legacy Series continues with the Anne Strom Memorial Concert-in-the-Round. An Oneg Shabbat concert featuring **Kolot**, a piano-vocal quintet from Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn., will follow Friday night services, which begin at 8:15 p.m. For information, call 416-487-4161 or visit www.templesinai.net.

Sunday, July 20

SENIORS TEA AND DANCE

The Bernard Betel Centre is hosting a Sunday afternoon tea dance with **Tom Weiss and His Esquires** from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Dance the afternoon away to popular and nostalgic hits of the past. Members $3, non-members $6. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. For information, call 416-225-2112.

VEGETARIAN & ORTHODOX

Join the Entertainment and Cultural Committee of Shaarei Shomayim for an interesting evening with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** discussing Why I Am An Orthodox Vegetarian. 8 p.m. Members free, guests $2. Refreshments served. For information, call 416-789-3213.

Tuesday, July 22

WOMEN'S YARCHEI KALLAH

Canadian Friends of Nishmat present three days of Torah study, Tuesday through Thursday, with Nishmat dean **Chana Henkin** on the topic King David and His Sons. Attend any or all five sessions: mornings, 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Text provided in Hebrew and English. For more information and registration, call 416-789-4883 or e-mail nishmat@rogers.com.

KABBALAH CENTRE

The Kabbalah Centre is sponsering a seminar entitled Kabbalistic Astrology Seminar at the Toronto Reference Library, 7 to 8 p.m. $10. For information, call 416-631-9395.

Wednesday, July 23

JOKERS & HUMOUR GROUP

Jokers of all ages are welcome to the Jewish Jokers and Humour Group monthly meeting at the Antibes Community Centre at 7 p.m. For information, call **Irv Helpert** 416-661-2541.

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

Make a difference! Volunteer at an Israeli army supply/maintenance base for a minimum of two weeks. Come to an information night about Sar-El (Canadian Volunteers for Israel) 7:30 p.m. in the Haifa Room at 788 Marlee Ave. For information, call 416-781-6089 or vist www.serve.com/CVI.

JOHN LOFTUS ON POLLARD

Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital presents **John Loftus** on the topic The Truth About Jonathan Pollard. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. General admission $18. Tax receiptable sponsorships available. Proceeds to the new Children's Medical Centre at Laniado Hospital in Netanya, Israel. For information, call 416-785-8946 or e-mail friends@laniado.ca.

Wednesday, July 30

ROSH CHODESH SERVICES

The Lodzer Centre Congregation invites the community to participate in Rosh Chodesh Av services and discussion with **Rabbi Matthew Kaufman** beginning at 9 a.m. Breakfast following discussion. Call Dina at 416-636-6665 ext. 221.

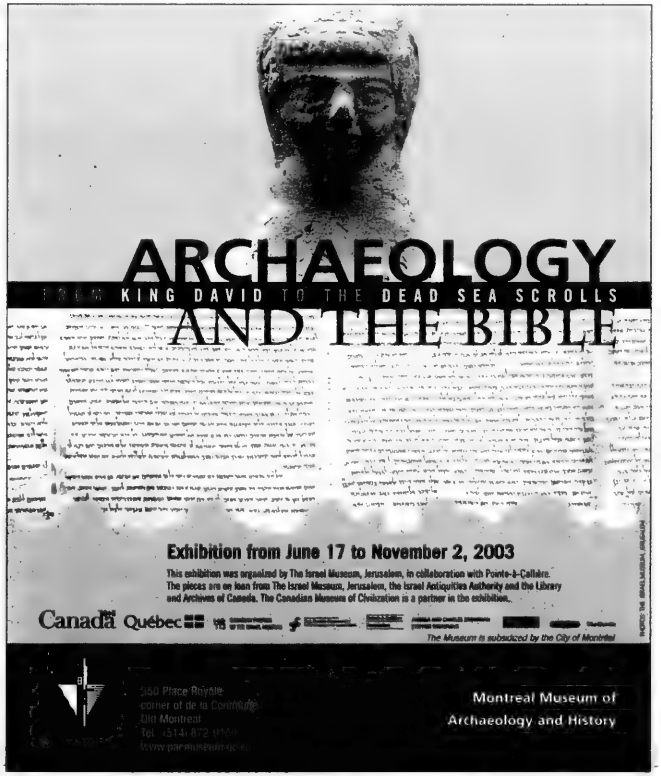
Continued on page 19

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies
presents the International Premiere of

UNLIKELY HEROES
Inspiring Stories of Jewish Heroism

Unlikely Heroes will highlight unknown stories of extraordinary men and women who exemplified the highest level of courage and human dignity during the most desperate days of the Holocaust. The film is produced by the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Moriah Films, a two-time Academy Award winner.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2003
Patron Cocktail Reception 5:15 p.m. @ Windsor Arms
Feature Premiere 7:30 p.m. @ Cineplex Varsity Theatre
Tickets: 416-864-9735 ext. 21


ARCHAEOLOGY
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AND THE BIBLE
Exhibition from June 17 to November 2, 2003
This exhibition was organized by The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, in collaboration with Pointe-à-Callière.
The pieces are on loan from The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Library and Archives of Canada. The Canadian Museum of Civilization is a partner in the exhibition.
Canada Québec
The Museum is subsidized by the City of Montréal
Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History

What's New

Continued from page 18

CANCER AWARENESS

The Prostate Cancer Support Group presents **Dr. Robert Nam** of Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre speaking on Radical Prostatectomy at the Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Family members, spouses and friends are welcome. For information, call 416-932-8820.

Other News

JEWISH SINGLES DIRECTORY

Are you single? The Jewish Information Service of UJA Federation has a new Greater Toronto Jewish Singles Directory. Check it out on their Web site at www.jewishtoronto.net (follow the link to the community directory). Or call their office at 416-635-5600 and a volunteer will answer any questions you may have.

MOVIES ON TUESDAY

Shaarei Tefillah Sisterhood presents Tuesday Afternoon at the Movies every Tuesday at 2 p.m. Admission, $3, includes movie and refreshments. For information, call 416-787-1631.

THEATRICAL PRODUCTION

Domesday Theatre Company's production of *And The Cow Jumped Over The Moon*, a poignantly funny play about the lives of four women in a Glasgow cancer ward, is playing at The Village Playhouse, Mainstage, 2190 Bloor St. W. between July 17 and 26. For play dates and times and to reserve tickets, call 416-726-9379.

NCJW JIFY MARKET

The National Council of Jewish Women is having a Jify Market Sunday, Aug. 31 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have been thinking of having a garage sale, this is the place to do it or come out for great deals. Tables are only $30. For information or to book a table, call 416-633-5100, e-mail info@ncjwc-ts.org or visit www.ncjwc-ts.org.

FALL HEBREW CLASSES

Registration is now open for the fall session Hebrew language and Bible classes at the Keren Hatarbut Institute, 788 Marlee Ave. Classes are offered for adult, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions! For registration and information, call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

FOR SENIORS

The Association of Jewish Seniors presents a provincial all-candidates meeting Thursday, July 24, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue with Eglinton-Lawrence riding candidates Conservative **Corinne Korzen**, Liberal **Mike Colle** and NDP **Robin Alter**. Come out and discuss seniors' issues with these electoral candidates. For information, call **Tammy** 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday in July and August; Casino Niagara, Aug. 28; cruise and casino, Aug. 14. Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. July 17, bingo; Tuesday, July 22, day trip with cruise; July 31, movie. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Lifelong Learning Institute with **Hugh Innis**, Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. For information, call **Barbara**, ext. 134.

Israeli Film Festival with **Bill Stern**. Watch Israeli movies with English subtitles. Wednesday, July 16 to Friday, July 18, 1 to 3 p.m. in the auditorium. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. July 22, lecture; Wednesday, July 30, all-day Israeli festival. For information, call **Anna**, ext.110.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca..

BJCC's Centre Camp still has spaces available for August. For information, call ext. 378.

Second Chance Maccabi Garage Sale will be Sunday, July 27, 9 a.m. to noon. The sale will be held in the parking lot beside the Leah Posluns Theatre. Any donations for this event are welcome. All proceeds will go to help athletes participate in the Maccabi Games in Tenafly, N.J. For information, call **Grant Smith**, ext. 257, or e-mail gsmith@bjcc.ca.

The Chai Dancers will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on Aug. 27 at the Leah Posluns Theatre. If you are a former Chai dancer and would like to participate, call **Teme** ext. 364.

Spaces are available for morning school programs, which include Tic Tac Two, Nursery, Junior Kindergarten and Senior Kindergarten, and for full day-care for children 18 months to five years of age. Call ext. 351 or 248 to arrange a school tour or for a registration package.

ATERET KAVOD HONOREES: The Canadian Region of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism honoured Heather and Ron Hoffman recently with the Ateret Kavod Award at a festive evening in the Adath Israel Synagogue. Pictured from left: Barbara Kochberg, Paul Kochberg, president of Canadian Region-U.S.C.J., Judy Yudof, international president of U.S.C.J. and honorees Heather and Ron Hoffman.
[Mollie Rothman photo]

NA'AMAT HONOURS... : Na'amat Toronto held a Tribute to Donors Gala Dinner recently at Beth David Synagogue. Guest speaker and honouree was Janice Stein, director of the Munk Centre of International Studies at the University of Toronto. From left are Judy Ross, Orit Nussbaum, vice-president of Na'amat Toronto, Stein and Frayda Rotenberg. **[Mollie Rothman photo]**

EVENING OF EMUNAH: The Canadians Friends of Shaare Zedek recently held an evening at the home of Nancy Pencer with Emunah Hasin, the director of external affairs of the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem. The group heard an emotional presentation on hospital procedures in the aftermath of a terrorist attack. Pictured from left are David Smith, Canadian Friends of Shaare Zedek co-president, Hasin, Pencer and Karen Solursh Smith.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 16

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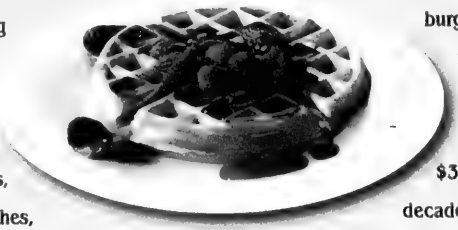

wonderful wraps & grilled focaccias, gourmet burgers, delectable barbeque chicken & ribs, perfect pastas, sizzling steaks & stir fry, scintillating seafood, healthy salads, fabulous fajitas, all day breakfasts, $3.99 kid's menu, shakes & smoothies, decadent desserts and so much more.

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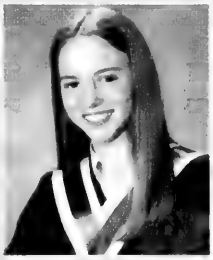
The Pickle Barrel announces the opening of our newest banquet facility and restaurant - located at the Markville Shopping Centre. Able to accomodate 250 people... Call today to Reserve for your special occasion 416.493.4333.

The CJN "family" had a bounty of graduates this year. We wish you all a hearty mazel tov and good luck in your future endeavours:

Mazel Tov MOMENTS

Jennifer Laforet graduated with an honours bachelor of arts degree in kinesiology and physical education from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University.

Michael Adler graduated from Grade 8 and will be attending the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).



Tova Davida Nadler graduated from Grade 8 and will be studying at Ulpanat Orot Girls School.

Melanie Adler graduated from Grade 12 and will be attending York University.

Josh Bower graduated from Grade 12 and will be studying commerce at the University of Guelph.

Jacob Morgan graduated from Grade 8 and will be attending the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

Noah Wolgelerenter graduated from junior nursery (room 1) at Menorah Nursery.

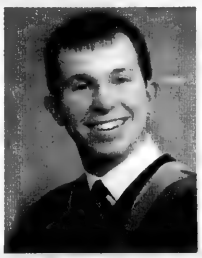
Cory Gillman graduated with a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation and geography from Lakehead University and a bachelor of education from the University of Ottawa.

Randi Bergman graduated from Grade 12 and will be studying fashion communications at Ryerson University.

Jennie Morgan graduated from Grade 12 and will be studying liberal arts at Columbia University and Jewish studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Sari Kraft graduated from Grade 12 and will be studying kinesiology at the University of Western Ontario.

Brad Jamieson graduated with a bachelor of business administration from Sir Wilfred Laurier University.



Ariella Nadler graduated from Grade 12 and will be studying at Midreshet Lindenbaum in Jerusalem.

Jenny Libman graduated from Grade 12 and will be studying applied human nutrition at the University of Guelph.

Rebecca Laiken graduated from Grade 12 and will be attending Brock University.

Rachelle Perez graduated from the University of Toronto.

WE INVITE YOU TO SEND YOUR GRADUATION PHOTOS TO OUR MAZEL TOV COLUMN.

About Food

Dear Norene

BY NORENE GILLETZ

I never quite got the hang of gardening. I tell people that I have a "black thumb" and that any plants that come under my care are sure to commit suicide because they realize they won't live very long! My husband Soly grew up in Israel eating the fruits (and vegetables) of his mother's garden, so he tends to all our plants, which thrive beautifully under his care.

The Cook's Garden, 100 Favourite Recipes and Expert Growing Advice from Canadian Gardening Magazine (McArthur & Company, $29.95) might transform me into a gardening guru as well as a cooking maven.

This beautiful book is packed with colour photographs, recipes and tips. Organized according to the seasons, it includes excellent information on how to grow and cook over 40 types of fruits and vegetables. I was tempted by Grilled Portobello on Greens, Spinach Cheese Tart, Sour Cherry Cobbler and Classic Strawberry Fool, Most recipes are suitable for the kosher cook.

After browsing through this wonderful book, your most difficult choice will be whether to keep it with your gardening books or your cookbooks! Meanwhile, until I do plant a garden, I'll have to be content with visiting the local farmers' markets to enjoy the bounty of the land. Enjoy.

ROASTED TOMATOES

Roasting tomatoes gives them deep flavour, particularly if the tomatoes are not at their best. Once roasted, they can be stored, refrigerated, for up to two weeks. Use them in sauces, or mixed with other vegetables such as zucchini and eggplant. Roast any kind of tomatoes, but plum tomatoes, because of their thicker skins, work best. For a fast first course, fill roasted tomato with mozzarella cheese, bake until cheese melts, then pop on top of a salad.

6 tomatoes
1 tbsp. olive oil

Preheat oven to 450. Cut tomatoes in half and place cut side down on oiled baking sheet. Roast 20 to 25 minutes, depending on size and juiciness. Tomato skin should be slightly brown and cracked. Reserve for later use.

MELON LASSI

A lassi is a refreshing, East Indian yogurt shake. Enjoy one for breakfast or as a cooling and delicious complement to a spicy dinner. Any type of melon can be used.

3 cups plain yogurt
3 tbsp. liquid honey
1½ cups melon chunks
½ cup ice water
fresh mint

In a blender, combine all ingredients except mint, and process until mixture is frothy. Serve over ice; garnish with mint sprigs. Serves 4.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeanYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

Try fresh-baked whole wheat challah

BY LISA J. SOLOMON
Special to The CJN

The first time I tasted whole wheat challah, it was warm from the oven in a cool desert. I was in my 20s, and lost, figuratively and literally, in a tiny Israeli town called Arad.

The woman who introduced me and a group of other escapees from regular lives to her dense braided loaf worked, baked, cleaned and lived in a small apartment with an enormous view of the Negev desert.

She wasn't one of the quiet, veiled women of the local Bedouin tribes, or one of the regal but confused Ethiopian ladies I met in my dormitory trying to stuff hand-woven rugs into the dryer, or one of the sabras who comfortably walked in leather sandals despite the frigid winter rains.

No, this baker of breads was named Cheryl. She was from New York. She and her rabbi husband had only one child, which was unusual in the religious group they led.

Over a decade later, I can still see the scrap of paper I wrote Cheryl's challah recipe on. I believe it was yellow. I believe I'll find it one day, after my next move. After I finally empty my boxes somewhere, to stay.

But for now, in a small apartment in Los Angeles, my daughter and I enjoyed a different whole wheat challah, one just as good, maybe even better. Because it was baked and sent to me by a friend's sister, Kay Levenson.

I tore off a piece of her challah, warmed it in the oven, smothered the soft speckled insides with butter and honey, and ate, standing in my kitchen, watching the skinny palms sway.

Maybe Cheryl's recipe blew away in one of those long windy bus rides from Arad to Tel Aviv. Maybe eating fresh baked bread reminds me how important it is for each of us to find our truest sense of home.

KAY LEVENSON'S WHOLE WHEAT CHALLAH

Kay makes this recipe with different proportions of whole wheat and white flour and variations of other flours as well, such as cornmeal and rye. She says the more whole wheat flour, the heavier the loaf, so mix with the white flour according to your taste. She usually bakes four small loaves from this recipe and sticks two in the freezer for the next week.

3 tbsp. (or 3 packages) fresh yeast
¼ cup warm water
1 tsp. sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
2 cups sugar
6 eggs, beaten
1 tbsp. salt
2 cups oatmeal (not instant)
4 cups white unbleached flour
1 cup warm water
5 cups whole wheat flour
1½ cups raisins, sunflower seeds, or other nuts to taste (optional)

Glaze
1 egg
½ cup warms water
poppy or sesame seeds or oats

Oil two baking trays and sprinkle with oatmeal (to prevent sticking and add extra flavour to bottom crust).

In a small bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water with a teaspoon of sugar and set aside to proof (or expand), approximately 8-10 minutes.

In large bowl, mix oil, sugar, eggs, salt, oats, white flour and cup of warm water. Mix thoroughly. Add yeast mixture. If desired, add raisins, sunflower seeds or nuts. Then gradually add whole wheat flour, mixing as much as possible in bowl, then kneading on countertop approximately 5-10 minutes until dough is elastic, not sticky. If necessary add more flour. Place in oiled bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm place until approximately doubled in size, about 1 to 2 hours. Punch down, and shape into 2 larger or 4 small loaves. Let the loaves rise one hour.

Preheat oven to 350.Brush loaves with one beaten egg mixed with ½ cup of warm water and sprinkle with poppy seeds, sesame seeds, or oats. Bake until golden brown, 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Variations: Kay says a nice alternative is to substitute one cup of honey for one of the cups of sugar. Or for a dairy challah, use 1 cup of scalded milk in place of the 1 cup of warm water.

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Student journal is a microcosm of the Mideast

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

As an editor of *Gam Yachad*, a literary journal produced by university students about Israel and the Arab-Israeli conflict, Yaakov Roth ran into some serious difficulties.

"I had to edit some poems," says Roth, who is a third-year chemistry and economics student at York University. "And that's kind of difficult when you're not a poet."

Although Roth was instrumental in the editing process, and even wrote a poem of his own, the credit for the idea goes to Jason and Dalia Rotstein.

In September of 2002, the Rotstein siblings wanted to do something to show their support for Israel. The timing was fitting: it was around the time of the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, and the threat of terrorism, both in North America and Israel, was on everyone's mind.

The siblings brought Roth on board, whom Jason had known from high school, to become the third editor.

As the months passed, *Gam Yachad* grew in size. By the end, it was more than 200 pages and had nearly 60 pieces of poetry, prose and short fiction.

The three, all university students with hectic schedules, collected submissions during the fall and edited them through the December exam period. Jason estimates they spent an hour or two on the journal every night for six months.

"It was a bigger commitment then I thought," said Roth, who remembers spending full days working on *Gam Yachad*.

The journal went through six rounds of editing and "20 different covers or something," by Jason's count, before it was published in March and launched in May at the Jewish Campus Services awards night.

Roth, 19, estimated the cost of producing the book at $13,000. Heather Reisman, of Chapters and Indigo fame, donated $6,500 and later displayed the books in her stores. Other donations came from philanthropist Nancy Pencer, the head of Brain Trust, a private foundation dedicated to improving the quality of life of patients suffering from brain tumors, and from Jewish Campus Services.

Gam Yachad has since been sent to Hillel chapters across Canada and to Jewish organizations that have requested copies.

The trio had several reasons for producing the book. For Jason, 18, and a literature major who just finished his first year at the University of Toronto, compiling a journal had a certain appeal.

The journal's purpose is twofold, he says. It is a way of expressing solidarity with Israel, and it's a place for Diaspora Jews to "feel that they have a safe place to express themselves.

"On campuses like Concordia and York, where there have been those riots, people need a place to feel comfortable and secure. You could call this a safe haven," he says.

Roth, however, was more interested in politics, activism and what *Gam Yachad* could do for students on campus. His introduction reads like a media relations manual for university student groups.

"The struggle for public opinion with regards to the Middle East conflict is very similar to the efforts that take place during an election campaign," he writes, and makes several points on how to win over public opinion.

Roth speaks from experience. He founded *Counterpoint*, an inter-campus newspaper about the Arab-Israeli conflict, is vice- president of the Young Zionist Partnership, York's Israel advocacy group, and is the president of the Canadian Alliance at York University.

"It's helpful from a practical perspective because it can inspire people to get more involved on campus with the various groups across the country, or if there isn't one, then start one themselves," says Roth.

The students who contributed to *Gam Yachad* came from every part of the political spectrum, but uncertainty and terrorism were common themes. In Ari Shomair's story *Mideast Microcosm*, he imagines what would happen if his roommate were Palestinian. Osnat Steiman dreams about accidentally wearing an Israel Defence Forces shirt in an Arab amusement park in *Freud's Israel*. Rory Shachter writes about the problems of Zionism, and Karen Born turns Israelis and Palestinians into "little boys who have run their little hands through the hot desert sand."

Right now, Jason and Dalia are planning a second edition. Roth doesn't think he'll edit it because of his other commitments, but he hopes to try his hand at poetry again. Jason wants to include more photos, and possibly some submissions in French. He's hoping Dalia will collect submissions from Montreal when she starts medical school at McGill in September.

Despite the long hours and never-ending edits, they all say *Gam Yachad* was worth it.

"It was hard. At times we didn't think we'd get through it, but at the end of the day, it's a nice final product," said Roth.

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Afterword marks 5th anniversary

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Although the editors of *Afterword* have pushed the envelope with provocative articles such as *Madonna: Truth or Prayer*, the national quarterly newspaper aimed at young Jewish adults is "more about how we can reach out to young Jews age 18 to 35 to help educate them and make it fun at the same time," says Dave Gordon, editor and founder of the publication celebrating its fifth anniversary this year.

Gordon and senior editor David Silverberg, a 23-year-old journalism graduate from Ryerson University, often "butt heads," the two said in a joint interview at the Bathurst Jewish Centre cafeteria.

But, Silverberg said, "I can do any article I like, within reason. That's incredible!"

Is there anything they wouldn't run?

Gordon paused. Anything libelous – the easy answer, he said – would be first on the list.

But reflecting on critical letters from left-wing readers in response to a right-wing columnist, Gordon said, "I think one of the things we're dealing with now particularly with what's been going on in Israel is how to talk about the crisis in a fair and balanced way, and at the same time staying pro-Israel.

"That's not to say we wouldn't print something critical of Israel if it's intelligently written and fair."

The free paper, which usually has a print run of 5,000 – depending on budget – can also be found on the Internet at www.afterword.ca.

It's come a long way since Gordon used his home computer to print a logo so *Afterword* could have credibility with interviewees such as Steven Page of the Barenaked Ladies before the first issue appeared in September 1998. But Gordon bemoans the drying up of the funding that helped him get the paper off the ground.

"I find it's very paradoxical and disappointing that in a Jewish community that whines so much about Jewish student apathy, continuity going down the tubes, and kids going off the path and being uninformed, there's this tool that can make Jewish issues of the day accessible to them, and it's surprising that benefactors and sponsors haven't been so responsive."

In addition to seed money from donors, Gordon put in about $5,000 of his own money to get the paper off the ground. In addition to the newspaper itself, Gordon ran annual Jewish student journalism conferences until 2001, attracting participants from across the country.

The work was done at Gordon's home, as some of it still is, but Canadian Jewish Congress

Continued on page 24

"We came with ideas. We left with a plan"

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Coast to Coast

JF&CS social worker says goodbye after 31 years

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

Elliott Larman is cleaning out his office, the same one he's had since the Lipa Green building opened in the early 1980s.

After 31 years with Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS), he's sad to be leaving a job he loves but pleased that he won't have to do any more paperwork once he finishes with the last few inch-thick files still in his cabinet.

Now Larman jokes that he's been officially forgiven for finishing his paperwork late. "At my retirement dinner, Gordon Wolfe, the director of JF&CS, gave me a stack of memos of deadlines."

The paperwork was the only thing Larman didn't like. Everything else about the job delighted him.

"It doesn't feel like work to me and to the people I work with," he says. "I like being able to help people and make a difference in their lives."

Retiring, however, isn't something he's thrilled about. He calls himself ambivalent; his wife Shirley says "he's not so willing."

Larman is originally from Montreal, where he got a degree in social work from McGill University and worked as a camp director. People still recognize him from his days at Wooden Acres. After Montreal, he moved to Chicago, Denver and finally Toronto.

He arrived at JF&CS in 1972 to head its children's department, but his shining achievement is founding the Bagel Club, a weekly lunch for recovering psychiatric patients and socially isolated people to meet and eat.

"The kosher chicken dinner that JF&CS [gave] him does not reflect his 30 years of service," said daughter Heidi Larman-Brown. "He gets [his clients] seats for the High Holy Days and city seders, he'll shlep them to Niagara on the Lake to go to some theatre show he got tickets for. It's not a glamourous job, especially for a 70-year-old man, but he loves his clients and they love him."

What does he plan on doing now that he's retired? He grins. His daughter gave birth to a son – his first grandchild – last week, and he's made his services as a babysitter available.

"This event is reminding me that the important things in life take place outside your office," he says.

But slowing down isn't on Larman's agenda. He also plans on continuing his private practice of running support groups and seminars for family services in Mississauga, Peel and Etobicoke, is still involved with JF&CS at its downtown branch for the Chai Group and plans to help his wife with her jewelry and antique business.

Larman is adamant that none of what he does or did can be called work. "I've never worked a day in my life," he says.

Bus service to Brooklyn offered to chassidic Jews

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Montreal now has a mainstream company that offers the chassidic community regular bus service to Brooklyn, New York, challenging the only non-mainstream bus line that has been providing the same service for decades.

Late last month, Adirondack Trailways began offering daily scheduled return service from the downtown Voyageur bus terminal to the chassidic enclave of Boro Park. It leaves at 11 p.m. each night, except Friday, and returns at the same time.

Adirondack, however, denies the new line is part of an effort to undermine Tov Travel, known informally as "Hyman's Bus," the almost-daily service to and from Brooklyn that chassidic Jews have been using for 22 years and that Adirondack and Greyhound are currently challenging before the Quebec Transport Commission (QTC).

The Tov Travel buses allow only kosher food on board, have separate seating by gender and depart at the end of daily evening prayers, Shabbat and holidays. Modest dress is also required.

Last fall, a dispute over the buses surfaced publicly after the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec (SAAQ), the provincial automotive insurance board, received an anonymous complaint that the Tov Travel bus to Brooklyn did not qualify as a "chartered" service.

Adirondack and Greyhound then picked up on the issue and challenged Tov Travel's service before the Quebec Transport Commission (QTC). Tov Travel's bus stopped operating temporarily after the SAAQ stepped in, but has since resumed, pending the conclusion of the commission hearings, which may be months away.

Judy Baum, co-owner of Mazal Travel, the only travel agency authorized to sell Adirondack bus tickets to Brooklyn, said it's only fair that chassidic Jews be offered a choice.

"I hope it works out," she said. "For years, there's been a monopoly."

Afterword celebrates 5th anniversary

Continued from page 23

has provided office space at the Lipa Green Building. Prior to that, *Afterword* had space in the B'nai Brith Canada building.

Although the publication was originally aimed at the Jewish campus population, Gordon said readership has always been more diverse, judging from feedback he's received. In September 2001, the masthead changed to reflect that, with its new tag line, "Canada's national paper for the young Jewish scene."

The 24-page current issue, summer 2003, highlights Silverberg's interview with Leonard Nimoy about the *Star Trek* icon's recent controversial book *Shekhina*, a collection of Nimoy's photographs in which semi-nude women wear Jewish ritual objects.

Other items featured in the 40-page issue include a trio of articles by general manager and staff writer Lindsay Soberano, the paper's only full-time editorial staff member, on Jewish languages, Jewish meditation and even Jewish noses. Also included is an interview with pro-Israel academic Daniel Pipes, whose lecture at York University as part of IsraelFest in January was almost cancelled because of pressure from protesters.

Gordon hinted at some new formats for the fifth anniversary issue due out this fall, although the subject mix – including a blend of the serious and the irreverent and Jewish issues and popular culture – will remain similar. Despite his impending marriage and move to New York this month, he expects to continue to oversee the paper and provide assistance, while York University student Aliza Libman will serve as managing editor, a newly created position.

The paper has a rotating roster of some two dozen writers, including a pool of Ryerson journalism graduates whom Silverberg has sought out.

"More writers coming forward would be heartening," he said.

שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

בזמן כתיבת שורות אלה בתחילת יולי שורר שקט ואף מחבל פלשתינאי עוד לא התפוצץ מאז נכנס חסכון הפסקת האלימות לתוקפו. כל זה עלול להשתנות בשניה. משאל גאלופ מעניין מהאו שרוב הישראלים אינם מאמינים שישראל 'ניצחה' במבצע האחרונים, אבל הרמטכ"ל יעלון, בסיכום שנתו הראשונה בתפקיד, מאמין שהצלחת החיסולים של אנשי חמאס הביאה אותם להסכים להפוגה. יש רבים שטוענים שההפוגה הנוכחית תאפשר להם להיערך מחדש, ושחיזנה זו טעות להפסיק את ההתקפות עליהם. ימים יגידו.

תלמידי ישראל-עם הספר:

בבחינות שנעשו לאחרונה בקרב ילדים בני חמש עשרה ב-41 מדינות מתועשות- נבדקו חבנת הנקרא, מדעים ומתימטיקה. בניגוד למבחנים בילאומיים קודמים- התרכז המחקר הזה בשאלה- כמה מוכנים בני נוער להתמדד עם בעיות בעזרת כלים שנתן להם בית הספר.

התוצאות מבחינת ישראל גרמו לועזות עמוקי

ילדי ישראל לא בדיוק מבינים את מה שהם קוראים- מקום 30 מתוך 41. גם בתחום המתימטיקה-ישראל במקום ה-30, ובמדעים-במקום 33.

אחת מעורכות המחקר בישראל, פרופסור זמירה מברך צוטטה: "כמובן שחשכו עיני כשראיתי את התוצאות". מנכ"לית משרד החינוך רונית תירוש לא הופתעה: "משנות הששים ועד היום אף אחד לא בדק אם חטיבות הביניים מתפקדות."

יוסי שריד, לשעבר שר החינוך, סבור שמצב העניינים הזה מקשן את קיומה של ישראל יותר מאשר המתאבדים הפלשתינאים. אני נוטה להסכים.

ועד שתקום ועדת חקירה בעניין, היזה כמה מחשבות בנושא במדינה שמשקיעה משאבים עצומים בישיבות, שבהן מתנכים עשרות אלפים בני נוער שקשה למתמטיקה ומדעים ומחרימים לימודי חול שכאלה-הכתובת היא על הקיר. במדינה שבה משקיעים מיליארדים של דולארים בכבישים עוקפים בגדה-אין כסף למתמטיקה ולחבנת הנקרא. אם הקדימויות הלאומיות לא ישתנו- תתברג ישראל בין מדינות העולם השלישי במהירות הבזק. אבל שישאר בינינו.

"אמריקה בכחול לבן"-שמעון זר אביב

קולו של שמעון זר אביב עושה לרבים מאיתנו את יום ראשון בבוקר. אבל יד על הלב- כמה מיכם ידעו ששמעון גם חוטא בכתיבת ספרים. השבוע הגיע אלי בדואר ספרו של שמעון "אמריקה כחול לבן".

שמעון מעיד על עצמו: "פנישות אישיות ועבודת שטח מקיפה הביאו אותי לעלות בכתב רשמים, חוויות וסיפורים שיפתיעו את הקוראים..."

"הישראלים המתגוררים בחו"ל חיים בתחושה קשה של

רגשות מעורבים ונפש חצויה. בספר מובאים סיפורים אמיתיים שלקטו ממקור ראשון מפי ישראלים שבחרו להתגורר בצפון אמריקה."

אם אתם קוראים את שישאר בינינו- קרוב לודאי שהספר הזה ישקף גם את החוויה האישית שלכם בצפון אמריקה. באחד מהטורים חבאים אביא קטעים נבחרים מ"אמריקה בכחול לבן". עד אז- פרטים על איך לחשיג את הספר בדואר אלקטרוני

americabluewhite@hotmail.co.il

גיזול בנים

איש אחד חזר חביתה בשעה מאוחרת עייף ומעוצבן. בנו בן העשר חיכה לו בדלת ושאל: "אבא, כמה אתה מרויח לשעה?" האב הזועף ענה לבנו בקוצר רוח שאין שם סיבה שיניד לו. אבל אחרי כשעה נרגע האיש ונזכר בפניו הנעלבות של הילד. הוא מיהר לחדרו של הילד, התנצל ואמר לו שהוא משתכר עשרים דולאר לשעה. נשם הילד בהקלה ואמר: "הנה אבא, עשרים דולאר. אני רוצה לקנות שעה מן חזמן שקד שתבוא מחר לראות אותי משחק כדורגל".

דיד באלאק- הזכרו- הזמן הזה לא יחזור. כל השאר בלשון.

Coast to Coast

Tank commander now a corporate fraud buster

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Feature

By the time he retired from the Israeli army 15 years ago, Jacob Lapid had amassed an enviable career record. As a colonel in command of a Merkava tank brigade, he often took part in key military operations, some of which he still won't talk about.

In one vintage photo, circa the mid-1980s, he is seated at a staff table during desert maneuvers speaking to Yitzhak Rabin. Next to the former prime minister is Yitzhak Mordechai, who went on to serve as defence minister, while next to Mordechai is another uniformed officer, Ehud Barak.

Lapid, 49, is now a civilian running a different kind of armour-piercing operation. His company, Lapidim (www.lapidim.com), specializes in corporate investigations and corporate intelligence, a sort of corporate fraud squad that uncovers misconduct in the business world.

Lapid was in Toronto recently where he is planning to expand his Israeli-based business in co-operation with a local partner.

For Lapid, as for so many Israeli military veterans, the transition to civilian life and the business world has been made easier by the leadership development and emphasis on strategic thinking that was part of his training in the Israel Defence Force (IDF).

Back in 1973, however, when he was still a raw recruit fresh out of armoured officers school, strategic thinking was something that took place primarily in the ranks above him. As he recalls it, a day before Yom Kippur 1973, he was rushed to the Sinai Desert and put in charge of a small unit of three modified Patton tanks of the 79th Tank Brigade stationed about 80 kilometres east of the Suez Canal.

Israeli intelligence had gotten wind of the planned Egyptian attack, but "they thought it was only to warm up the border, not cross the Suez Canal," he said.

The day after he arrived, however, all hell broke loose. Lapid was ordered to marshal a tank platoon behind the lines and get ready to move up.

In those early hours of the battle, "we were naive, full of confidence in our ability and we underestimated the enemy."

With his platoon of three tanks and one armoured personnel carrier, he ran the gauntlet of commando attacks to join other Israeli forces already deployed at the Canal. Early on, the Egyptians had dropped commandos behind the Israeli lines whose job was to harass Israeli forces. Many of the commandos were Sudanese, Lapid said, recalling they fought bravely, even recklessly.

The unit advanced unscathed, but when they arrived at their destination they were shocked to learn they faced thousands of enemy soldiers, tanks, artillery and more commandos.

Lapid quickly learned that infantry armed with Soviet-built SAGGER anti-tank missiles and rocket propelled grenades, which were new at the time, posed the gravest threat to Israeli armour.

"Many of my friends from tank school and the military academy were killed," he recalled. "I think we had one of the most intense experiences in fighting and leading our unit in the central part of the Canal."

One of the hardest battles occurred early in the war, when a few dozen Israeli tanks stopped hundreds of advancing Egyptian tanks. "We weren't prepared for such a big scale war. One by one, they [other IDF tanks] were hit."

In the end, only his tank remained intact. The Israelis certainly demonstrated much better tank skills than their Egyptian foes, who seemed unable to get the best out of their Soviet-built machines, he said. His unit of three tanks by itself destroyed close to 100 Egyptian tanks. "It was like shooting ducks," he said.

A few days later, after some reckless and overconfident Israeli counter-attacks ended badly, Lapid's unit received orders to lead an offensive assault to create a corridor between Egyptian forces all the way to the canal. Sharon had taken over command of the Suez front and he was determined to switch the IDF from defence to offence.

Reinforced by other units, but still with a total of only 22 tanks, the IDF advanced until confronted at the battle of the Chinese Farm. It was so named after Israeli soldiers found irrigation pipes with Japanese letters, which they mistook for Chinese script. The battle was one of the fiercest of the war.

It still causes Lapid to pause and choke up as he recalls the heavy sacrifice made to punch a hole in the Egyptian line.

By that time, Amram Mitzna, later to become mayor of Haifa and Labor party leader, had been named brigade commander. Under the plan of battle, Lapid's tank unit was to be the point of the spear and lead a key Israeli counterattack ahead of 22 tanks.

"We felt at the time it was a suicide mission... We had to lead the attack against a strong Egyptian position" without air support, he said. "My company commander tells the story that people came to him and asked if they would return to their families."

The assault began at night. "It's something you remember all your life. We crossed a big Egyptian ambush and we penetrated between two big Egyptian armies to make a corridor.

"Tanks usually fight at a distance, but what developed there was a bitter fight, face to face, where Egyptian commandos were trying to climb on the tanks," he said.

"We were fighting like crazy and firing and shooting at very close range." Enemy tanks were so close that when they were hit, "with the explosion you feel you're being hit at the same time."

The IDF suffered high casualties, but the operation proved a success and a turning point in the war. By the time they reached the canal, only four of the original 22 tanks survived. "Our tanks were covered in blood and pieces of flesh," Lapid said.

Lapid's unit was soon reinforced, and with the beefed-up force Israel crossed the canal, catching the Egyptians flat-footed. Lapid's unit was on the outskirts of Ismailiya when a ceasefire was declared.

At the time, Israeli units were only 101 kilometres from Cairo, with an unobstructed route to the Egyptian capital.

In 1994, Jacob Lapid (left) along with fellow IDF veterans, visited battle sites of the Yom Kippur War, including this one at the Suez Canal.

Lapid continued his military career after the war, rising to the rank of tank brigade commander and then going on to serve in the IDF's intelligence unit, where his primary responsibility was fighting terrorist groups.

For the past 15 years, he's been in the civilian sector working in the field of corporate security.

The IDF, he said, 'is the best preparation, experience, knowledge. You learn to break and penetrate organizations of terror and of money-laundering. The criminal world is similar to the terrorist world because they operate in cells, illegally and secretly."

Corporate commandos be forewarned.

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Hamilton woman raises thousands for kosher food bank

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — When a financial crisis hit the local Kosher Food Bank recently, a Jewish Social Services caseworker solved the problem by singlehandedly raising $16,000 in just over two weeks.

Bea Matchen, who has been working for Jewish Social Services for the past 20 years, initiated a campaign to rescue the financially troubled food bank by canvassing the local community.

When Carol Krames, the agency's director, pointed out that the food bank was $9,000 in debt and that they might have to consider applying for a bank loan, Matchen began her own fund-raising campaign.

"I went through the Hadassah phone directory [listing Jews in the Hamilton area] and called people who I thought might want to help, and who would be able to help to some degree," Matchen said.

"I told everyone that this was a one-time campaign and that we give people food, not money. I said that we just couldn't turn people down when they come for food. I was absolutely overcome by the response that I received.

"People said, 'Thank you for giving me the opportunity to help.'"

A local businesswoman donated $5,000.

"She didn't even hesitate," Matchen said.

The Kosher Food Bank gives food to 30 families on a regular basis. It also serves single mothers and people who have short-term financial difficulties.

"Sometimes people come on hard times for a short period when they are out of work," Matchen said. "People have to pay so much for living accommodations that they often don't have enough money for food."

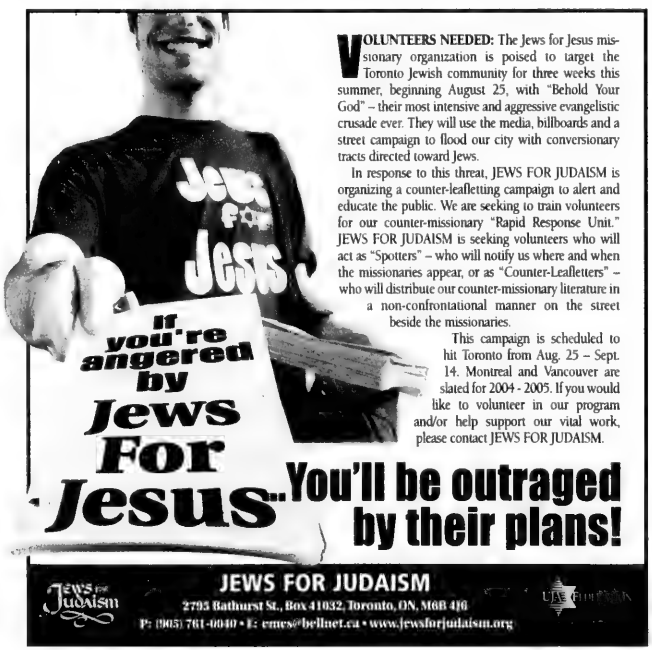
Some people Matchen called were amazed that a kosher food bank was so desperately needed.

"There are those who just can't believe that this can happen in the Jewish community," Matchen said.

The food bank provides vouchers to the local kosher butcher shop and local kosher delicatessen and leaves non-perishable items for pickup at the Jewish Community Centre.

"A separate entrance to the JCC enables people [carrying bags of food] to slip out of the building without the possibility of running into someone they know."

The Kosher Food Bank is a service offered by the Jewish Social Services of Hamilton, an agency of UJA Federation. The agency also runs daytime English as a second language courses for adults, counselling programs for members of the community who might be in crisis, visitation to isolated and hospitalized people, and support for newcomers to the community.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Jews for Jesus missionary organization is poised to target the Toronto Jewish community for three weeks this summer, beginning August 25, with "Behold Your God" – their most intensive and aggressive evangelistic crusade ever. They will use the media, billboards and a street campaign to flood our city with conversionary tracts directed toward Jews.

In response to this threat, JEWS FOR JUDAISM is organizing a counter-leafletting campaign to alert and educate the public. We are seeking to train volunteers for our counter-missionary "Rapid Response Unit." JEWS FOR JUDAISM is seeking volunteers who will act as "Spotters" – who will notify us where and when the missionaries appear, or as "Counter-Leafletters" – who will distribute our counter-missionary literature in a non-confrontational manner on the street beside the missionaries.

This campaign is scheduled to hit Toronto from Aug. 25 – Sept. 14. Montreal and Vancouver are slated for 2004 - 2005. If you would like to volunteer in our program and/or help support our vital work, please contact JEWS FOR JUDAISM.

JEWS FOR JUDAISM
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Hebrew Academy undergoes changes

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — As Rivka Shaffir prepares to take over the position as principal of Hamilton Hebrew Academy, she says her primary concern is the "total child."

For her, that means students' individuality must be nurtured by the school as well as by their parents, the Jewish community and the world at large, Shaffir said in an interview.

"We want the children to be first and foremost comfortable with themselves and have a very strong sense of their heritage and their roots so they can carry that with them as they go out into the world," she said.

Shaffir, who is currently the academy's vice-principal, has taught grades 7 and 8 since 1972.

She said she plans to maintain what she regards as the school's well-established focus on the child in his or her total environment. She wants to continue to provide a warm, caring and safe community for the students, but this cannot be done in isolation, she said.

Shaffir replaces Frank Samuels, formerly of South Africa, who became principal in November 2001. Rabbi Zev Eisenstein held the job from 1973 to 2001.

Samuels is leaving to become principal of Bnei Akiva Schools of Toronto, which consists of Yeshiva Or Chaim, a high school for boys, and its twin girls school, Ulpanat Orot.

Joining Shaffir in running the academy will be Mary Martha Starkman, the new vice-principal. Starkman, a former teacher at the academy, was more recently the enrichment specialist and co-ordinator of the general studies at Netivot HaTorah Day School in Toronto.

Shaffir and Starkman, who have known each other for 15 years, anticipate a close working relationship.

"It will be a challenge to build on the foundation of excellence at the school," Starkman said.

"We will focus on continuing the tradition of providing both an excellent secular and Judaic studies education as well as on expanding the curriculum and programming."

Shaffir said Hamilton Hebrew Academy is traditional and Judaic studies are delivered from that perspective.

"We have wonderful role models in terms of teachers and rabbis," she said.

The academy welcomes students who come from non-traditional backgrounds and provides them with an enriching experience, she said.

Shaffir said she is delighted when children of former graduates begin their academic careers at the academy.

"It's exciting to see their offspring come here and bloom…

"There is tremendous warmth at the academy. When the kids graduate, they look back on their years here with such fondness."

Before coming to Hamilton, Samuels was principal of the Bnei Akiva-affiliated Yeshiva College of South Africa.

He said he is excited about the challenge of heading another Bnei Akiva school, but will miss Hamilton Hebrew Academy.

"It takes three or four years for a principal to make a school his or her own," he said. "Many of the things I've tried to do in this school are only beginning to happen now.

"Our pre-school is phenomenal. The teachers have worked as a team and we've had a great year."

As the academy's principal, Samuels organized a trip to New York for the pre-school teachers to observe the city's Hebrew day schools.

"The trip likely changed their outlook on teaching. We reaped the benefit of it."

Other events Samuels organized included a community-wide Lag b'Omer picnic and barbeque that featured fireworks and attracted about 250 people, as well as the community's first South African Shabbat dinner last year, an event that was repeated this past May. About 400 people attended the event that featured a cantor and a choir. Samuels also developed the idea for the school's Teddy Bear's Picnic, an evening celebration held during Chanukah. Children were invited to come to the school with their teddy bears and blankets. Children and teachers alike wore pajamas, and everyone had a wonderful time, he said.

Vancouver school gets $100,000 grant

VANCOUVER, B.C — The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver has recently approved an unprecedented $100,000 grant to the Talmud Torah High School capital campaign.

This grant is the largest the foundation has ever awarded to one organization and brings the total grants awarded this year to approximately $250,000.

Garry Zlotnik, foundation chair, said, "This grant demonstrates our foundation's commitment to work with our community partners to make meaningful contributions toward building a strong and vibrant Jewish community here in Vancouver."

The foundation is the central address for planned giving in the Jewish community and manages nearly 200 separate endowment funds worth approximately $13.3 million. Through the growth and stewardship of permanent endowment funds and the distribution of income to a wide range of eligible organizations, the foundation strives to meet the needs of the local community as well as national and international Jewish causes.

Vancouver Talmud Torah High School is a traditional, co-educational, independent day school. It is the only existing Jewish high school west of Winnipeg and currently operates out of temporary space, which it shares with two other educational institutions.

The new high school and community facility is the first of its kind in Vancouver and it will be integrated with the Jewish Community Centre as part of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg J.C.C. campus. The new facility will offer the children of the local community a Jewish learning and educational experience and environment. The Talmud Torah High School capital campaign has raised more than $17 million towards its $18.3 million goal.

The Jewish Community Foundation has provided funding for 27 organizations this year to support a variety of programs and projects. The JCFGV invites applications for consideration in the fall and spring of each year. Interested applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent outlining their program or project and are then invited to apply if they have met the foundation's funding criteria. For more information regarding the grant distribution process please call foundation associate Rena Cohen at 604-257-5100.

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Cautiously, Israelis begin to hope

By MATTHEW GUTMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

TEL AVIV — The sandbags stacked outside Tel Aviv's Ta'am Café about a year ago – part macabre joke and part security precaution – have been removed, as has the café's guard.

Asked about the changes, Lahav, one of the café's many bare-midriffed waitresses, shrugged. "We feel safer now," she said.

Since Palestinian terrorist groups declared a temporary ceasefire late last month, many Israelis see a sliver of light at the end of the tunnel. Recent weeks have seen increases in consumer activity in Israel, in travel both in Israel and abroad, in employment demand and in real estate transactions, according to a recent report in the *Yediot Achronot* daily newspaper.

"People are eager to get the conflict behind them, they are clamouring to get Israel's economy back on track," said Dori Shadmon, chair of Israel's leading polling group, Teleseker.

But the rise is not only related to the ceasefire, Shadmon said.

"Consumer confidence – generally the best indication of how the 'nation' feels and thinks – has been climbing steadily since April," he said.

The U.S.-led war in Iraq removed a major threat from Israel, the government was able to pass a new economic austerity program and one of the most stable governments in years has pushed forward the road map peace plan with American backing, Shadmon noted.

Though malls and airports are packed again, "it should be noted that these same people don't have anymore money in the bank than they did before," he said.

But, he added, that may not be important: "The psychological influence is what lifts an economy from the doldrums."

Not everyone agrees.

"I don't buy it," said Rachel Elkins, sitting on the Ta'am Café's bougainvillea-draped patio.

Elkins, who until about a year ago worked for several Israeli-Palestinian peace organizations, believes the apparent progress toward peace in recent weeks "is a political ploy by the United States to get President [George W.] Bush re-elected."

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas is being propped up by Israel and the United States but has little chance of success, she said.

Like many other Israelis, Elkins said she has stopped following the news because it is too depressing.

"Of course there will be more bombings. This *hudna* feels false, it feels like it has no base," she said, using the Arabic word for ceasefire. "I just don't see it holding for very long."

But in Tel Aviv's Carmel Market, a bastion of right-wing politics, vendors are cautiously optimistic.

"What does either side have to lose at this point?" asked Pini Pitzhadze, re-arranging the nylon underwear on sale in his stall.

He said Israel's policy of assassinating terrorist leaders "broke" the groups.

"Everything changed after we almost took out Rantissi," he said, referring to an assassination attempt last month on Abdel Aziz Rantissi, a top Hamas official. "They came running to the negotiating table hungry to make a deal."

Pitzhadze, who does reserve duty once a year with his infantry unit, doubts much will change for soldiers, despite Israel's recent withdrawal from Bethlehem and most of the Gaza Strip.

"So what? We are out of a corner of Gaza and Bethlehem. What about Jenin and Nablus and Tulkarm?" he asked about the West Bank cities. "I have no illusions about not returning to those places anytime soon."

For vendors like Pitzhadze, consumer confidence is critical. Israelis afraid of terrorism stay away from densely packed open-air markets.

"That is why this has to work this time," he said. "We really need shoppers."

Among Israel's Arab population, sentiment is slightly different. Slumped heavily in his chair in the Al Salam (Peace) restaurant in Nazareth, Manour Fahoum has few kind words for terrorist groups such as Hamas or Islamic Jihad, which he believes ruined his life.

"To hell with all those groups," he said. "This city depends on tourism, and now those murderers have destroyed everything."

Fahoum was a tour bus driver, chauffeuring pilgrims around Israel. Now he does little but sip weak tea at his friend Mahmoud's restaurant.

Chatting among themselves, Mahmoud, Fahoum and their friend Bader said neither Israelis nor Palestinians are "going anywhere," so the time has come to end the conflict once and for all.

"This *hudna* business is a good start," Fahoum said, "but what is necessary is a *sulha*," or traditional Muslim reconciliation, "a real peace, not a ceasefire."

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JEWISH MATCH INTERACTIVE DATING

Oxford moves against professor

By RICHARD ALLEN GREENE
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — An Oxford University professor could be fired after rejecting a graduate student because the student is Israeli.

Andrew Wilkie, a professor of pathology, dismissed an application from Amit Duvshani to work in his laboratory in late June, partly on the grounds the Tel Aviv University student had done his mandatory service in the Israel Defence Forces.

"I am sure you are perfectly nice at a personal level, but no way would I take on somebody who had served in the Israeli army," Wilkie wrote Duvshani in an e-mail that has been widely circulated.

Wilkie accused Israel of gross human rights abuses against the Palestinians, even citing the Holocaust in his argument.

"As you may be aware, I am not the only U.K. scientist with these views, but I'm sure you will find another suitable lab if you look around," the e-mail concluded.

Israel supporters from New York to Tel Aviv responded with outrage.

In London, the Board of Deputies, the umbrella organization representing most British Jews, protested to Oxford.

"Oxford University is expected to be a place where ideas are freely upheld and exchanged," board President Henry Grunwald wrote to Sir Colin Lucas, Oxford's vice-chancellor.

"This cannot happen if there remains any scope for refusing to admit or hire someone on the basis of their nationality, religion or race," Grunwald said.

Andy Marks, founder and director of the International Academic Friends of Israel, said such "blatant discrimination against a scientist based on his nationality is a dangerous threat to academic and scientific freedom."

The group was formed to fight a boycott of Israeli academics by British academics, which has been the subject of fierce international debate since it was launched last summer.

Baroness Susan Greenfield, a neurobiologist and director of Britain's Royal Institution, has campaigned against the boycott. She said the controversy over Wilkie's comments underscores the seriousness of the boycott in Britain.

"This will show that it's something that's real," she said. "It's not just a flash in the pan."

Although a British academic union rejected a boycott motion at its annual conference in May by a ratio of two-to-one, "that still means a third voted for it," she noted.

Oxford University was quick to distance itself from Wilkie's move, describing itself as "appalled that any member of its staff should have responded to an inquiry from a potential graduate student in the terms in which Professor Wilkie e-mailed Amit Duvshani."

Wilkie apologized for "any distress" his e-mail caused, and said the inclusion of his "personal opinions" was "wholly inappropriate."

"I entirely accept the University of Oxford's Equal Opportunities and Race Equality Policies," he said in a public statement.

Despite Wilkie's apology, Oxford convened a special disciplinary committee on July 4. The Visitatorial Board, as it is called, has the power to recommend that Wilkie be dismissed. It could also recommend a lighter punishment, such as a warning.

Wilkie has four weeks to present his case in writing to the committee, consisting of four Oxford staff members chaired by an outsider. He has the right to appear before the board and will not take part in selecting Oxford students or staff while it is considering the case.

Only one other Visitatorial Board has been convened at Oxford in the past year, a university spokesperson said.

The Board of Deputies welcomed Oxford's move, saying it was "gratifying to hear that the case is being taken so seriously."

Wilkie did not respond to requests for comment.

But Sue Blackwell, a boycott supporter who teaches in the English department at the University of Birmingham, said Wilkie's apology should be the end of the matter.

"I understand that Prof. Wilkie has now apologized to the student and withdrawn his original position of refusing him a place in his lab," she said via e-mail.

"I don't see what he had to apologize for in the first place, but especially in view of his apology, it is completely unacceptable that the University of Oxford should be considering disciplinary action against him," she added.

Blackwell, who proposed the boycott motion that the academic union rejected this spring, highlighted the fact that Wilkie referred specifically to Duvshani's army service in rejecting him.

"This is an important issue because doing military service involves supporting the occupation either directly or indirectly, and for this reason a growing number of young Israelis are refusing to do their initial period of service or to become reservists," she said.

"Israelis who have not done military service are unlikely to be considered for most jobs, which thus excludes most Israeli Arabs as well as the 'refuseniks,'" she said. "So this single act of 'discrimination' against a student who has done his military service in Israel has to be seen in the context of the institutional discrimination in Israel against anyone who has not done military service."

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July 7

• A suicide bomber blew himself up in Kfar Yavetz killing 65-year-old Mazal Afari. Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack.

July 8

• President Moshe Katsav travelled to Ankara for two days of talks on strengthening ties with Turkey.

• Israel is putting fluorescent strips on camels in an attempt to prevent car accidents in the Negev Desert. The first 40 camels were outfitted with strips this week and as many as 1,000 more camels will be tagged soon.

July 9

• According to a study published by the Fraser Institute in Canada, Israel placed 56th out of 123 countries in the Economic Freedom Index. Israel shared its ranking with Egypt. Jordan was ranked 39th. The index uses 38 parameters to evaluate a country's economic policies. The parameters that dragged Israel down were related to the size of government, transfer payments, subsidies and investments.

July 10

• Israeli and PA defence ministers, Shaul Mofaz and Mohammed Dahlan respectively, met in the Gaza Strip to discuss Israeli troop withdrawal and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

July 11

• A senior diplomatic source in Jerusalem said Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will visit Washington in about 2½ weeks at the invitation of U.S. President George W. Bush. "The prime minister will be going to the United States at the end of July. I don't have an exact date. This meets a U.S. request to move up the trip from September," the source said.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Waiting for a miracle

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Analysis

Travellers walking north through almost 1,115 feet of underground tunnels beneath the Muslim Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem might think they're simply learning about events that marked the building of the Western Wall in the Roman era.

But they're also venturing into contemporary politics that surround the Temple Mount and Wall.

On the last Friday in June, I joined a group of haredi and modern Orthodox Israeli families on the last tour through the Western Wall tunnels before Shabbat. As the group lingered to touch the 10-ton cornerstones of the wall that Herod built 2,000 years ago, a question was posed about the history that is currently unfolding and the status of Jerusalem in the U.S.-sponsored road map peace plan.

"Who will this belong to, that is if there is peace?" a man asked.

During the Oslo peace talks, a vertical division of sovereignty was proposed in which everything above the ground would be controlled by the Muslims and everything below it would be controlled by the Jews.

"It all belongs to the Jewish people," a haredi man quickly responded. "God gave this land to the Jewish people and we are holding it, all of it, until the Jewish people are ready to return."

As I emerged from the tunnels, it struck me that while the mainstream Zionist movement accepted the notion of partition of the land of Israel some time in the 1930s, the partition idea has clearly not been accepted by everyone in Israel.

Yet, for most Israelis I met – from left to right – the dream of partition and peaceful coexistence seemed idyllic, but not achievable.

Israelis appear to have redefined their future. The optimism and vision that once propelled the Oslo peace process and is now driving the current road map discussions has been replaced by a general sense of despair.

"The road map is a wish list, which will probably fail," said Shlomo Avineri, the renowned Hebrew University of Jerusalem professor of political science.

His experience as one of the Oslo negotiators has left him feeling "there will not be peace until the Palestinian leadership recognizes Israel's legitimate right to exist."

At this point, he believes, the most that can be achieved is "stabilization."

New Republic writer Yossi Klein Halevy is also pessimistic about the long-term prospects for peace. Unprecedented levels of hatred have emerged among a generation of Palestinians, he said, because they have spent a decade in an education system controlled by the Palestinian Authority and its president, Yasser Arafat.

Klein Halevy, author of the book *At the Gates of The Garden of Eden*, which emphasizes religious commonalities, said he believes there will be change, but that it will only come through war.

"It will be the hawks who will bring about the vision of the doves," Klein Halevy said.

Other Israelis I spoke to called for a wall between Israel and the Palestinians and demanded that it be built as high as possible – as if a complete division of peoples could somehow compensate for the betrayal they feel over the shattered Oslo accords and the terrorism that has followed. To them, the only question that seemed worth debating was where the wall should be built.

And then there were some who, despite the numbers of willing suicide bombers and the growth of Islamic terrorist organizations, are willing to believe there is hope.

The director of the American Jewish Committee, Eran Lerman, said that totalitarianism has been destroyed in the rest of the world, and he is convinced that eventually it will also collapse in the Middle East.

He takes hope in small things. For example, Lerman notes that, in Aqaba, Mahmoud Abbas spoke of the historical suffering of the Jewish people. It was a statement he was not expecting from the PA prime minister.

As the road map moves forward, I can't help but think of a lecture by Hebrew University scholar Mordecai Abir, who recalled that one month before slain Egyptian president Anwar Sadat came to Jerusalem to meet with former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin, he gave a talk predicting that no Arab leader would ever come to Israel.

Greater miracles have been known to happen in the Middle East.

***Children of the Garden of Eden*, by Ashraf Fawakhry, is being shown as part of an Arab art exhibit at Beit Hagefen – Arab/Jewish Cultural Center in Haifa.**

No evidence SS guard lived in Canada: RCMP

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The RCMP says it has uncovered no evidence that a former Nazi death camp guard arrested recently in Michigan ever lived in Canada.

Although recent media reports indicate Johann Leprich, 78, may have spent much of the last 16 years in Windsor, there is no convincing evidence that was ever the case, said Jean Dube, head of the RCMP section in the Justice Department's war crimes unit.

Dube said the RCMP looked into Leprich's whereabouts on three separate occasions since he was stripped of his U.S. citizenship in 1987. The national police force uncovered no solid evidence he was ever in Canada, Dube said, though he added he could not rule out that possibility.

"As far as the number of times he came to Canada, it's difficult to say. We have not been able to establish that he lived in Canada," Dube stated.

Leprich was arrested two weeks ago at his home in Clinton Township, 40 kilometres north of Detroit, after U.S. law enforcement agencies acted on a tip.

Officials said Leprich, who served as an armed guard at the Mauthausen concentration camp, was found hiding in a secret compartment under the stairs of his home.

Pointing to that fact, Dube said U.S. authorities "found him in his residence. If he had a secret compartment in his house, it appears he was there all along. Right now, it's speculation as to how often he came" to Canada.

Dube acknowledged Leprich likely did occasionally visit relatives in Canada, but there is no way of knowing how often or how long he stayed.

Although Leprich's name was placed on the Canadian Police Information Centre database, he could have bypassed scrutiny by driving into Canada as a passenger in someone's car and not be asked to prove his identity, Dube said.

Last week, a report in the *Detroit News* quoted unnamed American "authorities" saying they suspected Leprich "used fake identification to sneak across the U.S.-Canadian border." *JTA*, meanwhile, quoted Eli Rosenbaum, director of the U.S. Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations, saying, "We caught him on a visit."

The RCMP did look into the Leprich case in 1987, when a U.S. judge first stripped him of his citizenship. In 1997, New York investigator Steven Rambam resurrected the case by attempting to track down Leprich in Windsor (he didn't find him). That same year, Leprich was profiled on *America's Most Wanted*. The RCMP investigated the Leprich case at that time and once again this year.

"Once he skipped the United States, from that time to now I think the trips [to Canada] were few and far between," Dube said. "He was a fugitive."

The *Detroit News* reported that Leprich's underground life forced him to remain in hiding most of the time. When he ventured outside, usually at night, he looked closely at people passing by and reacted nervously to unusual sound and movements.

Neighbours said they last saw him in 1987, when he fled federal authorities.

Leprich was living with his wife, Maria, when he was found.

He served as an armed SS Death's Head guard at Mauthausen in 1943 and 1944. An estimated 119,000 prisoners, 38,120 of them Jews, were killed in the camp.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

SUMMER LITERARY COLUMN, PART II: CONVERSATION WITH NANCY RICHLER

Winner of this year's Jewish Book Award for fiction, Vancouver writer **Nancy Richler** spent five years writing the novel *Your Mouth Is Lovely*, a tale set in Russia around the time of the 1905 revolution. (It's "a grand and lyrical saga of family secrets and sorrows set in turn-of-the-century Russia," according to the colourful prose on the back cover of the HarperFlamingo paperback edition.)

Richler, who grew up in Montreal and holds a master's degree in history and politics, set much of the book in a few shtetls in a swampy backwater in southeastern Belarus, upriver along the Dnieper from Chernobyl. But the action swings from Kiev to Siberia as its imprisoned narrator, Miriam, tells her life story by letter to her young daughter, who was taken from her at birth and brought by an aunt to Canada.

Nancy Richler

Since writing a novel is supposed to be a voyage of self-discovery for an author, it's not surprising that Richler began writing about herself before she had any strong idea of theme, setting or story for the book.

"I started out by writing about the circumstances of my own birth," she said. "As I was rewriting it, I found I was writing in what seemed like a 19th-century voice... things don't always go the way you expect. So then I decided I wanted to write about my family's origins, not just my origin. That brought me to eastern Europe, just before the turn of the 20th century."

By way of research, she read "everything I could get my hands on – first-person memoirs, travel guides and other books" about the period and place she had chosen, which was "a little more out of the mainstream" than the areas from which her own ancestors had originated. "My father's family was from Galicia and my mother's side were Litvaks," she said, noting that her grandfather had arrived in Montreal about 1903.

Working through Toronto literary agent **Dean Cooke**, Richler sent sample chapters of the completed novel last year to the American publisher Ecco (an imprint of Harper), and an editor called immediately to request the entire manuscript. "We sent it out on a Friday and we had a sale on a Monday morning," she recalled. "It was wonderful."

She said is "delighted and honoured" to have won the prestigious fiction prize last month. "All the way along, since the book came out, the response from the Jewish community has been incredible. It's just been a wonderful experience for me from the get-go, and this prize is just the icing on the cake."

Your Mouth Is Lovely has been translated into several European languages, and its author recently returned from a promotional tour in Italy. "The book is doing really well in Italy. I did a talk at the Jewish Museum in Venice and they're doing a dramatization of part of it in Bologna. They've invited me to come back for that."

Didn't the Italians, several years back, also heartily embrace **Mordecai Richler's** novel *Barney's Version*?

"Oh yes, they've loved Barney – you can't put it into the same category."

Speaking of the more famous Richler, who died two years ago this month, Nancy explained that the families are related but have had little contact.

"There were two brothers who came over, and one had nine children and one had 14. My father is one of the nine children and Mordecai is a son of one of the 14. I know family members from that side, but we didn't interact when we were growing up."

* * *

Success Story: Toronto author **Kathy Kacer's** third Holocaust book for young readers, *The Night Spies*, was recently published as the fourth title in the Second Story Press's award-winning series of Holocaust Remembrance Books for Young Readers.

As it happens, Kacer wrote two of the three previous books in the series – *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* and *Clara's War*. In an acknowledgement, she paid special tribute to publisher **Margie Wolfe** for taking "a chance on an unknown author. I am forever indebted and grateful to Margie for her encouragement and her ongoing enthusiasm. She launched my writing career and has continued to support it."

Reached at Second Story's office on lower Bathurst Street, Wolfe reported that *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* went into its seventh printing recently and that Kacer is now happily at work on a fourth book.

Wolfe also waxed eloquent about the success of another title in the series – *Hana's Suitcase*, by Karen Levine. The book has won multiple major prizes, reached a huge non-Jewish market, and sold more than 100,000 copies in Japan alone. According to Wolfe, a British reviewer recently compared it to another classic of Holocaust literature – none other than *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

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Arts & Travel

Rock musician turns to flamenco

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

James Cohen stopped playing guitar professionally at 21, but after jamming with a flamenco musician more than a decade later, the former rock 'n' roller came away with a renewed interest in music and a desire to play flamenco.

Cohen became a jeweller after he "retired" from rock music. On a gem-buying trip in Venezuela in the early 1990s, he played with the flamenco musician at a local tapas bar.

"A highly annoying friend of mine forced me up on stage to play with him," Cohen says. "It was a lesson in humiliation I shall never forget. Since that day, I have been fascinated, and determined to play flamenco."

Back home in Ottawa, Cohen began studying flamenco while continuing his job as a jeweller. At a jewelry store he owned for a while, he practised guitar when he could.

Cohen, 43, says his rock background was of little help in mastering flamenco techniques. As a rock guitarist, he had, most notably, worked with the late Mick Ronson, who has been credited with shaping the sound of David Bowie's early recordings.

James Cohen

Nevertheless, Cohen says he had to unlearn habits he had picked up from playing rock. The only similarity between playing rock and flamenco, he observes dryly, is that there are "neural connections between the brain and the fingers."

Cohen says anyone who has the potential to play guitar well or anyone who can already play well, regardless of his or her musical style, can learn how to play flamenco.

But he says he found it hard to learn the music's complex rhythms. He went to music stores in search of a drum machine or a synthesizer that would help him, but found nothing. So with software engineer Mike Lester, Cohen put together a prototype metronome for flamenco and world music (including classical Indian, Latin American, Caribbean and Middle Eastern), the VKO MundoBeat. He says it was easier to invent the MundoBeat than to try to learn to play flamenco on his own.

Seeing an opening in the market, Cohen ordered 1,200 units of the MundoBeat, set up a Web site, www.vko.com, and left the jewelry business. By March 2001, he had sold all $99 units and he is now powering up the company again with new stock ready to be shipped to customers and music stores around the world.

"It will be a long time before the company makes any money," Cohen says. "Basically, it's a labour of love."

Initially, he expected that most of his customers would be students, but it turned out that some experienced musicians also found the MundoBeat useful. The Web site includes endorsements from well-known flamenco musicians such as Miguel De La Bastide, Ottmar Liebert, Jesse Cook and Tomatito.

Cohen's third CD, the critically acclaimed *High Side of Lowdown*, which was released recently on NorthernBlues Music, includes flamenco as well as blues and Gypsy jazz tunes. Hints of Cohen's rock roots can be heard on some of the tracks and the recording was produced by Richard Bell, Janis Joplin's former piano player. In addition to producing, Bell also plays keyboard, piano, vibraphone and accordion, while Tony D. plays guitar, Devin Johnstone does percussion and Stu Watkins plays bass.

Cohen got his first taste of flamenco and Gypsy music on visits to his great-uncle's when he was six.

"My father would bring me to visit his aunt and uncle on Sundays," he says. "My uncle was considered quite eccentric and he listened to this unusual Gypsy music.

"He had an extensive collection of old wax flamenco recordings and while the family chatted, I was in the living room listening to it."

Cohen says the tunes on *High Side of Lowdown*, "which are both widely varied and unified with the same roots," have a feel that can still take him back to his uncle's living room.

Cohen performs in Ottawa at The Rainbow Bistro on Aug. 1 and Aug. 28 and The Mercury Lounge on Aug. 6.

For more information, visit www.james-cohen.com.

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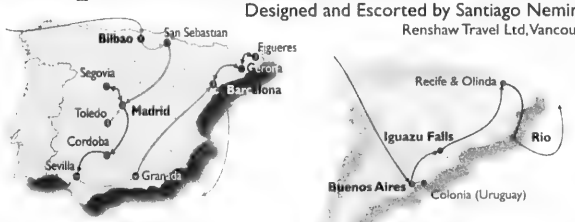

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Posthumous donation funds Tay-Sachs research

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Although the percentage of people carrying the gene for Tay-Sachs disease is higher among Ashkenazi Jews than in the general population, it's a misconception that Tay-Sachs is a Jewish disease.

Marla Fine, a board member of the National Tay-Sachs & Allied Disease Association of Ontario, which focuses on family support, wants to get that message across. Fine and her husband, Bob Gagné, who is not Jewish, had a daughter, Elizabeth, who died of Tay-Sachs in 1995 at age four.

Gertie and Jack Uger, Cheryl and Len Goldberg, along with Fine, sat around the Ugers' Toronto breakfast table recently to discuss the disease.

The two couples, whose children were not affected by Tay-Sachs, crossed paths with Fine after Jack and Cheryl were named executors for the estate of their uncle, Louis Uger, a Hamiltonian who wanted them and their spouses to allocate his entire estate – a substantial amount of money that the couples prefer not to specify – to fund Tay-Sachs research.

The disease that claimed his only child in 1953 leads to mental and physical deterioration. Children with Tay-Sachs appear healthy at birth, but rarely survive beyond five years of age.

Arlene Sarah Uger – her parents always referred to her by her first and middle names – was only three years old when she died in 1953. She is remembered by her relatives as a pretty child with dark hair and long eyelashes.

Her father began talking about her again only in recent years, before his death at age 87 in 2001, said Cheryl, whose late aunt, Belle Uger, was Louis' wife.

The two Toronto couples have made significant donations to the Hospital for Sick Children (HSC) and the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science, as per their uncle's request.

Gertie did most of the legwork, even calling a contact in Israel to see what type of Tay-Sachs research was being done there. It was through the Weizmann organization here, though, that she learned about research being done by Tony Futerman in Israel.

Futerman is working on finding the reason for nerve cell dysfunction in a variant of Tay-Sachs. He was recently in contact with fellow scientists at HSC as a result of the donation.

"That's a really crucial thing – bringing the scientists together," said Fine.

At HSC, scientist Don Mahuran has been the principal investigator in Tay-Sachs-related research that the Ugers are now helping fund.

Tay-Sachs is one of a series of so-called lysosomal diseases in which a crucial enzyme is not delivered to the part of the cell where it has to go to do its work, explained John Callahan, HSC's genetic metabolic laboratory director and a research collaborator of Mahuran's. Without that enzyme, material builds up in cells affecting the central nervous system.

They are working on finding a "chemical chaperone" to deliver the enzyme in certain types of Tay-Sachs disease. Results with lab mice thus far are promising, said Callahan, although the implications are greater for one variant of Tay-Sachs and for related diseases including Gaucher's disease than for infantile Tay-Sachs.

"A donation like this really does make a difference," said Fine.

Although testing is available to determine whether adults are carriers for Tay-Sachs and related diseases like Familial Dysautonomia and Canavan disease – and recommended for high-risk groups, including the Ashkenazi Jewish population and some French Canadian and Acadian populations – Fine said it would unnerve her if "it got to the point where everyone had to be tested.

"I can't tell you I wish I was tested because that's like saying I wish Elizabeth had never been born. I also think of the giggles, the laughs and the joy."

A lot of people think that, because of the prevalence of testing, Tay-Sachs is a disease that has been beaten, said Fine. "It isn't." She hopes to see a cure.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I have been taking a supplement for low iron prescribed by my doctor, but I feel nauseous frequently. Is this because my iron is low?

A. Feeling nauseous is likely a symptom of the iron supplement, not of having low iron. Many iron supplements can make you feel queasy. But the only way to improve your iron levels is by taking that supplement as prescribed, so revisit your doctor and tell him or her your symptoms. Other supplements can be prescribed that will likely be better tolerated. Also try taking the supplement on a full stomach, such as after dinner or before bed. This is also true for maternity vitamins, which also contain a high amount of iron.

Q. My teenage daughter does not consume many dairy products and her pediatrician suggests she take a calcium supplement. Can you recommend one?

A. Because of the health benefits of dairy foods, I am reluctant to encourage someone who can tolerate dairy products to resort to a calcium supplement. Calcium is only one important component in dairy foods. If you can encourage your daughter to eat cheese, yogurt, chocolate milk, ice cream, milkshakes or smoothies, then you can add a supplement as well to ensure she is meeting her calcium needs at a peak bone-building stage.

As far as a supplement goes, choose a calcium-magnesium combination in a 2 to 1 ratio, which you can find in health food and drug stores and which allows excellent absorbability.

Q. I am commited to improving the fruit and vegetable intake in our house this summer. Can you tell me some of the most nutritious, kid-friendly ones?

A. "Kid-friendly" is in the eye of the beholder. The most important thing is not that you serve healthy foods, but that your family actually eats them. Try cantaloupe, blueberries, sweet potatoes, avocado, red and green peppers, broccoli and watermelon, which are all nutrient powerhouses.

Q. My three-year-old is very constipated. What foods should I give him to help his regularity?

A. It is important that you not only consider which foods are necessary to give to your child, but also which foods might need to be reduced as they may worsen constipation. These foods include bananas and dairy and white rice products.

Which foods you add depends on your child's likes and dislikes and the severity of the constipation. First check with your child's doctor, who may prescribe a laxative, particularly if your child is uncomfortable or has gone for a prolonged period of time without having a bowel movement.

The most important thing to add is fluids – anything from water to prune juice. Also try high-fibre foods such as oatmeal, bran cereals, breads or muffins, dried fruit, fresh fruit and vegetables, legumes (beans), whole wheat pasta, corn and whole grain crackers. When buying whole wheat foods, make sure the ingredients actually list whole wheat flour. Good luck.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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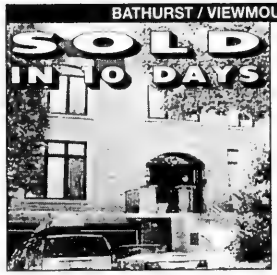

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

BRAND NEW + LUXURIOUS - BEST VALUE
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Immaculate 4 bedroom, 4 bath Tudor style. Plans and permit available. 50 x 110 ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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Fabulous finishes. Paris kitchen w/o to deck. Gas fireplace. Many extras. Judy Silverberg* 416-488-2875

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$829,000. Custom built approx. 3,300 sq. ft. living space. 3 bedrooms, 4 baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - PERFECT PACKAGE $799,000
Beaut reno'd 4 bdrm, 4 bath. Approx. 3,500 sq. ft. + fin bsmnt. Breathtaking 50x140' lot+ingrnd pool. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 3 OLD PARK ROAD! $499K!
N/Eglinton! Fab curb appeal! 4+1 bdrm, 3 bath centre hall! Nanny ste! 45x119'! Subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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Subway, schools. Sunny, spacious 3 bdrm, 2 bath. Eat-in kitchen. Rec room. F/P. Private drive. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

43 GLEN PARK AVE! 2 STOREY, 3+1 BDRM, 4 BATH!
$429K1 Bathurst/Glencairn! Valiue packed res! Gorg'us 25 x 132'! Walk to shul. Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

BATHURST/EGLINTON UPDATED
2 bdrm bungalow. Basement has 2 bdrm apt and separate entrance. 2 car prkg. Near shops & subway. A. Eidlitz* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS BEAUTIFUL LOCATION
Brand new custom 5 bdrm home. Top of the line appliances. Best schools in area. Amalia Bekerman* 416-226-1987

FABULOUS BROWNSTONE CIRC $399,000
3 bedroom end unit with finished basement & basement walk-out. Just move right in! David Kohn* 416-226-1987

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3 bedroom bungalow with 2-1 bedroom lower units with separate entrance + 4 car parking. Gary Day* 416-226-1987

CHAPLIN ESTATES ON BELTLINE
3 bedroom, 2 storey, $2,400/month. Formal living & dining room, eat-in kitchen, 2 bath, all appliances. L. Stoneman* 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

LUXURY P.H. CUSTOM 2,100 SQ. FT., 1 BEDROOM
Can be put back to 2 bedroom + den, sauna, locker, 2 parking, F.P., roof garden. Must sell! Pauline Mack* 416-226-1987

CLASSIC SKYMARK - 2 BEDROOM, DEN, 3 BATHS FOR SALE OR LEASE
2 parking/locker. Marble floors, white kitchen, w/o to balcony. Must sell! 24 hour security. Pauline Mack* 416-226-1987

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New Tridel model, $1,175,000! Symphony Square. $423,000. Marty Wagman** 416-226-1987

65 SKYMARK DRIVE 2,200 SQ. FT.!!
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BEECROFT/YONGE - MOVE-IN IMMAC $212,500
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RESULTS RESULTS RESULTS 483-4337

FINE PROPERTIES

FOREST HILL RD. - $1,625,000. SOLD
Classic 5 bdrm. Georgian w/family room that overlooks landscaped garden & inground pool. Finished lower level. *Linda Rose.

LOWER VILLAGE - $1,470,000. SOLD
Lovely 4 bdrm. Georgian residence on deep lot. Library on 2nd level. Finished lower level. CAC. Private drive. Double garage. *Edie Winberg.

AVENUE RD./MIDLOTHIAN - $839,000. SOLD
Wonderfully reno'd & updated family home. Main fl. family rm. 4+ bdrms. Finished lower level. Private drive & garage. *Leslie Dennis.

YORK MILLS / LESLIE - 729,000.
Exceptional 4 bdrm., 4 bath home. Main fl. family rm., powder rm. & laundry. CAC. Finished lower level. Dble. garage. *Kathie Wood.

YONGE / EGLINTON -- $659,000.
Stunning 5 yrs. new end unit townhome. Main fl. powder rm. Eat-in kitchen with walkout to fully fenced patio. Finished lower level. Garage. **Richard Sherman.

BATHURST / FAIRLAWN - $649,000.
Reno'd 4 bdrm. Main fl.family rm. & powder rm. Fireplace. Master w/ensuite & walk-in closet & built-ins. Finished lower level. Private drive & garage. *Edie Winberg.

FOREST HILL - $619,000.
Tastefully updated 3 bdrm. home. Large principal rms. Powder rm. Finished lower level. Large deck & lovely garden. *Kathie Wood.

SPADINA / HEATH CONDO - $499,000.
Rarely available penthouse suite. Totally reno'd. Designer kitchen & baths. Access to rooftop garden. Parking. *Shawnee Slan.

ALLENBY SCHOOL - $407,513.
Charming 2+ bdrm. Tudor style bungalow. Fireplace. Private drive & built-in garage. Live in, renovate or build new. **Veronica Key.

AFFORDABLE BATHURST / SHEPPARD - $249,900.
Bright & spacious 3 bdrm. corner unit. Balcony. CAC. Parking. For details call **Richard Sherman.

YONGE / EGLINTON - $239,000.
Excellent location. 1 bdrm. + bright solarium. Walk-out to balcony. Locker. Parking. 24 hr. security. Walk to subway. *Christina Paisley.

DON MILLS / FINCH - $229,900.
Spacious corner suite in "Skymark". 2 bdrms. + den + solarium. Open balcony. 2 parking spots. Approx. 1,600 sq. ft. *Kathie Wood.

JUST LISTED - $219,900.
Bathurst/Sheppard. 2 bdrms. + solarium w/balcony. Parking & locker. For viewing call **Richard Sherman.

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Fab raised bungalow on huge lot! Hardwood flrs throughout, dble garage, circular drive. Move in now & build later!! *Ted Waxman

BATHURST-CENTRE - FAST CLOSING
Large 4 bdrm has basement apt with sep entry! Appliances, hrdwd, open concept. On approx. 1/4 acre lot! $479,900. *Ted Waxman

BATHURST-CLARK - 1ST AD!
Stunning reno'd 5 bdrm on 60 ft lot! Newer windows, kitchen floors, basement apartment. A pleasure to see! *Carey Rosenzweig

SHEPPARD-WILMINGTON-FINCH
Fabulous 3 bedroom sidesplit. Double garage, fireplace, well maintained $415,000. *Helen Winer

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

CLARK-YONGE - 2 STOREY PENTHOUSE!!
Unbelievable value & priced to sell! Hrdwd, granite, ensuite sauna, 2 prkg spaces, storage, plus much, much more! *Lora Yakobson

CLARK-HILDA "CONSERVATORY"
Approx 2,200 sq. ft., very upgraded condo! Renovated top to bottom! A Gem! 4 large terraces! 3 parking! Granite, marble, hardwood, crystal. Asking $799,000. **Berta Kogan

BATHURST-CENTRE "PROMENADE"
Fabulous 2 bedroom, 2 parking spots, eat-in kitchen, appliances, air, east exposure. Shows great! $219,900. **Mark Waxman

906 SHEPPARD AVENUE WEST
2 year old condo, stunning split 2 bedroom layout, walking distance to subway. Close to shopping! A must see! *Carey Rosenzweig

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Bathurst/Lawrence – Stunning Custom Home, 1998 construction, 4 bedrooms, 6 baths, finished basement with rental potential, Approx. 3,200 sq. ft., 40x132, loaded with extras, imported Italian glass tile, hardwood floors, California shutters, built-in shelving, sub zero fridge, interlock etc. Asking $799,900.

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Bathurst/York Downs – 2 storey home, 3 bedrooms, finished basement, immediate occupancy, close to transit and shopping. Asking $1,595/month.

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Triplex, large 2 and 3 bdrm. apartments, balconies, bath in suites, garages, + parking, good income, steps to all

SHEPPARD AVE. WEST
Development location, 2 bungalows now rented, 100', 143' lot. A1 location!

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1389 MAPLE ROAD
50'x 220', 4 bedrooms, garage, bunkie, boat house, perm dock.

1123 ALFRED STREET
50'x290', 4 bedrooms, bungalow, good boating!

1179 ALFRED STREET
Fabulous lot! 50' x 542'. Great potential!

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1201 STEELES AVE WEST
Bathurst/Steeles – Seldom available exclusive adult "Courtlands" condo. Approximately 1,400 sq ft, 2 bedroom plus den. Parking for 2 cars. Only $209,000.

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6-plex, 5 x 3 bedrooms, 1 x 1 bedroom, retrofit.

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1ST AD BATHURST & GLENCAIRN
$1,195,000 – Custom built 5 bedroom, luxury home. South lot. Gourmet kitchen, double island, walkout deck, large comb LR/DR, family room, office. Fab rec rm. 5 baths, jacuzzi, sauna. Jack Samuel* & Gert Kerbel* ext. 252

NEW LISTING - CEDARVALE CO-OP
Located in desirable community. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, reno'd kitchen, open concept LR/DR with large picture window. Rec wood laminate floors throughout. 2 car prkg & locker. $195,000. Hannah Math-Slan* ext. 504

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Main flr condo in prestigious building in Thornhill. Indoor pool & facilities. Walk to everything. Balcony, large kit, stall shower /tub in mstr bdrm ensuite. Motivated! Paula Bernstein* ext. 228

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2 bedroom & den - could be 3 bedroom. 130 Neptune Drive. 2 full bath & laundry room. Facing west/south, 1 car parking & locker. Outdoor pool. Jack Samuel* ext. 345

BUILD NEW ON HUGE RAVINE LOT
York Downs Dr. – Huge 66 x 462 ft lot backing onto ravine. Surrounded by million $$ homes and mature trees. Great opportunity to build your dream home. Jack Samuel* ext. 345

80 SANIBEL CRES. - 7 YEARS NEW $899,000
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YORK DOWNS/ARMOUR GEM $1,299,000
55 x 166 ft lot. 4,600 sq. ft. 5+2 bedroom house with 6 baths (4 on 2nd flr). Mature landscaping, walk-up bsmnt fully finished Great value, great family home. Jack Samuel* ext. 345

RENTAL - BATHURST/PALM DRIVE
3+1 bedroom. 1½ storey w/finished basement, central air, huge lot and big trees. Asking $1,700/month + utilities. 1 year lease Sept. 1/03 - Credit check & references. Jack Samuel* ext. 345

HAZELTON CONDO - 2 STOREY $799,000
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Bathurst/Lawrence - Large 3 bdrm, 2 storey house, large eat-in kitchen, fin bsmnt. w/separate entrance. 416-789-5371.

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660 Briar Hill - extra large 3 bdrm., 2 1/2 w/c, cac, mins. to shul & bus. Kurt - 416-823-2700, office: 416-769-6779.

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

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Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LOUIS GULA ז"ל
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Israel & the Jewish World

Israel toughens stance on Iran's nuclear program

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel is demanding that the international community bring enriched uranium production in Iran to a complete halt, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom will tell European leaders.

Israel earlier supported the demand that Iran sign the additional protocol of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that would lead to tighter nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Iran is under international pressure to increase the transparency of its nuclear program and accept international supervision to ensure the work is used for peaceful purposes – as the Iranians say – rather than for the development of nuclear weapons.

Tehran indicated under pressure that it would accept the additional protocol, which was introduced after the 1991 discovery of Iraq's secret atomic weapons program. The protocol would give the IAEA access to more information about Iran's nuclear activities and the right to carry out inspections on short notice.

Iranian President Mohammed Khatami hosted IAEA director Mohamed El Baradei last week and said Iran views the additional protocol "positively," but wants further clarification. An IAEA team will be dispatched this week to clarify Iranian concerns over tighter nuclear inspections.

Israeli experts believe that tightening international nuclear inspection without imposing restrictions on the Iranian project is dangerous. First, the Iranians can "play for time" in the talks, and even after they sign, the tighter inspection may not be enacted automatically. The Iranians could produce a nuclear bomb under cover of the extended talks with the IAEA.

Secondly, the experts said, in exchange for signing the protocol, Iran will demand an international agreement allowing it to continue producing enriched uranium, thus continuing the nuclear project under seeming transparency.

The European Union recently decided that as a condition for negotiations for a new trade agreement with Iran, the openness and transparency of the Iranian nuclear program must be improved.

Officials in Jerusalem expressed satisfaction with the plan presented about three weeks ago by EU foreign policy and security chief Javier Solana to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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Club named for Moses, the original 'outdoor Jew'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Some stereotypes die hard.

Like the one about the world's smallest book – about famous Jewish athletes.

Or the one that says Jews are bookish, indoor creatures who just don't cope well in the great outdoors.

Wrong.

Across North America and right here in Toronto, Jewish outdoor clubs have sprung up in the last few years that offer members a congenial group environment in which to hike, bike and trek.

Brenlee Robinson is living proof, along with countless others, that Jews can thrive in the outdoors.

As president of the Mosaic Outdoor Club of Ontario, Robinson acknowledges that the club's very existence comes as a surprise to some. "People who find the club are so astonished that there's a Jewish outdoors club, they go out and tell others," she said.

Thanks to that word of mouth, and aided by a profile in *The CJN* back in 1998, the club has grown to substantial proportions. More than 450 people receive the club's regular e-mail updates, while its events attract anywhere from a handful to more than 60.

The Ontario club is associated with a continent-wide collection of 26 similar Mosaic clubs from Miami to Colorado, and they get together at least once a year for a mega-event. Last summer, the Ontario club organized four days of activities in Haliburton, north of Toronto, that saw 200 Americans and 30 Canadians participate.

This year's international event will take place outside Chicago on the Labour Day weekend and will include kayaking, hiking, biking, canoeing and cave exploration. See www.mosaics.org/events/2003 for more details.

Back on the home front, Mosaic members and guests generally get together 25 to 30 times a year for various programs (http://mosaictoronto.org).

In late spring, more than 60 enjoyed a four-hour hike just outside Toronto, and a few weeks later, a smaller group tested their canoeing skills at Palmer Rapids, near Algonquin Park.

Other summertime events include a 20-kilometre hike, an inside-the-city ravine walk, overnight camping trips, cycling tours, indoor rock climbing, weekend rafting excursions, and, during the winter, frequent cross-country ski trips, downhill skiing and skating outings.

About six to eight times a year, the group heads out of town for overnight camping trips, said club member Lynda Bloom.

The first Mosaic Club was founded in 1988 by Steve Harris Millmond in Colorado, under the name Mosaic Outdoor Mountain Club.

As Millmond explains it, the club was named for Moses, the original "outdoor Jew" and was started due to his belief that modern Jews had lost touch with the fact that Judaism was closely linked to the outdoors and the environment. Too many, he said, would rather dine out or go shopping than hike or canoe.

Robinson, a Winnipeg native who learned her outdoor skills at B'nai Brith Camp outside Kenora in northwestern Ontario, said the club also offers a social component. Although it's not a singles club, most members are not attached and they range in age from their 30s to 40s, though with a sprinkling of younger and older participants, she said.

Mosaic member Lynda Bloom (centre, in purple shirt) with other club members and guests during a recent hike.

"The club is a really interesting way to meet people," Bloom said. "It's not a [dating service] environment. You meet interesting people who want to go out and do stuff."

As many as 50 per cent of the club's members are "out-of-towners," including people from Venezuela, France, Poland and other communities in Canada who find the club a good way to meet other Jews, she said.

"You get to know people, how much patience they have, how they handle stress and excitement, what they like to eat," she said. "And there are no interruptions by ringing phones."

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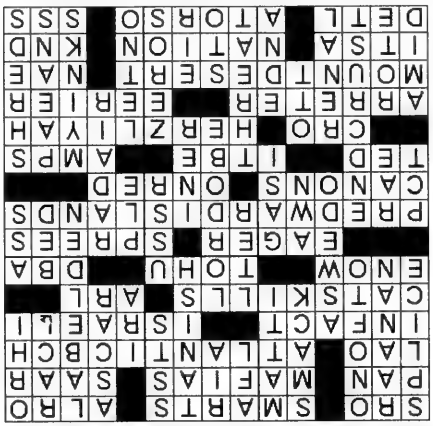

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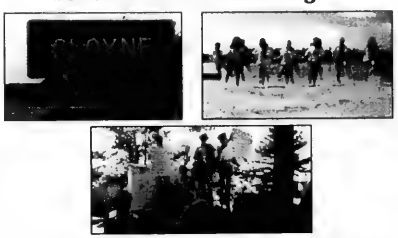

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ועוד ילדים מיוחדים; אבנר אוהב לאכול רק דברי מתיקה ונועה היא הילדה הכי גמישה בגן; "היא נשכבת על הבטן ומצמידה את כפות הרגלים לראש." עמוס לא יודע אלא לעשות דברים מהר, מהר - "הוא נוגס ובולע כמעט לא לועס". ילדה אחרת שותה הכי לאט ויואב עושה הכל הפוך; "כשאומרים לו לשבת - הוא עומד... וכשכולם משתוללים - הוא יושב ונח." ליאור ילדה מאוד מהירה ומגיעה לכל מקום ראשונה. לעת השיער הכי ארוך; "אחרי כל חפיפה, עת מאוד, מאוד עייפה." סמדר ילדה שתמיד מתנועעת וגבע ילד מאוד מסודר. ציפי הילדה הכי שבירה; "בשנה שעברה שברה לה רגל, בחופש הגדול נשברה לה יד." טל אוהבת סודות, רון הילד הכי שתקן; "כששואלים אותו אם הוא רוצה כוס חלב, הוא רק עושה כן עם הראש."

כמובן שהילדים גם שונים במראה החיצוני. צבע עורו של יונתן לבן כמו חלב ואילו לשרית עור בצבע שוקולד; "כשהם נותנים ידים ומשלבים אצבעות, הידים שלהם נראות כמו קלידים של פסנתר." לאיתן עיניים כחולות כמו שמים, ולעיל עיניים כהות. שי הילד הכי נמוך בגן ואיריס הכי גבוהה; "כשהם עומדים זה ליד זה - שי מגיע לאיריס עד לכתף."

אז איפה בכלל יש גן כזה שכל אחד נבדל מהשניי? הגן הזה מגלה הסופרת לקוראים הצעירים, נמצא בכל עיר ובכל רחוב ו"הוא יכול להיות גם הגן שלכם."

באותו נושא של סובלנות הדדית וסיפורים על ילדים מיוחדים כתבה הסופרת רחל הרץ-לזרוביץ את ספרה לילדים: מה קרה לאבא ולאמא? זהו ספור שאמור לעזור לילדים שהוריהם מתגרשים.

הספור מתחיל כך: "ליפית יש אבא ואמא, כמו להרבה ילדים אחרים." אבא של יפית מהנדס ואמא של יפית מורה. פעם היו משפחה אחת אך אחר כך קרו כל מיני דברים. מריבות, ומתח ולבסוף אבא עזב את הבית אף שהוא בא לבקר, מתקן דברים, קורא ליפית ספורים ומחבק אותה חזק, חזק. ליפית קשה להבין באמת מה קרה ואיך "שני אנשים כאלה טובים ויפים מדברים מלים כמו נפרדים ומתגרשים."

בתחילה, מאוד קשה ליפית. היא לא מרוכזת בלימודיה וכל לילה היא מתפללת "שאבא ואמא שלי יעשו שלום." זה אמנם לא קורה אך בהדרגה אמא ואבא יוצרים מסגרת יותר סדירה ובטוחה ליפית. בימים קבועים היא מבלה עם אבא והוא מסביר לה שקורה בין אנשים מבוגרים, כמו בין אבא ואמא, שהם מפסיקים להיות חברים טובים ואינם יכולים יותר להיות ביחד. נכון שפעם אהבו מאוד אחד את השני וקנו בית והיתה משפחה שמחה אך זה היה אז ועכשו אחרת. מה שחשוב זה שילדי ההורים הגרושים "נשארים לעולמי-עולמים הילדים שהם הכי הכי אוהבים."

כך מסתגלת יפית למצבה ויש אף ימים וארועים די מהנים בזכות מאמצי האב והאם ודאגתם להעניק לה שפע של בטחון ואהבה. ובכל זאת... יש לה חלום, פעם בעוד הרבה שנים, יהיה לה, ליפית בית גדול ותחת קורת גג זו אמא ואבא יגורו אצל יפית.

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Recipe courtesy of Haldimand Hills Spa.

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About Ethics and Business

Rabbi Jay Kelman

May one invest in corporations whose activities may be ethically wanting?

Exemplary ethical conduct is mandated in all spheres of activity, including monetary dealings. Furthermore, aiding and abetting unethical conduct of others is akin to actually committing the crime oneself. Thus, it would appear that buying stock in corporations that for example deal in such industries as tobacco or gambling or who have discriminatory labour practices or engage in unfair competition would be proscribed. Similar standards apply to investing in Jewish-controlled companies that operate on Shabbat, though they are not engaged in unethical practices.

However, Torah law only proscribes aiding and abetting if one's actions are necessary for the commission of wrongdoing. If the proscribed action would happen with or without your involvement, no biblical law is violated. However, rabbinic law is violated when one publicly associates with wrongdoing – even if one is not responsible for such behaviour.

With this brief (and incomplete) background, we can draw several conclusions. Joining the board or being part of the top tier of executives of a corporation that engages in unethical practices is forbidden. Similarly, purchasing a controlling or even influential block of shares as might be the case with mutual and pension fund managers, would violate Jewish ethics.

The individual investor would be enjoined from purchasing stock in an initial public offering, but buying small amounts of shares in the secondary market would be allowed. In this typical investment, one is not directly helping the corporation as profits (or losses) on these transactions accrue to the investors themselves. Similarly, investing in a mutual fund where one is often not even aware of what stocks are owned, and is only indirectly investing in the companies themselves, presents few moral issues and would be permitted.

While owning a few shares may technically be permitted, surely a sensitive person would not knowingly invest in company that for example releases cancer-causing agents into the environment. After all, your making money is tied to the company's success at carrying out its unethical practices. Not all that is permitted is recommended.

Comments can be sent to info@torahinmotion.org.

The Canadian Jewish news

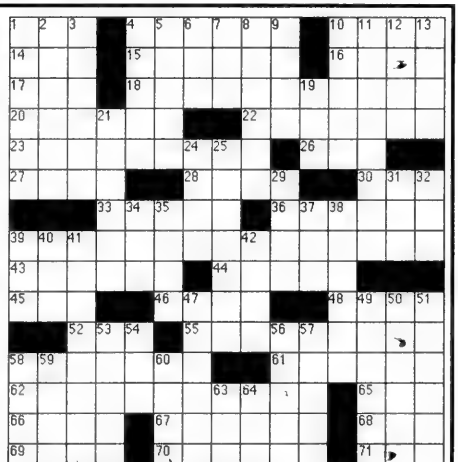
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

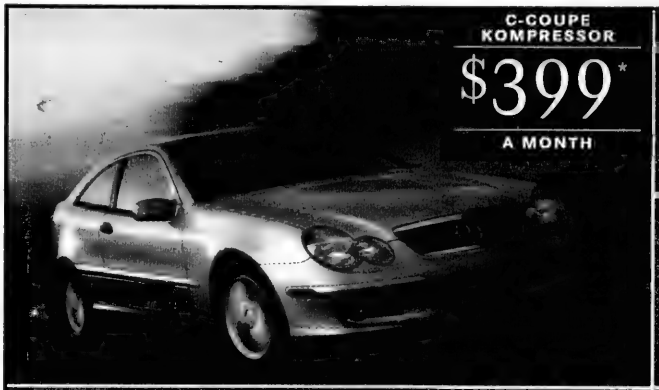
(Answers to the crossword are on page 38.)

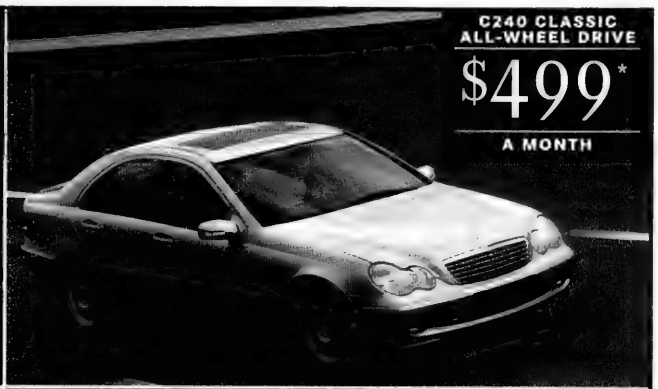
Seashores
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

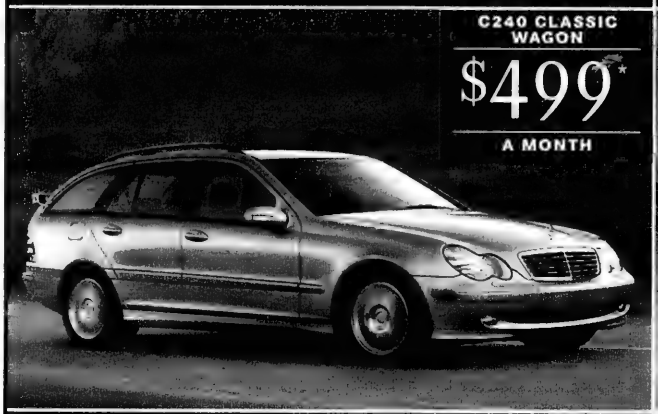
Across
1. Broadway busy-time sign
4. Savviness
10. "_____sho" (upon his head, Heb.)
14. Stovetop utensil
15. The Mobs
16. Hebrew for storm or a Rhine feeder
17. ___ Tse
18. New Jersey shore city (2nd word shortened)
20. Actually
22. One who would regularly enjoy the Netanyah shore
23. New York mountain chain with a bunch of lakeshores
26. Va. or Tx. city
27. "...were Paradise ____" - Khayyam
28. In vain, for naught, in Hebrew
30. Acronym for a party engaging in commerce under a separate identity
33. "It is a nipping and an ____ air" Hamlet, Act I
36. Shopping orgies
39. A bit of land with beautiful shores N. of Nova Scotia, et al
43. Howitzers and long guns
44. Go on green, stop _____
45. Kennedy
46. Beatles' "Let ____"
48. Stereo parts that magnify sound
52. ___-atian coast, has scenic Adriatic shores
55. Israeli shore town N. of Tel Aviv
58. Stop, on Honfleur shore
61. Weirder or more mysterious
62. _____ Island, home of Acadia National Park shores
65. Scot's negative
66. "____ girl!" or "___ boy!"
67. Iroquois or U.S.A.
68. Srt. or clss.
69. K.P. or patrl.
70. Part of a mannequin or human body, with indefinite article
71. What the Federal "lock box" was supposed to protect (abbrev.)

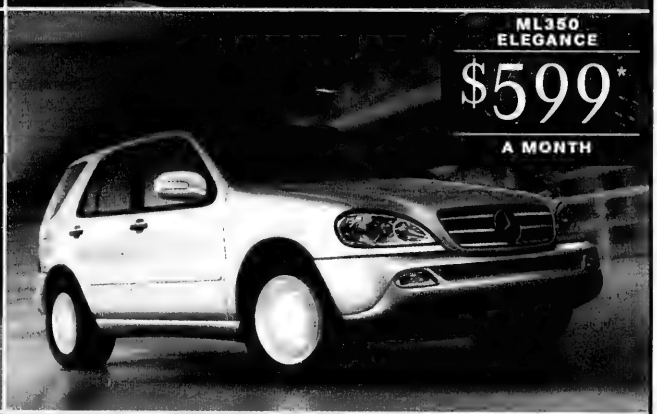
Down
1. Fashion wires together
2. _____ Gissin, Sharon spokesman
3. Three short prepositions
4. Smite or taste
5. Shortened name of Maccabees' father
6. U.S. labor union
7. Delta channel
8. Skin sort of lightly colored by sun
9. Very fast commercial planes
10. Append this to N and you've got spectacular racing
11. Tag study or lair
12. Short for a wife of Jacob
13. Options: say hello _____
19. Gershwin
21. Romans might say to strangers: "Do _____"
24. Add this to A and you change things
25. Two honorifics for an English peer
29. Cold War superpower
31. Makes for a good sleep
32. What Balaam had that spoke
34. Oat or wheat head bristle
35. Fication starter changes state
37. Cou ender makes a pair
38. Famed oil-well fire fighter, with initial only for first name
39. Fract. of a hundred
40. Judaica artist Lynn ___ Lowe
41. Tasty bread loaf part (2 words)
42. Headl-____ makes news
47. Some are a security _____
49. "Where are _____?" Steinberg or Hirshfield might have cried, in alarm
50. Hymns of triumph or joy (Greece)
51. Destroys records, these days
53. Relating to the kidney
54. Giant star Mel ___
56. Zilches
57. "___ one underestimate the need of pity." - Theodore Dreiser
58. Surrounded by
59. Mechanical learning or routine
60. St. Vincent Millay
63. Ic preceder makes for stony mask
64. M ender goes with Golda

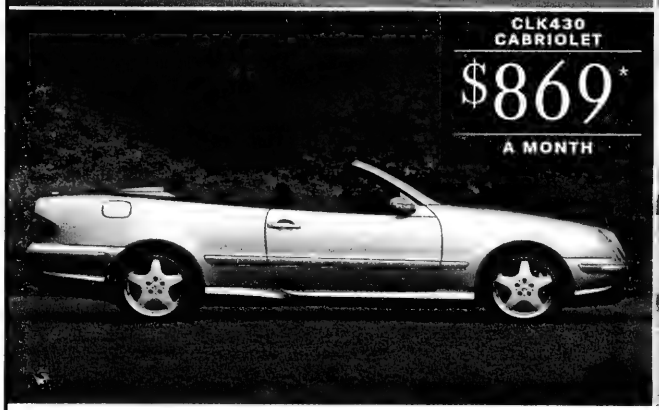












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This Week

National

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Autism therapy for kids a financial burden. *Page 6*

Medical program brings Israeli, Arab students together. *Page 16*

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Ron Wiseman is a man of many hats and styles. *Page 31*

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Grieving mother unhappy with outcome of murder trial

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For 3½ years, Olga Baranovski has carried the pain of the loss of her only son, Matti, who was killed in a brutal attack by a swarming gang of youths over a pack of cigarettes and pocket money.

Last week, with two of the accused convicted of manslaughter and a third, Israeli Daniel Weiz, acquitted, disappointment in the Canadian justice system added to her grief.

"This kind of justice, I don't understand it," she said in a telephone interview. "Somebody had to find the truth. It was a game, not a trial.

"I was thinking the country would help me and support me."

Olga Baranovski

Baranovski was speaking shortly after a jury, following seven days of deliberations, found Meir Mariani and William Cochrane, both 20, guilty of manslaughter while acquitting Weiz, 23. All three had been charged with second degree murder.

The Crown had alleged the three were part of a larger group of masked men who confronted Matti in G. Ross Lord Park on the night of Nov. 14, 1999. The gang had gone to the park looking to settle scores with a group of "Russians" and when they could not find them, they approached Matti and his friends, who were sitting his cigarettes, they set upon him and knocked him to the ground. One of the kicks snapped his head back, severing an artery and causing his death.

Evidence at the trial was often contradictory, as the Crown relied in large part on the testimony of other gang members whose credibility as witnesses was attacked forcefully by defence lawyers.

One key witness who implicated the three accused, Yaviore Lipschitz, at first appeared in court too hungover to testify and later said he had tried to cement his reputation as a tough guy by falsely boasting he had kicked Matti.

Olga Baranovski found the jury's verdict wanting and the entire legal process of little comfort. "I followed the law and what did the law give me? Nothing. No support, no security, nothing."

Now she wonders, "Is it better to grow good children or bad children?"

Even though the perpetrators have been in jail, they get food, medication, health care, she said, "They look so healthy. I look like an old lady, inside and out."

Taking aim at the manslaughter verdict as opposed to a finding of murder, Baranovski said she doesn't agree with the jury's decision. "I don't think they really know what is violence. A jury does not know about the path of violence," she said.

"The jury, if it was their child, their only child, they would not

age 17

Rona Ramon and her family last week received a certificate of appreciation from IDF Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon honouring her late husband Ilan for having been an exemplary representative of the State of Israel. In this photo, Rona is showing the certificate to her daughter Noa. Ramon is scheduled to be in Toronto Aug. 13 for a community event. *[Israel Sun*

Shabbat Chazon: Devarim
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Havdallah: 9:28

Greater Toronto Area

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The News in Brief

Canada

Al-Jazeera Comments

OTTAWA — In response to calls for comment from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada are expected to argue against plans by Canada's cable companies to import the signal of Al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based Arab news network. They say the network consistently airs anti-Semitic hate speech, but the National Council of Canada-Arab Relations has said it would "broaden the horizon of the Canadian public" on the Mideast. Deadline to submit briefs is Aug. 11.

Rainforest Mission

TORONTO — Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee is sending a group of more than 40 volunteers, including aboriginal youth from Toronto and five Israeli teens from the Israel-based Pirchey Refua (Medical Cadets), on a mission to the Guyana rainforest starting Aug. 3. The Israelis will provide first aid and health education, while other group members will offer youth leadership and literacy programs and take part in construction programs and health education.

Israel

Iraq Biz Ties OKd

JERUSALEM — Israeli companies can do business with Iraq after Israeli Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu signed an order last week allowing Israeli firms to invest in Iraq and import and export goods. He made the decision after meeting with Israeli businessmen who wanted to participate in the reconstruction of Iraq after the U.S.-led war.

Tour Guides Sue PA

JERUSALEM — Forty-two Israeli tour guides are suing the Palestinian Authority for lost earnings due to the intifadah. The lawsuit, which seeks more than $12 million (US) in damages, was filed in Jerusalem District Court last month. It says the violence that began in September 2000 has reduced the guides' earnings by 80 per cent and put some out of business entirely. In a similar move, more than 300 flower growers have filed a class action suit demanding more than $30 million (US) in compensation from the government and the PA for lost earnings due to a shortage of workers since September 2000.

Youth Tourism Up

JERUSALEM — After three years of declining educational tourism in Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel reports 3,000 youths will arrive on JAFI-sponsored "Israel Experience" programs by summer's end, a 100 per cent increase over last year. Before the start of the latest intifadah in September 2000, some 13,000 youth came each summer on the tours.

World

Bombing Marked

BUENOS AIRES — Argentine Jews marked the ninth anniversary July 18 of the bombing of their main community centre in Buenos Aires. The country's new president, Nestor Kirchner, attended the event and pledged to bring the investigation of the bombing of the AMIA building to an end. Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith also marked the date in Ottawa, Toronto and Winnipeg.

Sobibor Escapee Dies

BRANTFORD, Conn. — A Holocaust survivor who took part in the biggest escape from a Nazi extermination camp in World War II has died. Chaim Engel died July 4 of heart failure following a stroke and pneumonia. He was 87. On Oct. 14, 1943, Engel and his future wife were among 30 survivors out of 300 Jewish prisoners who escaped from the Sobibor concentration camp in Poland. Engel's actions were recounted in greatest detail in Richard Rashke's 1982 book *Escape from Sobibor*, which was made into a TV movie in 1987.

Restitution Vote

NEW YORK — The Claims Conference voted to maintain its current division of Holocaust restitution money. Meeting last week, Claims Conference officials voted to continue allocating 80 per cent of the $430 million (US) from the sale of unclaimed East German Jewish property to needy Holocaust survivors. The remaining 20 per cent is spent on education, documentation and research. Some survivors' groups had argued that a higher percentage of the money should go to survivors.

Irving Film Canned

MELBOURNE — Organizers of the Melbourne Film Festival cancelled the July 10 screening of a film by Holocaust denier David Irving, *The Search for the Truth in History*, because of fears of a protest. A tribunal earlier refused a petition to block the screening.

Truman Blasted Jews

INDEPENDENCE, Mo. — Former U.S. president Harry Truman called "Jews very, very selfish" in a recently discovered diary. The 1947 entry is based on a conversation with Henry Morgenthau, treasury secretary under president Franklin Roosevelt. Morgenthau was seeking Truman's aid about a Jewish ship in Palestine, and Truman wrote Morgenthau had "no business" to contact him. "The Jews have no sense of proportion nor do they have any judgment on world affairs," Truman wrote. He went on that Jews seek "special treatment." The United States under Truman was the first country to recognize Israel after it declared independence in 1948.

Agudath Israel Condemns Gay Marriage Bill

TORONTO — The Quebec and Ontario arms of the Orthodox group Agudath Israel of America are urging federal MPs to reject proposed legislation that would recognize same-sex unions as marriages.

"Our colleagues in Toronto and Montreal have done a great service in speaking out as forcefully as they did," said Rabbi David Zwiebel, Agudath Israel of America's executive vice-president for government and public affairs.

The group, which says it represents "traditional Orthodox Jews and classical Jewish values," issued a forceful two-page memorandum against the proposed legislation, which comes after an Ontario court ruling recently struck down Canada's longstanding, traditional definition of marriage, and courts in Ontario sanctioned same-sex marriages.

The head of the Orthodox Va'ad Harabonim of Toronto, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, said the Va'ad also does not recognize same-sex marriages, but won't make a formal statement. "We're happy to express an opinion, but we're not in the business of issuing statements on these things," he said.

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Community prepares for blitz by missionaries

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

This city's Jewish community is shedding its summer doldrums and girding for what officials fear could be a prolonged and tense confrontation with so-called "Hebrew-Christian missionaries."

Dozens of Jews for Jesus members will descend on Toronto and its Jewish suburbs from Aug. 20 to Sept. 14 for what community leaders say will be a splashy, aggressive and very public drive to convert Jews to evangelical Christianity.

It's all part of Jews for Jesus' Behold Your God campaign, a five-year, $22 million (US) drive launched in 2001 to spread the Christian gospels in 66 cities outside Israel with Jewish populations of 25,000 and more.

"Canada is the fourth country with the largest Jewish population [sic] with approximately 360,000 Jewish people," notes Jews for Jesus' Web site. "Over 160,000 Jews, the majority in Canada, [sic] live in southern Ontario!"

Montreal and Vancouver are said to be targeted for future campaigns. The push has already reached Jews in 22 cities, including Tehran, Istanbul, Minsk, Budapest and Detroit.

Canadian Jewish Congress and Jews for Judaism say the Toronto campaign will be the biggest and most ambitious missionary crusade ever in Canada.

And it could be highly emotional too. Congress will soon meet with police officials in Toronto and York Region to plan strategies on how to avoid physical confrontations between Jews and missionaries.

'Let's hope cool heads prevail'

"It's a huge provocation," says CJC Ontario region director Bernie Farber of the Jews for Jesus campaign. "We're really hoping to avoid violence."

Farber said the atmosphere in parts of Toronto and Thornhill doubtless will be emotionally charged, as Jews for Jesus engage in street evangelism in Jewish neighbourhoods or hand out their tracts near synagogues on Shabbat.

Jews for Judaism, the counter-missionary group, is calling for a reasonable approach.

"We really feel the Jewish response has to be positive, that we have to stress we are proud of being Jewish," counsels Rabbi Michael Skobac, the organization's educational director. "Rather than lash out, we're hoping people will call us. Let's hope cool heads prevail."

Jews for Judaism has moved into high gear with a multi-pronged plan.

It's mobilizing a cadre of volunteers who will be deployed whenever a Jews for Jesus member is spotted on the street.

"We're getting up to 15 calls a day from people who say they will be available. We're hoping to have a significant pool of volunteers," Rabbi Skobac said.

He said Jews for Jesus volunteers are scheduled to hit the streets Aug. 25. "They're mobilizing a large crew."

Of vital importance, he added, will be to avoid any harassment, or perception of it.

"They have a history of calling the police and accusing us of harassment. The police have always asked us to move. [This time], we'll direct our people not to stand on top of them and to stand several feet away. Our goal is not to harm them."

Up to six training sessions for Jews for Judaism volunteers will take place in early August.

Jews for Judaism has scheduled an all-day "Jewish survival seminar" for Aug. 24 with tips on how to counter Christian missionaries. Several other special lectures and seminars are also planned.

As well, it is asking all rabbis in the city to set aside Sept. 6 as a "Stand Up For Judaism" Shabbat. All pulpit rabbis in the Greater Toronto Area will receive educational and other background material about Jews for Jesus.

A community-wide rally is slated for Sept. 7 featuring a one-time missionary leader who has since converted to Judaism, and Rabbi Bentzion Kravitz, founding director of Jews for Judaism.

Continued on page 18

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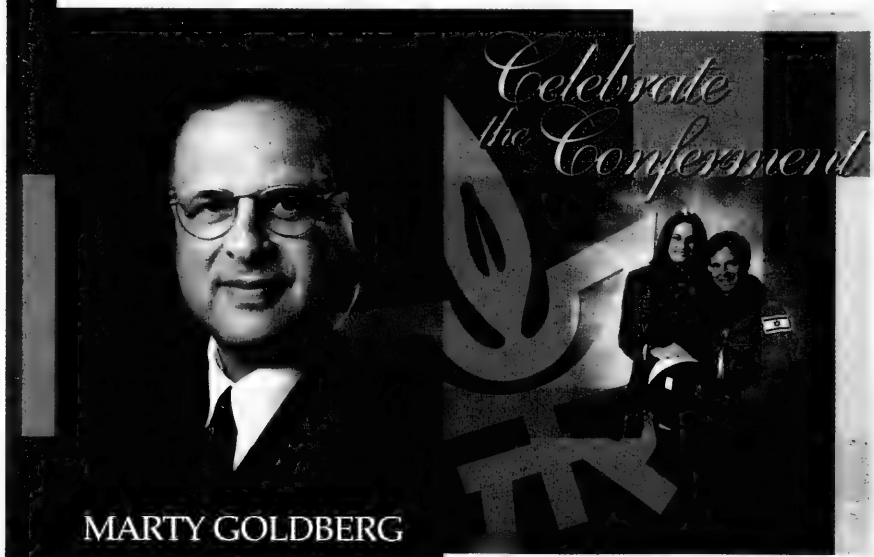
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Greater Toronto Area

Funding cuts threaten Temple Har Zion's 'Out of the Cold' program

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Steven Borlak is on a mission to save the "Out of the Cold" programs at Temple Har Zion and seven other locations in York Region after learning the City of Toronto will stop funding them because they're outside its borders.

Borlak, who co-ordinates both the Har Zion program and Mosaic Interfaith, the umbrella organization for the eight houses of worship in York Region that offer food and shelter to the homeless in winter, described the city's decision as "totally illogical" because most of the "guests," as he calls them, come from Toronto.

Since forming its Out of the Cold program five years ago, Mosaic Interfaith has been aided by Out of the Cold Support Services (OOTCSS), a not-for-profit organization that provides it with security, maintenance, transportation to and from the Finch subway station, and some support workers.

Borlak, who has spent hundreds of hours trying to save the program, said the City of Toronto has indicated it will not continue to give OOTCSS the $90,000 needed to support the northern sites.

"That means we will be unable to continue with the programs that run four nights a week during the winter, since we will be without the means to transport our guests to the subway, and we will be without security and maintenance."

After learning of the funding cuts, his first response was to approach the York Region government, "but it suggested that we reconfigure our program so it just attracts York region guests.

"As volunteers, we do not have the social work skills to reconfigure the program," Borlak said. "We are passionate about the program and we have big hearts, but we are not trained."

He said he has also approached the provincial and federal governments, "but they have not been particularly helpful."

In the scheme of things, "$90,000 is not a lot of money. [The city] is being so callous. When I think of the amount of angst this decision has caused, I feel ill," Borlak said.

Although he is confident he can get funding to prepare for the following winter, "if we don't run this year, the whole infrastructure will fall apart, and the guests would think that we were another oasis that has disappeared. We could also lose the commitment of our volunteer base."

In addition to the funds from OOTCSS, each religious institution must raise funds on their own to help provide food, subway tokens and other items needed for the program's operation. "It is difficult to engage in fundraising activities while our situation is so uncertain," he said.

When the program started, Borlak said, the temple set a maximum of 16 overnight guests and 30 guests in total, who were provided with dinner, breakfast and a bagged lunch to take with them.

"Unfortunately, business is thriving. If we could put homelessness and isolation on an index on the stock market, I would recommend it as a good buy.

"Over this past year, we served dinners to numbers in excess of 70 per night and up to 26 overnight guests per night. Because of our tight physical configuration, we turned away at least five to 10 guests per night," he said.

The Mosaic programs provide a calming environment for those who usually stay at overcrowded shelters in Toronto, Borlak said.

"Our programs are non-invasive and non-judgmental. We do not preach to the guests and we do not permit proselytizing. While we commit to providing the basic physical needs of shelter, food and clothing, we believe that the bigger issue is to respond to the human needs of compassion, dignity and feelings of self worth," he said.

While a small number of guests demonstrate obvious emotional or mental instabilities or debilitating addictions, and some are content to live off the goodwill of others, "a troubling component consists of people that are educated and accomplished, people who have fallen through the cracks and are unable to climb out," Borlak said.

"I look at them and I realize that I could be looking at a parent, a sibling, a child or even myself. Until there are better solutions, we choose to look after as many people as we can. What could feel better than to welcome strangers into your spiritual home for physical sustenance and compassion?"

SeeJN

CJN GIVES ARCHIVES A BOOST: Ellen Scheinberg, left, director of the Ontario Jewish Archives, reviews a bound volume of back issues from the *Canadian Jewish Review*, a onetime competitor of *The CJN*, with Janice Atkinson, *The CJN*'s circulation and promotions manager. The volume is one of 15 dating from 1936-37 and 1953 to 1965 that *The CJN* donated to the archives earlier this month.

From the editor's desk

will return

Year since murder 'a struggle,' Chavie Rosenweig says

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

It has been a year since the Toronto Jewish community was rocked by the murder of David Rosenzweig. For his widow, Chavie, and their six children, "This year has been, and continues to be, a journey and a struggle."

She recognizes, she said, that she is now the captain of the ship that is the family. "I have to create a positive and healthy home. I set the tone."

It's a huge responsibility, she mused, adding "but it's my responsibility."

'Strange to realize that David isn't at the head of the table'

Her six children – Meir, Sholom, Ezra, Shraggie, Yechiel and Shira, who is married and a mother herself– are all very protective of her, she said. "They have realized that we have to work together to make our life work.

"It's still so strange to realize that David isn't at the head of the table at Shabbat or yom tov," she said in an interview at her home.

The dignity Chavie has been noted for since the murder belied the anguish in her eyes as she spoke, as did her constant twisting of a napkin into a tighter and tighter spiral.

She told *The CJN* she feels blessed by the kindness and support she has received from so many people: her immediate and more distant family, as well as friends, rabbis, social workers, psychologists, schools, yeshivas, lawyers, David's former business associates and total strangers.

She said Detroit psychologist Robert Fink, whose father was murdered; Esther Wachsman, mother of Nachshon Wachsman, who was kidnapped and murdered by Arab terrorists; and the Mandel family, whose son Koby was also a victim of terrorism in Israel, have all helped in the the healing process.

There is a special bond between those who have lost a loved one through violence, Chavie said.

"We speak the same language," she said. "We are the walking wounded. We share emotions and fears that only we can understand. Our sense of security in the world around us has been destroyed."

And there is a man she calls Fred, who on his own takes care of the flowers that form a memorial to David on the spot where he was killed. "[Fred] put everything in a specific design – an incomplete circle – and makes sure that the candle never goes out."

The Jewish community is honouring David's memory in a number of ways, including the UJA Federation David Rosenzweig Fund for Victims of Terror, a lecture series at Chabad@Flamingo and a fall mission to Israel that will present Torahs and portable shuls to the Israel Defence Forces.

All these efforts, Chavie said, "keep David alive in a meaningful way, honouring his love of Israel, learning, family, and just people."

After the murder, she looked for ways to keep her faith in God, to find a way to carry on. She tried to connect with people "who live Torah, not just learn Torah," including historical figures, such as King David, who maintained their faith even through great difficulties.

David Rosenweig

For a while, Chavie said, she wasn't able to open a siddur or to pray at all. Finally, she said, a rebbitzen she knew told her there are many ways to pray, and one way is through hardship, grief and anguish.

"She told me that you can be at the sink washing dishes, and the tears start pouring down your face – that's your prayer. You are always connected, although it may be at a different level."

Those who haven't felt such pain can't imagine what a comfort that was, Chavie said.

She was particularly struck by a passage in Psalms that describes God as the father of orphans and the protector of widows. "I felt that that message was meant for me."

She said that if you look for the hand of God, you will see it everywhere: in the kindness of strangers; in representatives of Zaka, the Israeli organization that collects blood and other body parts of terror victims, who happened to be in Toronto at the time of the murder and went to the site and did their holy work for the first time outside of Israel; and in the visit of Danny Brom, the director of the Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma at Jerusalem's Sarah Herzog Hospital, who was in town later to raise funds for the centre and made time to come to the house and counsel the family.

The entire Rosenzweig family has undergone much counselling and therapy to help them deal with what happened, and they are all coping in their own way, Chavie said.

The preliminary hearing to decide whether the man arrested for David's murder will be tried is scheduled to begin in September, and Chavie said she intends to be there.

"It will be hard," she said. "It will open everything up again."

Visibly gathering her self control together, she added: "We have to recognize that we [the family] represent the Jewish people, whether we want to or not."

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Autism therapy for kids a financial burden, court told

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Tammy Starr considers it a miracle that her daughter Carly Fleishmann, 8, signed her own name to a letter from camp this summer.

She credits applied behavioural analysis (ABA), a therapy program for children with autism, for Carly's recent development.

The therapy, which can cost up to $50,000 a year, uses an intensive system of rewards to teach children with autism to modify certain behaviours. Currently, the province of Ontario funds ABA for children ages two to five.

Starr and her husband Arthur Fleishmann, as well as 28 other families with children with autism, are seeking $100 million in compensatory damages from the provincial government, alleging it is discriminating against these children by refusing to fund the therapy program once they reach the age of six.

The case, which began in Superior Court in Toronto in April, is on a summer break until Sept. 8.

Starr testified at the trial last month that Carly has been participating in an ABA program at home for four years, but "before ABA she was basically untamed – trapped in herself. She used to sit trancelike and withdrawn in her own world, and she wasn't yet toilet trained."

Now, she rides a bicycle, has received a swimming certificate – in September she would not get into the pool – clears her dinner plate, dresses herself, and packs her own bag for school. She also "hangs out" with her twin sister's friends "because she wants to be part of the action," Starr told the court.

"It has been like baby steps getting her to this point," she said.

Starr estimated that since 1999, when Carly began ABA, they have spent about $165,000 on the therapy alone.

"It has been very stressful funding and managing the program. We are always talking about money.

"Managing Carly's life has taken so much out of us that the other kids [they also have a 12-year-old son] have suffered. It has impacted on them. My availability is limited.

"I am always advocating for [Carly]. Everything she has in place is because I have advocated for it. We also bear the brunt of the costs," Starr testified.

Families sue province to pay costs past age 6

Their family income is significant, Starr said, but they also have to pay for their son's private school tuition and tutors – he has learning disabilities – and they are planning a bar mitzvah and would like to save money for university tuition.

"The bar mitzvah is an important thing for me because it is a happy event. We have had so many unhappy events."

Until now, she testified, the family has been able to "hold things together, but we are concerned about the future. I can see a critical point coming."

The money they have spent so far on ABA has been "100 per cent worth it," Starr told the court. "Without it, [Carly] would have had no life. Everything she does is because of the therapy. She does nothing intuitively.

"She has a quality of life now that she never would have had. Imagine Helen Keller without Annie Sullivan."

Starr said in an interview that she is quite optimistic about the outcome of the case because "the judge heard poignant, yet consistent testimony from experts.

"I'm not, however, expecting a quick fix. Who knows how long it will take, but if I don't do this, nothing will happen."

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Greater Toronto Area

'Mrs. Magen David Adom' retires after 23 years

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

After a walk through Montreal's Yellow Pages, Shirley Moscovitch, retired national executive director of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel, began a career that spanned 23 years.

"I saw a listing for Canadian Magen David Adom [MDA] for Israel, and I had never heard of the charity. Being of curious nature, I immediately called the number, and as luck would have it, the person who answered the phone remembered me from the Jewish National Fund where I had worked for 26 years.

"He told me that the organization was in search of a national executive director. We set up a meeting and the rest is history," says Moscovitch, 65, who was in Toronto recently for a tribute reception sponsored by the organization's Toronto chapter in honour of her retirement.

"When I heard at that meeting that Magen David Adom was Israel's humanitarian emergency medical, blood, ambulance and disaster service, I was in awe. Why was this the best-kept secret?"

Moscovitch began her job with the newly formed Canadian arm of the organization by looking through receipts. Small donations had been received in response to solicitations sent out by an American mail house on MDA's behalf.

"I realized this was not cost-efficient so I began to type 40,000 names onto a master sheet, and had them made into labels. All this was B.C. – before computers."

She was a young widow raising three daughters when she took the job, she said, and "I threw myself into my work to fill a void in my life. It became my calling. I identified myself as Mrs. Magen David Adom."

But MDA was funded through its mailing list, she said. "I would go through the telephone directory and send letters to names I thought were Jewish. I let people know that even if we did without a few luxuries here and there, we have to help Israel; that is what is important. We must protect our home."

Shirley Moscovitch

People rally around Israel when there is a crisis, and blood is being shed, she said, "but we need to be supportive all the time. We shouldn't wait for a crisis.

"I've been to Israel seven times, and working here I've had the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with Israelis. They are special people who are ready to risk their lives."

But her work in the Jewish community did not stop with her paid job. She has started a widows group, a Jewish singles association and a business and professional group at the Golden Age Centre.

After a 49-year career, Moscovitch is looking forward to taking off her watch. She plans to go to cottage country, listen to the birds, and paint, she says.

Beth Torah reaches membership capacity

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

As the High Holy Days approach, it's not uncommon for synagogues to advertise in the hope of recruiting new members. Beth Torah Congregation, however, will definitely not be taking that route this fall.

The low-profile, unaffiliated congregation located west of Dufferin Street and south of Lawrence Avenue, closed membership this spring because it had reached capacity. It now has a waiting list of 40 families.

Since Rabbi Yossi Sapirman became the synagogue's spiritual leader in 1998, membership has grown from 218 families to almost 360.

In addition, he noted in a phone interview, the demographics have changed to reflect a younger membership. The year Rabbi Sapirman began, there were eight b'nai mitzvah at the synagogue. Now there are about 50 a year, and most of the families are members, he said.

At a recent simchah, the 35-year-old rabbi's sense that Beth Torah's image as a congregation of senior citizens has changed was confirmed by a guest who asked him, "Rabbi, do you have any older people in your shul?"

He attributes the change to word of mouth. In fact, Marlene Cooper, who joined with her husband Sheldon just over a year ago in anticipation of their 11-year-old daughter's bat mitzvah, heard about the synagogue and its rabbi from her mother, who had attended a baby naming there.

Beth Torah, which holds traditional Conservative-style services, was a place where Marlene, who was raised Reform, and Sheldon, whose background was more traditional, both felt comfortable, she said.

Most importantly, she said, the rabbi was very welcoming. "Everybody was friendly. It's a very down-to-earth shul… [and] they try very hard to get the kids involved."

She was impressed by the fact that younger children are given their own small Torahs for the Torah procession, and that her older daughter received a thank-you note from the rabbi for being a volunteer babysitter during the High Holy Days last year.

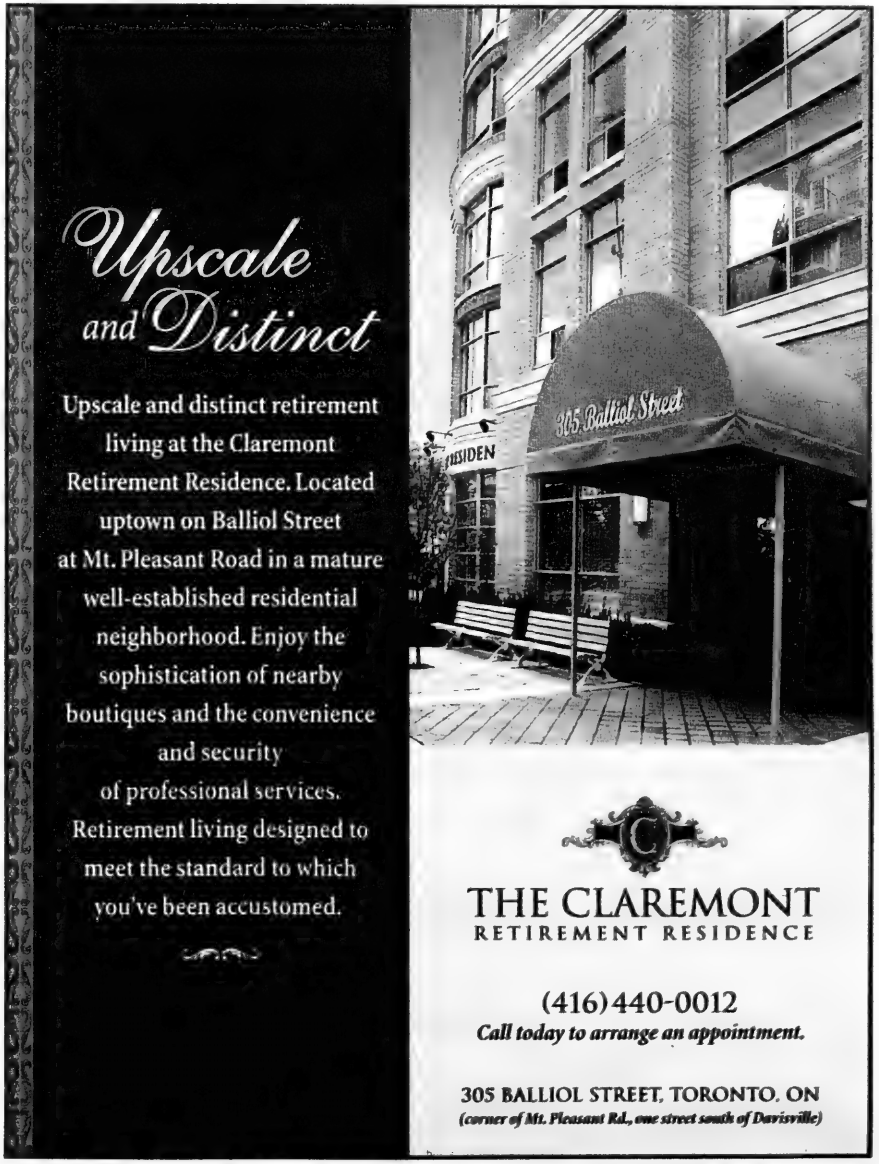
Although Rabbi Sapirman initiated a number of kid-friendly changes, he credits the older generation, including members who founded the congregation in 1961, with having "the wisdom to understand that they had to let it happen… It has been their intention all along to let this happen."

Occasionally, the rabbi hears a complaint about increased noise levels during services, but he said that's outweighed virtually unanimously by a feeling the children "are our future."

Part of his mandate, he said, was to bring young people into the shul. The congregation now has its own Hebrew school – called Hebrew's Kool – that serves 30 students, under Rabbi Sapirman's auspices.

He feels it's his duty to know everyone at the synagogue personally. "I don't want anyone to ever feel like they're just a number."

Rabbi Sapirman has revitalized the synagogue, said president Eva Zimmerman.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Charade anew

These words were written after Mahmoud Abbas, the prime minister of the Palestinian Authority, arrived in Washington, D.C., and after he met with some congressional leaders, but before he met with U.S. President George Bush.

"Israel must take bold steps to meet its obligations under the peace plan," he told his American hosts. In particular, he complained to the congressmen about the security fence Israel is building, as well as Israel's refusal to release, wholesale, all the Palestinian prisoners being held in Israeli jails and the alleged construction of new "settlements."

Two days earlier, he told a press conference in Egypt that "cracking down on Hamas, Jihad and the Palestinian organizations was not an option at all." And thus the Palestinian leadership charade begins anew. Purporting to subscribe to the terms of an agreement that he signed – namely the U.S.-sponsored "road map" peace plan – Abbas, like PA President Yasser Arafat in his Oslo agreement days, proceeds to ignore them entirely.

Disarming extremist groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad is explicitly recorded as a condition of the road map and an explicit obligation of the PA. Yet it is clear those commitments mean nothing to Abbas, just as they meant nothing to Arafat.

Last week, *Ha'aretz* reported that "a senior [Israel Defence Forces] officer at general headquarters said lifting the restrictions on Palestinian movement along the main north south road in the Gaza Strip had been exploited by terror groups as they prepare for a renewal of hostilities. They are training in the use of rockets, bomb making and infantry combat, the sources said." The sources also said Hamas conducted test launches of two rockets last week, apparently to test their range, which it is trying to extend to 12 to 13 kilometres, compared to the current eight.

Nothing has changed among Palestinian leaders.

And that is too bad. For until there is real change, there will be no prosperity or fulfillment for their people.

* * *

On July 10, the editorial entitled *Will no cleric speak?* asked the question "Why… do we not hear from Muslim clerics, locally or abroad, publicly, loudly, unambiguously condemning suicide bombings?"

One of our readers brought to our attention a Reuters news report from July 12 of a statement condemning all attacks by suicide bombers that was made by Sheikh Mohamad Syed Tantawi of Cairo's Al-Azhar university to journalists at an international conference of Islamic scholars in Putrajaya, near Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Sheikh Tantawi said groups who practise extremism and carry out suicide bombings are enemies of Islam. According to the report, Tantawi, whose al-Azhar university is the highest authority in Sunni Islam, said suicide attacks by Muslims, including those against Israelis, are unjustified. "They were wrong," he said, adding that extremism is not the way to vent frustrations.

The CJN thanks our reader for bringing this statement to our attention. If only there were more such statements and more Muslim clerics to follow Tantawi's example.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO…

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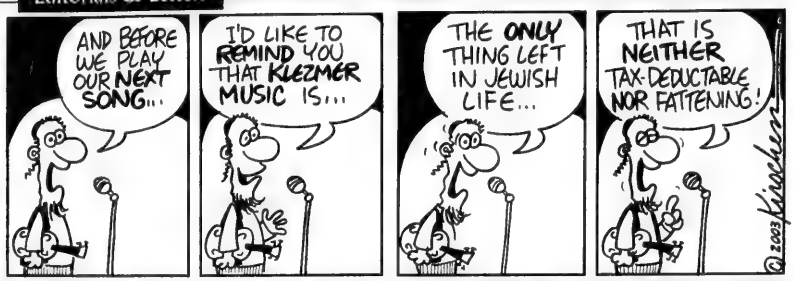
Dry Bones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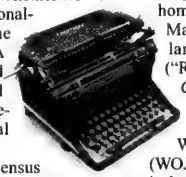
Definitions of Judaism irrelevant

I wish to respond to the article "Sociologist Questions Jewish Population Study" (*CJN*, July 10).

One of the points of pride of our Canadian Jewish community has always been that we accept as part of "the community" those who choose to affiliate and consider themselves Jewish according to the broadest realistic definition possible.

When a person in our community comes to join the JCC, uses services of any organization or participates in any community event, we do not ask them to define their personal beliefs or practices. When a young adult participates in a Birthright Israel program, we don't ask them about how they define their Judaism. Nor do we ask donors to UJA/CJA if we should limit service to those with a "different" definition of their Judaism.

Prof. Leo Davids may, from his perspective, raise valid issues of concern to sociological discourse. Fortunately, these considerations are not at the forefront of appropriate community planning. As our community has evolved, so have personal interpretations of Judaism. Whether we find these definitions or interpretations personally acceptable is irrelevant to the task of the Canadian Jewish demography project of UIA Federations Canada. Our task is to understand who we might potentially have to serve, as well as those who might enter our schools and home-care services and contribute to our local UJA/CJA campaigns.



In bringing together his opinion and the census count, Davids is improperly using information to make an irrelevant point. The Canadian Jewish communities developed a definition of Judaism for the census in 1981 under the leadership of Prof. James Torczyner of McGill University and Montreal's FEDERATION CJA (then Allied Jewish Community Services) in order to develop an approach that was inclusive and appropriate to the task of community development and community service. The Canadian census is a self-descriptive tool, not a Jewish identity study. Further analysis by communities may at some point address issues of identity, but a population count cannot be used for that purpose.

Community building is about "opening the tent" to all who wish to participate. Today, there are likely many Jews using community service who define themselves as Jews by ethnicity alone. If Davids chooses to "close the tent" to those who define themselves in a certain way, that is his choice. I would prefer to take the chance that they may enter at any point and broaden their personal Jewish definition by being welcomed.

Maxyne Finkelstein
Executive Vice President, UIA Federations Canada

* * *

Don't get me wrong

In the article "Sociologist Questions Jewish Population Study" (*CJN*, July 10), some readers might think I am denigrating UIA Federations Canada and its demographic project, or attacking the entire fundraising process. Such an erroneous impression is unfortunate, as the only issue under discussion is the scientific-philosophical problem of who shall be counted into the community on the basis of Canadian Census data. I am not out to do any UIA or federation bashing. I have always been and continue to be a contributor.

However, caution in Jew-counting is still reasonable. This discussion is not about whether the excellent work by the federations should continue to receive our wholehearted support. It certainly should.

Prof. Leo Davids
York University
Toronto

* * *

Jewish refugees from Arab lands

In your report about the newly formed organization Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC), which is lobbying for the rights of Jews displaced from their homes in those countries, Winnipeg lawyer David Matas is quoted as stating that the issue has been largely ignored by the international community ("Report calls for justice for Jews from Arab lands," *CJN*, July 3).

Sadly, Matas is correct.

However, it should be kept in mind that the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries (WOJAC) was formed in the early 1970s in Israel with precisely the same aims as JJAC.

I was a founding member of that organization.

The first speech in Toronto on this topic was given at a teach-in for Syrian Jews in January 1973.

In addition, Canadian Jewish Congress repeatedly dealt with the issue at several of its plenaries, where experts as well as representatives of the refugees gave details of what was left behind in the Arab countries, not only by individuals, but also by long-established communal institutions.

I had the privilege of moving unanimously adopted resolutions at each such plenary calling for compensation, and then presenting such resolutions to the Canadian government.

Unfortunately, they fell on deaf ears.

Notwithstanding United Nations Resolution 242, neither the State of Israel nor world Jewry pursued this issue until very recently, nor did they press Canada, who was appointed gavel-holder of the Refugee Working Group as a result of the Madrid "peace conference."

Contrary to the apparent view of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, the claims of Jews from Arab countries impinge as directly as Palestinian claims on the mandate of the Refugee Working Group.

Judy Feld Carr
Toronto

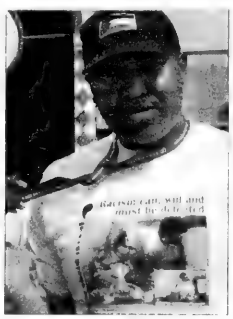
Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Israel is not an apartheid state

By ED MORGAN

"Dress it up any way you like, but in the end it's still apartheid," wrote Arab Israeli politician Azmi Bishara in Egypt's *Al-Ahram* newspaper on, of all dates, Sept. 11, 2001.

Equating Israeli society with apartheid has become an increasingly shrill rallying cry of Palestinian advocacy in recent years. The visit of former South African President F.W. deKlerk to Israel in June has again brought the comparison into the spotlight. It is a false equation, but not one that should be taken lightly.



For those who follow these debates closely, three different types of "apartheid" accusations are commonly levelled against the State of Israel: discrimination against Arab Israelis, the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza as a form of apartheid policy and the fundamental nature of Zionism as an apartheid-like ideology. Let's look at each of those in turn.

The hallmark of apartheid is not just racism but formal, institutionalized racial segregation built into the very structure of society. Thus, for example, when Assembly of First Nations National Chief Mathew Coon Come made headlines two years ago at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, by accusing Canada of racism in its treatment of aboriginal people, he specifically avoided use of the "A" word. No one could deny that the aboriginal communities of Ipperwash, Oka or Davis Inlet have suffered social and economic deprivations that rival the worst of the developing world. It is also the case, however, that the apartheid label as applied to Canada would have rung hollow in the ears of Durban's local audience.

The same approach was taken at the conference by the outspoken Rev. Jesse Jackson, who accused the United States of racial polarization and economic discrimination in its treatment of African Americans. Anyone who has even briefly visited Harlem, South Chicago or the rural South can verify the extent of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage of black America. Nevertheless, the United States, like Canada, espouses equal rights in the legal and political system, and so neither qualifies as an apartheid regime.

Israel's Arab minority is very much in the same boat. It would be difficult to refute Arab claims of inferior housing, schools and municipal services as compared to the residents of Israeli Jewish towns. Despite programs such as affirmative action admissions to Haifa University and contributions by the New Israel Fund and other Jewish charities to infrastructure development in the Arab sector, the competition with Jewish development towns, new immigrant absorption, defence and other government priorities has left Arab towns and villages with a disproportionately small share of national resources.

At the same time, Israeli law has for the most part equalized the rights of the Arab population. While Arabs do not get drafted for service in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF), they enjoy full political rights as citizens, including voting in elections and standing for national and local office. There are Arab mayors, judges, professors and members of all the professions. The vestiges of discrimination in employment, schooling and housing have been formally overturned. Azmi Bishara, who led a march at Durban denouncing Israel as an apartheid state, is himself living proof that the apartheid label is inappropriate. Whatever else he may complain of, this third-term Knesset member cannot say that he and his community are treated the way the apartheid regime of South Africa treated its Zulu, Tswana and Xhosa citizens.

The West Bank and Gaza raise a different set of issues. The Arab residents of these territories are not Israeli citizens. Indeed, the Geneva Convention, which sets out the rights and duties of an occupying power following a military conflict, prohibits the imposition of a new citizenship onto, and the implied annexation of, the territories and their residents. Nevertheless, the separation of the two communities and the fact that Palestinians in the territories live under military administration rather than Israeli civilian law hints of "separate development" (the literal translation of the Afrikaans word apartheid) along ethnic lines of a type that the world has come to see as forbidden. In order to counter this misimpression, some historical reminders are in order.

At least since the UN's 1947 Partition Resolution, the territorial division of what was Mandatory Palestine into two separate states, has been the international community's approach to the political aspirations of Jews and Palestinians. In the words of Britain's 1937 Peel Commission Report, "[a]n irrepressible conflict has arisen between two national communities within the narrow bounds of one small country." This separation of national identities and governance was further entrenched in the 1993 Oslo process and remains a part of the ongoing relationship between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government today. While the military confrontation has led to attacks against Israel and occupation by Israel of lands on which Palestinians reside, the treatment of the two national communities as separate from one another is not an apartheid-like offence against international norms. Rather it is a fulfillment of those norms.

The deepest accusation levelled against Israel, of course, is one that attacks the very ideology on which the state is founded. The 1977 UN General Assembly resolution declaring Zionism to be a form of racism, although repealed a decade after its enactment, still resounds in many anti-Israel circles. In this view, the May 14, 1948 proclamation by founding father David Ben-Gurion and his colleagues "representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the World Zionist Movement" establishing "the Jewish State in Palestine, to be called the State of Israel" created nothing more than an ethnically or religiously exclusive, and therefore illegitimate, enclave. At bottom, this version of the apartheid analogy negates the very possibility of Jewish sovereignty, as reflected in Article 18 of the May 28, 1964 Palestine National Covenant: "The claims of historic and spiritual ties between Jews and Palestine are not in agreement with the facts of history or with the true basis of sound statehood. Judaism, because it is a divine religion, is not a nationality with independent existence."

The ultimate question posed by the apartheid analogy, then, is whether Israel can be both Jewish and democratic in any true sense of those words. After all, while the state has committed itself in its Proclamation of Independence to "the full social and political equality of all its citizens", including "freedom of religion, conscience, education and culture," it is at the same time fundamentally committed to "the right of the Jewish people to national revival in their own country." The accusation has been that the combination of ethno-religious identity with a modern, liberal state system is simply impossible. This skepticism about an inclusive rather than exclusive Jewish nation was voiced as early as 1922, when then-British colonial secretary Winston Churchill said Palestine could never be "as Jewish as England is English."

A protester makes his statement against Israel at a recent UN conference in Africa. [RNS/Reuters photo]

In recent years, the important challenge of reconciling the Jewish with the democratic character of the state has been taken up by Israel's Supreme Court. In the view of Chief Justice Aharon Barak, religious identity is central to the state, but it does not take the form of ethnic superiority of Jewish over non-Jewish citizens, nor does it entail the theocratic establishment of rabbinical institutions. Instead, Jewish character resides in the value system that permeates the political and legal system. Nowhere does this theme arise more graphically than in the cases challenging the acts of Israel's security forces. Under Barak's stewardship, the legal values of democracy have been adapted to protect the Jewish state against its enemies while Jewish values have been invoked to protect even those enemies against arbitrary acts of the state.

Last year, for example, the Supreme Court ordered the IDF to temporarily lift its siege of Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity in order to allow food to be passed to the terrorists and their hostages holed up inside. In doing so, the court stated, "The armed conflict against terrorism is an armed conflict of the law against those who seek to destroy it... But in addition, the State of Israel is a state whose values are Jewish and democratic. Here we have established a state that preserves law, that achieves its national goals and the vision of generations, and that does so while recognizing and realizing human rights in general and human dignity in particular. Between these two there are harmony and accord, not conflict and estrangement."

Likewise, the court has indicated that it is part of the Jewish and democratic system that all of Israel's citizens, from the Arab villager to the IDF's chief of staff, must be equally subject to the law. Using an analogy that Churchill himself may have appreciated, Barak made reference to a 17th-century debate between King James I and Lord Justice Coke in finding the Shin Bet's methodology subject to judicial review: "The king is not subject to man, but subject to God and the law."

The statement is repeated in Canada's Charter of Rights, whose preamble states that the country believes in "the supremacy of God and the rule of law." Not everyone in Israel is Jewish just as not everyone in England is English or even Anglican and not all Canadians are Anglo-Protestant or French Catholic. But Israel is governed by a value system that combines its religious heritage with democracy in much the same way as England or Canada does. The result has been inclusion for the Arab population of the state.

As a member of a minority group, Azmi Bishara may find reasons to complain about his government's various policies or the economic conditions in which he lives. He can dress it up any way he likes, but in the end, it's just not apartheid.

Ed Morgan is a law professor at the University of Toronto and chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Optimism reconsidered

I was raised to be an optimist. My mother, a supreme optimist, taught me the future always brings good tidings. In yeshiva, I learned how prayer and mitzvot shield the righteous from harm. Don't worry, bad things don't happen to good people, I recall being told. As a student, I learned how the march of scientific progress has cured disease and improved life. How could I be anything but an optimist?

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Indeed, optimism is what led me to the rabbinate. The pulpit seemed a perfect place to share my idealistic dreams of progress and redemption.

Ironically, the rabbinate actually did much to erode my optimism. Until I started working as a rabbi, tragedy was pretty much an abstraction, something remote. It is as a rabbi that I first had to confront actual tragedies.

Unfortunately, I have officiated at funerals for accident victims and visited parents sitting shivah for their children. While I was struggling with these tragedies in my own community, in New York and Israel, terrorists murdered thousands of innocents in suicide attacks. The convergence of these catastrophic events shook my optimism, and even my faith. I learned life doesn't always have a happy ending. I realized that bad things can happen to good people.

I was forced to reconsider my beliefs. In my search for new insights, authors such as Rav Joseph Soloveitchik, Victor Frankl and Rabbi Kalonimus Kalman Shapira – the Piaseczner Rebbe – opened my eyes to realistic approaches to the problem of evil. My belief became more profound, and there was even some room for optimism.

I no longer believe things will always go well. (I haven't shelved my hopes completely, but that's for another day). I can never again be a passive optimist. Passive optimists believe "all is for the best" and whatever happens, no matter how awful, is truly good. Actually, this approach is insensitive, disparaging the genuine suffering that many people experience.

But even a realist can be an optimist. I cannot be sure everything will be alright. I do not know or understand God's plans. But if I try, I can improve things. This is the optimism of action, an optimism about what we can accomplish.

The world is tragic, but we can still produce happiness. Terrorists, illnesses and accidents destroy the beautiful and the innocent. It's up to us to combat evil, give love and create new life. With kindness, spirituality and progress, we can improve the world.

My current optimism has nothing to do with fate. I believe in free will and the possibility of human goodness. I am optimistic because I can, and you can, choose to improve the world. All we have to do is make the right choices.

Debate on Israeli welfare state is long overdue

When Israelis focus almost exclusively on social and economic affairs, it's a sure sign that they feel less vulnerable on security matters. And the relative quiet of the last three weeks has brought the burning debate over Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's draconian cuts to the national budget to the surface.

The facts are clear to all Israelis: the country's economy is in crisis. Over the last three years, the combination of a world economic slump, a decline of tourism and foreign investment, 10 per cent unemployment and huge defence expenditures have created unprecedented pressures.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

But at the heart of it all is a long overdue discussion about the nature of the Israeli welfare state and government transfer payments that comprise 40 per cent of the budget. Former Labor and Likud governments have all realized that Israel can no longer afford a social safety net that encourages welfare payments as a steady form of income. This year's budget has slashed these payments for most disadvantaged sectors. And while the public generally accepts this, the latest popular dissent movement poses an unexpected, populist challenge to Netanyahu's plans.

It's a finance minister's nightmare: scores of single mothers from around the country walking to Jerusalem and camping out for more than 40 days in a tent opposite government headquarters. Their leader, Vicky Knafo, is telegenic, aggressive and tenacious. The women want their social security payments restored, and Netanyahu wants them to go to work.

Here's the rub: over the last 20 years, income support has grown to the point where it discourages work, while the number of recipients has grown exponentially. If the government caves in to the single mothers' demands now, the women will have no incentive to seek employment.

In a way, the emotional debate over the mothers and their kids diverts attention from the heart of the matter, which has little to do with the numbers per se. Israel's transition from socialism to a free market system has been done in an ad hoc manner that has left some sacred cows untouched, thereby creating serious inequities and public criticism. And as serious as Netanyahu is in wanting to introduce a shift in Israel's economic psychology, many inconsistencies remain. For example, monopolies in public services perpetuate padded salaries and benefits; generous tax breaks are available to all residents of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, regardless of income; and the issue of welfare payments linked to exemptions from military service for yeshiva students remains largely unresolved. Moreover, cheap Palestinian labour that disappeared during the intifadah has been replaced not by Israelis but by Asian and east European foreign workers. Today, there are 300,000 unemployed Israelis and 300,000 foreign workers. The equation is clear.

Netanyahu took on the finance portfolio reluctantly. He knows finance ministers are doomed to fail politically, and he wants to be the Likud candidate in the next national election. He hopes to resolve the apparent contradiction by turning around the economic ship using a two-pronged strategy: tax and budget cuts in 2003, followed by growth in 2004. If successful, his plan will benefit the economy, the people and the minister himself. If he fails, the economy will collapse along with his political future. It's a huge gamble, and the current unrest makes it tougher.

Recent polls show the public is ambivalent. Israelis understand things must change drastically, but they lack confidence in the proposed measures. They back reform, but they believe tax and welfare cuts will simply benefit the rich and enlarge the poverty pool.

The public is right in sensing an inherent weakness in the economic plan. Given the scale of private sector layoffs in the last year and looming public sector shrinkage, Netanyahu has done little to create confidence in job creation. Finance ministry officials are opposed to any initiative that will be perceived as tinkering with a slashed budget. In Israel, the Thatcherite model of economic reform will fail politically unless accompanied by some short-term solutions.

As this column goes to print, the politicians have gotten the message. Over the next weeks, cabinet ministers will likely tinker with the plan in an effort to make it more palatable. And if they are fortunate, the single mothers' campaign will run out of steam and allow for a more principled, comprehensive debate on the core issues involved.

Bumping into history

"I was an honest writer who was walking down the street one day when he bumped into history," the Oscar-winning screenwriter Ben Hecht would recall about his Jewish awakening in the 1930s. Until then, Hecht had indulged himself, worshipping art and entertainment. But the Nazi threat to Jews and democracy transformed him. Unlike his peers, he did not wallow. Angered, he became an activist.

Gil Troy in Montreal

Although today's situation is less dire than the 1930s, some of us have also responded rationally with anger and activism. There have been many wake-up calls – from the Palestinians' turn away from negotiation and toward violence in September 2000 to the Islamicists' mass-murders of Sept. 11, 2001; from Hezbollah's kidnapping of three Israeli soldiers near Lebanon to the kidnapping – and beheading – of journalist Daniel Pearl; from the UN's orgy of anti-Semitism masquerading as anti-racism in Durban, South Africa, to the anti-Semitism exposed behind "mere" anti-Zionism when rioters who squelched Israeli finance minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right to speak at Concordia University threw pennies at Jews; from the world's unfair denunciation of Israel when it responded aggressively to Palestinian terrorism to the world's unfair denunciation of America when it responded aggressively to Islamic terrorism.

Those of us who have responded have often found our positions caricatured and condemned. In the last three years – and especially since I publicly proclaimed that I am a Zionist – I have been called a racist, a Nazi, a propagandist, a hypocrite, a fanatic, a false prophet, right of centre, and out of the mainstream. I get bombarded with illiterate e-mails from fake addresses, such as nauseatedwithzionistlies @aol.com, fedupwithzionists@yahoo.com and damtheusrulers@hotmail.com. Even more depressing are the well-written rants that degenerate into crude anti-Semitism and anti-Americanism and are signed by people who lack the shame to hide their names.

These attacks are badges of honour – proof my feeble attempts to defend the right ideals are annoying the "right" people. The perverse charges of Nazism and racism, damning Jews and Americans with their enemies' sins by inverting reality, do not merit consideration (although I wonder why when Jews condemn suicide bombings, we are "racists," but when Saudi Arabians finally do, they're heroes).

I plead "guilty" to many charges:

If appreciating American democracy, though imperfect, makes me a "propagandist," I plead guilty to viewing worthy ideals in proper perspective.

If contrasting Israeli culture's yearning for peace with Palestinian political culture's deification of death – which lionizes PA President Yasser Arafat and other mass-murderers – and if distinguishing innocent victims from suicide bombers makes me a "hypocrite," I plead guilty to rooting my judgments in reality, proportionality, and morality.

If having zero-tolerance for anti-Semitism and refusing to judge Israel by unrealistic standards makes me a "fanatic," so be it. Moderation and democracy need more passionate advocates.

If testifying to terrorism's evils, wherever practised and regardless of rationale, makes me a "false prophet," I hope I am also a soothsayer, foreseeing the eradication of this evil and a return to sanity, with no thanks to a complacent world.

If championing fundamental liberal ideals of free speech, religious tolerance, democracy, rule of law, fair play, and the right of civil disagreement, let alone the right of Israelis to enter pizzerias in peace, makes me "right of centre," then show me how to join the "vast right-wing conspiracy."

And if disagreeing with the conventional wisdom among reporters, academics, and Canadian and European elites boots me "out of the mainstream," there is nowhere else I would rather be.

Atlanta's mayor in the 1960s, Ivan Allen Jr., said, "If there wasn't a race issue, I could play golf every afternoon." If there weren't so many unreasonable attacks on Israel, the United States, and western civilization, I could stay hidden in my archives. But in mobilizing, we must not simply fight our enemies. We must celebrate the joys of Judaism, the blessings of Zionism, the magic of Israel and the importance of the West's democratic and liberal ideals, even while acknowledging shortcomings, criticizing imperfections and pushing harder to fulfil our ideals.

And we need more people, more galvanized moderates, more infuriated liberals, to stop playing golf, to bump into history, to risk criticism and to fight in today's multi-front war against terrorism and for democracy.

Gil Troy is a professor of history at McGill University and author of Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today.

The Kirshner File

Failed peace talks topic of *Shattered Dreams*

During the pivotal months of 2000, Israel's guarded hopes of resolving its seemingly intractable differences with Syria and the Palestinians evaporated.

On March 26, Bill Clinton, the president of the United States, met with Hafez Assad, his Syrian counterpart, in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss a set of Israeli proposals for settling the dispute over the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the Six Day War. Clinton informed Assad that Israel was prepared to meet a major Syrian demand – a virtual withdrawal of Israeli forces back to the pre-1967 borders. Israel's prime minister, Ehud Barak, qualified his offer on one condition: Israel would retain the northeast corner of the Sea of Galilee, thereby denying Syria access to Israel's only freshwater lake. Assad was indignant. "The Israelis don't want peace!" he exclaimed. "There's no point in continuing."

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

And so the on-again, off-again Syrian track in the peace process fell by the wayside.

On July 25, despite Clinton's best efforts, the Camp David summit in Maryland concluded without an agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. On Sept. 29, a day after Likud leader Ariel Sharon went to the Temple Mount in what was widely seen as a provocative, politically inspired visit, the second Palestinian uprising in 13 years erupted. Within months, the Oslo peace process was in tatters, and Israel seemed back to square one in its relations with the Palestinians.

Charles Enderlin, the Middle East bureau chief of France's public television network, covered these overlapping events and interviewed many of the negotiators. Now, in *Shattered Dreams* (Other Press), Enderlin provides a fresh, vigorous appraisal of the breakdown of Israel's talks with Syria and the PA. The emphasis, however, is on the Palestinians.

In his estimation, the ultimate failure of the Syrian and Palestinian tracks was a function of intransigence, mistakes and misjudgments on all sides. For the record, Yasser Arafat, the PA president, condemned violence – a breach of the Oslo accords – as inimical to the Palestinian cause. But in practice, he was not averse to it. Meanwhile, the number of Israelis settling in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip rose exponentially from 105,940 in 1992 to 151,324 in 1995, jeopardizing the Palestinians' assumption of claiming virtually all these areas.

After Yitzhak Rabin's assassination and Shimon Peres' razor-thin defeat in the 1996 general election at the hands of his Likud rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, the tone of Israel's discourse with the Palestinians darkened. Netanyahu, an opponent of Oslo, rejected the idea of Palestinian statehood, Oslo's underlying premise, and told the Palestinians that they would have to be content with circumscribed autonomy.

Shortly after Netanyahu's accession to office, the so-called tunnel riots in eastern Jerusalem broke out, leading to the deaths of 15 Israeli soldiers and some 80 Palestinian civilians and policemen. As a result of this incident, the Israeli army drew up a plan – Operation Field of Thorns – to regain control of the West Bank and Gaza.

The mutual mistrust engendered by these riots was somewhat mitigated by Israel's redeployment in 1997 from 80 per cent of Hebron. But as far as Netanyahu was concerned, the Hebron withdrawal was contingent on his understanding that Israel would keep the rest of the West Bank. By this point, the PA controlled or partially controlled 42 per cent of the West Bank.

Netanyahu's subsequent announcement that Israel would build thousands of new housing units in Har Homa, in eastern Jerusalem, prompted the Palestinians to temporarily freeze talks with Israel. Jibril Rajoub, a leading Palestinian security official, described Har Homa as "the clinical death of the Oslo process." A Hamas suicide bombing in Jerusalem in July led Israel to suspend all contacts with the PA.

Barak, Netanyahu's successor, upset Arafat by his insistence to go straight to a final status accord. Arafat held out for the implementation of the 1998 Wye agreement, which obligated Israel to vacate another 13 per cent of the West Bank. Barak eventually complied with Wye. But he angered Arafat yet again by claiming that United Nations Resolution 242 did not apply to the West Bank, by lending more weight to talks with Syria and by issuing 3,196 new tender bids for construction in the settlements.

By this juncture, Enderlin writes, the Israeli army was gearing up for a new intifadah. Ahmed Qureia (Abu Ala), a Palestinian negotiator, had already warned Uri Savir, a senior Israeli official, that a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon would encourage Palestinian militants to resort to violence. It was an astonishingly prescient prediction.

In May 2000, around the time of Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, Shlomo Ben Ami, a top-ranking Israeli negotiator at a new round of talks in Stockholm, offered the Palestinians 78 per cent of the West Bank and a further 10 per cent later on if they agreed to permanent status negotiations at Camp David. Although Arafat warned that a summit of such magnitude required much more preparation, he reluctantly agreed to attend.

At Camp David, deep divisions emerged.

The Palestinians declared that the basis of discussions should be the 1967 border, a principle Israel refused to accept. Indeed, Israel sought the annexation of 10.5 per cent of the West Bank and the lease of a further 10 per cent of the Jordan Valley for 20 years. Talks were also clouded by the Temple Mount imbroglio – Arafat claimed that the Jewish Temple ruins were actually Greek or Roman – and by the "right of return" issue. At one point, Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said that "only 10 to 20 per cent of the Arab refugees desired to have their right to return acknowledged." Elyakim Rubinstein, an Israeli negotiator, retorted: "Ten to 20 per cent of the refugees amounts to between 400,000 and 800,000 people!"

Benjamin Netanyahu

The mounting tension took its toll. Barak, whose government was in a state of disarray when he left for Camp David, accused the Palestinians of negotiating in bad faith. In turn, Arafat charged that American official Dennis Ross, a Jew, was working "in league with the Israelis." And in a remarkable confrontation, Clinton compared Barak's flexibility with Arafat's obduracy. As he archly put it:"Barak has made so many concessions. And you've made none!"

With the outbreak of the intifadah, Barak initially refused to consider a resumption of talks with Arafat. "We don't want to reward Palestinian violence," Barak explained. According to Enderlin, the revolt was spontaneous, although Arafat was not displeased by it. By his reckoning, the intifadah gave him a strategic advantage at a moment when he was weak.

On Dec. 23, 2000, Clinton presented a bridging proposal, which may yet form the basis of a final agreement. The main points: The Palestinians would get between 94 to 96 per cent of the West Bank. In compensation for land annexed by Israel, the Palestinians would receive one to three per cent of Israeli territory. Eighty per cent of Jewish settlers would be resettled in blocks in the West Bank. In Jerusalem, Arab areas and Israeli areas would respectively be under Arab and Israeli administration, and sovereignty over the Temple Mount would essentially be shared. As for the refugees, the Palestinian state would basically be the focal point of their return.

Israel accepted these points as the basis for more negotiations, but the PA expressed reservations. Nevertheless, both sides debated these unresolved issues at Taba. Barak's call for an election froze the Taba track. Barak's successor, Sharon, completely rejected Taba.

Ross believes that Oslo's failure can be ascribed to several factors.

The PA never gave up its dependence on incitement and violence. Israel did not stop the construction of settlements, nor did it end its policy of confiscating land and destroying Palestinian houses. And, he adds, "from the very beginning, we should have held both sides accountable for the commitments they made." (This element of mandatory compliance has been incorporated into the current beleaguered road map peace plan.)

Enderlin's exposition on Israel's negotiations with Syria is far more brief but just as illuminating. Clinton claims that Rabin promised to undertake talks with Assad on the basis of a full Israeli pullback to the June 4, 1967 lines, on condition that Syria agreed to satisfactory security arrangements and a full peace, including an exchange of ambassadors and open borders. Rabin's guiding principle was that "the depth of the withdrawal will reflect the depth of peace." After Rabin's murder, Peres accepted this "deposit." Netanyahu, through intermediary Ronald Lauder, embraced the concept of an Israeli withdrawal up to the ridge overlooking the Sea of Galilee, but demanded early warning stations on Mt. Hermon.

Barak, in his talks with the Syrians in 1999 and 2000, was slightly more flexible. But to Assad, Barak's offer was also insufficient. Enderlin explores these issues at some length.

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British couple celebrate 65 years together – and become Canadians after over half a century as landed immigrants

Morris & Esther Epstein

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

To most people, the dentist's office seems an unlikely place for romance. But it was at his brother's clinic more than six decades ago that Morris Epstein first laid eyes on Esther, the woman who would later become his wife.

"I saw this girl sitting there – a beautiful young lady – and that was it," said Morris, who turned 95 this month.

Morris asked Esther out on a date, despite being engaged to another woman at the time.

"She said, 'I don't make dates with engaged men,' and I said, 'Well, I'm no longer engaged,'" recounted Morris.

"I loved him. He was very handsome in his bowler hat and spats," said 88-year old Esther.

On June 9, 1938, the couple were married in London, England.

In addition to celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary this summer, the Epsteins are also becoming Canadian citizens after living as landed immigrants for 55 years.

"We will be very proud, I can assure you, to be Canadian citizens. This country's been very good to us. We feel we're living in the best country in the world," said Esther.

Soon after they were married, Esther gave birth to the couple's two children, daughter Jean and son Philip, while Morris ran a lucrative fur retail business and factory in London.

But everything changed for the young couple during the German firebombing of England during World War II.

"I lost my home and two flourishing businesses and was flat broke. I was penniless. The enemy just destroyed me completely," said Morris.

"We had two floors, 17 on staff and the next day it was just a hole in the ground," Esther added.

Starting from scratch meant either selling furs on the black market or moving the business out of England. Morris chose the latter.

"Unless you sold black market and took the risk of going to jail, you could not do any business whatsoever. I had a wife and two children to support and I wanted to do it legitimately," said Morris.

Esther said it was not easy to leave behind their tight-knit families for Canada, where they knew no one. She was one of 10 children and Morris was the youngest of seven.

Morris assured his wife that she could visit England any time she desired, no matter what their financial situation. He kept true to his word: Esther made the long trip across the ocean 18 times by ship.

In Canada, Morris started up a new fur business and Esther founded the first Jewish nursing home in Toronto, the Benslow Nursing Home.

"We worked hard and played hard," said Esther.

Celebrating Jewish customs together is one thing that has held the family together through the years. Every Shabbat and holiday, Esther prepares dinner for a dining room full of family members.

"The tradition was there, no matter how busy I was," she said.

Although he was not formally educated, Morris developed a strong understanding of Torah, which he passed down to his children and grandchildren.

Esther said she takes great joy in being a grandmother and great-grandmother. She has six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, with a fourth on the way. She said she loved taking her grandchildren to the theatre, for walks, and giving them sweets after Shabbat dinner.

She said her grandchildren have grown up to pursue rewarding careers and many have started families of their own.

"I'm very proud of [my grandchildren]. Each and every one of them are achievers. I think this is what keeps us going – keeps us healthy anyway," Esther said.

Now that they no longer work, the couple enjoy travelling together (Esther worked until she was 75 and Morris worked until he was 80). They have been to Israel 17 times, and have travelled across Europe, through the Canadian Rockies, and have gone on a number of cruises, including a recent one to Alaska.

Morris and Esther both agree that their support for each other through good times and bad is what has kept their marriage going.

"There wasn't one pulling one way and one pulling the other way," Esther said. "If you can't pull together when times get a little rough, you may as well call it quits."

"Now I can look in the mirror and smile!"

— *Nancy Greenberg after shedding 20 pounds with hypnosis*

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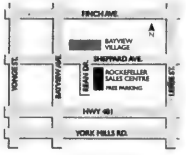

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Torontonian named head of NCSY

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Torontonian Zale Newman has been appointed national director of National Conference of Synagogue Youth, (NCSY), the youth arm of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations (OU).

The announcement was made last month at OU national headquarters in New York by OU president Harvey Blitz, executive vice-president Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb and NCSY youth commission chair Moishe Bane.

Although Newman will officially move to New York in January, he has already started travelling across the United States and Canada to meet with NCSY staff and lay leadership.

Newman, 47, is probably best known as the creator of Uncle Moishy and the Mitzvah Men, who teach Jewish themes using snappy, singable songs in their concerts and 15 albums. He also produced albums for the late Jewish soul singer Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach.

Newman is also well-known in Toronto circles for his work in business and outreach to Jewish youth.

He was educated at Yeshiva, McGill and York universities and holds an MBA in marketing and corporate strategy from York. He also attended yeshiva in Jerusalem for two years and studies Torah every day.

Zale Newman
Photo by Michael Datikash
The New York Jewish Week

Newman's business background includes executive positions at General Mills Canada and a variety of financial services companies. He is currently a partner with Panfinancial, a Toronto financial services firm.

Newman's involvement with NCSY, almost entirely in a volunteer capacity, dates back to 1968. He has been an advisor in various NCSY regions and has served as regional director in Montreal. He has also been co-chair of the Canada Regional Youth Commission and a teacher, speaker and master of ceremonies at many NCSY events.

Newman says he plans to use techniques from the business and market research worlds to learn what today's teens want and need, and then to develop appropriate responses. For instance, he will introduce programs on a trial basis in one region, and then, if they are successful, expand them nationally, making adjustments as necessary.

Newman's three-year plan is to greatly expand the range of NCSY's influence. While he will still address the needs of already observant Jewish youth, he also plans outreach to "those who know little abut their rich Jewish heritage and are in danger of being lost to the Jewish people," he said in a statement.

Informal educational techniques, such as shabbatons, camps, and Israel programs, are the most effective, he believes, but says this expansion and greater presence can only come about through increased fundraising.

Besides winding up his business interests, Newman is working on a siddur, High Holy Days machzor and Passover haggadah for beginners, featuring simplified text, explanations and graphics.

His ultimate goal, he said in the statement, is "to touch our young people emotionally and make them feel good about themselves and about Judaism. NCSY will always be positive and creative. It will always be upbeat. That's the way we will succeed."

The CJN *will feature an interview with Newman in an upcoming issue.*

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Two opposites, two extremes

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Tisha b'Av, the ninth day of the month of Av, is approaching and we remember the destructions of the temples and the resulting exile. It is a day of mourning that seems to stand alone in its darkness. It seems that this day speaks to us of history and destruction and ultimate loss. Yet the lesson lies beyond the historic event to which Tisha b'Av connects. We must remember more than history. We must remember how quickly history can change.

The rabbinic text, *Lamentations Rabbah*, points out that Tisha b'Av will always fall on the same day of the week as the first night of Passover. The connection between Passover and Tisha b'Av is an important one. It is the juxtaposition of two extremes.

The midrash tells us that for everything God created in the world, the opposite was also created. "But for the one, the other would not be. But for death, there would be no life and but for life there would be no death." When we look at the world, we realize that only God stands unique with no pair, with no opposite.

On Passover we celebrate our beginnings as a Jewish nation. We embark on a journey toward God and national revelation. We stand on the banks of the Red Sea and we sing a song of glory composed by the prophet Moses, who told us of wonderful things that would happen.

On Tisha b'Av, we mourn the end of an era. The relationship with God as expressed through the Temple is gone. We gather together and sing a dirge, *Lamentations*, composed by the prophet Jeremiah, who had told us disaster loomed.

On Passover, we revel in the story of how God fought for us and redeemed us from slavery and wicked oppression. We rejoice in our freedom. On Tisha b'Av, we mourn the reality of our victimization at the hands of evil empires. We are enslaved once again and many midrashim speak of how God, grudgingly, strengthened the hands of our enemies.

On Passover, we include our children in the ritual. We encourage them to prod us with questions so that we may educate them. We play hide and seek with the afikoman and we laugh as they race through the finishing songs. On Tisha b'Av, we remember that our children were ripped from our arms and sold. We can no longer show them the beauty of the Temple, and we cannot hold their hands as we make national pilgrimages to Jerusalem. We play no games and the song we teach them is a slow, haunting, mournful dirge.

But the lesson is not in the opposites of the two events, rather in their commonality. They will always fall on the same day of the week. This year we sang of our freedom on a Wednesday night and we will chant the tale of Jerusalem's destruction on a Wednesday night. We cannot ignore that we are meant to see the contrasts.

As we fast on Tisha b'Av, on Wednesday night, we must remember that there was a Wednesday night not long ago when we feasted. On that night, we sat together and leaned over. On Tisha b'Av, we ask how Jerusalem sat so alone and so desolate.

The world has been created in pairs, in oppositions. We cannot truly understand anything created in the world as a singularity. We cannot understand Tisha b'Av without Passover, nor can we appreciate Passover without Tisha b'Av. Two extremes, two opposites – one night

Online bidding for Judaica

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Want to bid on an original Chagall? How about a siddur from the 16th century? Or a baseball card featuring a major league Jewish ball player? Although you may be tempted to travel to a famous auction house to do your bidding, you can bid for a wealth of Jewish artifacts and ephemera right from your computer. While some auction sites specialize in low-cost items, others will deal in antique Judaica and rare paintings that will set you back tens of thousands of dollars – and more.

Please note that inclusion of a site in this column should not be considered a recommendation. Before you buy (or sell) anything through an online auction, you should check the reliability of the site and its policies regarding commission, shipping, insurance, tax, duty and returns. In fact, before you visit any site, I strongly recommend reading a primer created by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, "Internet Auctions: A Guide for Buyers and Sellers." **[http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/ conline/pubs/online/auctions.htm]** Prices quoted in this column refer to reserve or current bids for items on sale when this column was written. Unless noted, prices are in U.S. dollars.

Of course the granddaddy of all online auctions isn't actually a "Jewish" auction. But Jewish collectors are bound to find something interesting at ebay.com. You can jump directly to eBay's Jewish section, where there were over 2,000 items for sale when I last checked. **[http://makeashorter link.com /?L2FA21555]** There are far fewer Jewish and Israeli items for sale at eBay's Canadian site, but it's also worth a look. How about bidding on three commemorative Israeli postage stamps from 1979, autographed by former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek and the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin ($74.95)? **[http://makeashorter link.com/?F2DA1555]**

Despite its name, Art Online doesn't actually conduct its auctions online. But it does let you browse the items to be sold at the next public auction to take place in Ramat Gan and place your bid online. If you had your eye on Marc Chagall's *Bouquet de fleurs et fruits - 1980*, I'm sorry to tell you you're too late. It was sold recently for $149,500. **[http://www.artonline.co.il/]** If you really want to bid online for high quality "investment grade art" (and have nerves of steel), go to Hammersite, where you will find works by a who's who of Israeli and international artists. **[http://www.hammersite.com]**

Virtual Judaica Auctions specializes in antiquarian Jewish books and rare documents. There is a first edition of *Kol Bochim – Lamentations*, Venice, 1589 ($901), a letter by Rabbi Abraham ben Rabbi Jacob Avihazira, Morocco, 1883 ($2,700) and Sir Moses Montefiore's copy of *The Order of the Daily Prayers*, London, 1810 ($170). Even if you don't intend to bid, this site is worth a visit to see the high quality scans of these rare items. **[http://virt ualjudaica.com/]**

Aside from having a catchy name, OyVey Auctions markets itself as a low-cost site with a social conscience. Eighteen per cent of its annual profits plus the proceeds from one 24-hour day in each month are donated to such charities as the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Aish HaTorah. Items include a Holocaust armband ($49.95), a men's 14K gold chai with chain ($19.95), and a Shawn Green Upper Deck baseball card ($9.99). **[http://www.oyveyauc tions.com]**

Although it couldn't possibly match the thrill of bargaining in an Israeli shuk, a site eshuk.com describes itself "the best play to buy and sell anything and everything Jewish." On the block when I looked were a mahogany and silver challah board ($60), a copy of the *Heimishe Kitchen* kosher cookbook ($13.50) and a mezuzah parchment ($64.99). **[http://www.eshuk.com/]**

If you're planning a trip to Israel and want to go upscale from falafel and hummus, try bidding on a meal at a restaurant. Here's how it works: a recent dinner for two at Petach Tikvah's Thai Pan Restaurant was valued at 200 Israeli shekalim. After an online auction, the high bid for the meal was 120 shekalim. So the bid winner will enjoy a 200-shekel meal at almost half price. Other featured restaurants for biddable meals include Jaffa's Le Relais (French) and Ramat Gan's El Gaucho (Argentine). **[http://www.eluna.com/ Auction]**

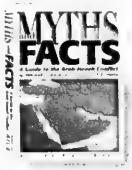
Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

On terrorism and pre-emption

MYTH:

Israeli complaints about Palestinian terrorists hiding among civilians are just an effort to justify the killing of innocent people.

FACT:



Israel never intentionally targets civilians. Unfortunately, Palestinian terrorists have purposely tried to hide among the civilian population in an effort to use the Israeli army's code of ethics against it. The terrorists themselves do not care about the lives of innocent Palestinians, and their use of them as human shields is in violation of international law. Article 51 of the 1977 amendment to the 1949 Geneva Convention specifically prohibts the use of human shields:

"The presence or movements of the civilian population or individual civilians shall not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations, in particular in attempts to shield military objectives from attacks or to shield, favour or impede military operations."

Thus, Palestinian terrorists are ultimately responsible for these non-combatants who are inadvertently killed or wounded.

MYTH:

Israel's assassination attempt on a leader of Hamas was aimed at derailing the peace process laid out in the road map peace plan.

FACT:

In just the first week after accepting the road map peace plan, Israel began to implement 75 per cent of its obligations called for in the plan's first phase. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon made clear he was committed to the agreement by allowing Palestinian workers from the territories to enter Israel, withdrawing from cities in the Palestinian Authority (PA) where Palestinian security forces exert control, dismantling unauthorized outposts, releasing prisoners, lifting the general closure on the territories and increasing the transfer of goods.

The most important obligation for the Palestinians in the first phase is to end violence, dismantle the terrorist infrastructure, and disarm the militants. PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas not only has made no effort to fulfill this prerequisite for peace, he explicitly said he would not take action against Hamas, which has rejected the road map and said it would join with other Palestinian terrorist groups to continue their campaign to destroy Israel.

Hamas' covenant makes clear it will never accept the existence of a Jewish state in what it considers the Muslim heartland. The man Israel recently tried to kill, Abd al-Aziz Rantissi, is a senior Hamas leader who proudly claims "credit" for 72 suicide bombings that have killed 227 Israelis and wounded 1,393 since September 2000.

Rather than ask why Israel attempted to kill an avowed terrorist, the pertinent question is: Why wasn't Rantissi in jail? PA President Yasser Arafat pledged in the Oslo agreements to fight terror and yet he failed to take any steps against Hamas. Abbas promised a renewed commitment to stop violence, but he has done no more than Arafat, and has unsuccessfully tried to co-opt Hamas rather than dismantle it.

Source: Myths & Facts Online: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.jewishvirtualli brary.org

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Medical program brings Israeli, Arab students together

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Students from the SUNSIH-CISEBO team 2003 are, from left, Alexandra Martiniuk, Adib Naser Eddin, Racheli Goldfarb, Rae Brager, Stephanie Thompson, Ahmed Daraghma, Nir Brosh and Shannon Wires.

TORONTO — Adib Naser Eddin, 23, grew up in east Jerusalem, where he now attends medical school at Al-Quds University.

Nir Brosh, 29, went to high school in Haifa and began his medical education at Ben Gurion University in Be'er Sheva after his compulsory army duty and a year travelling in South America.

Even though their schools are only about 100 kilometers apart, it's unlikely their two paths ever crossed.

But over the month of June, the two students – one Arab and one Israeli – were part of a Middle East foursome who ignored the perceived dangers of Toronto's second SARS outbreak and came here to study, work and tour together.

The new Canadian-based program was established jointly by the Student University Network for Social and International Health (SUNSIH) and the Isabel Silverman Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO).

Canada provides a safe environment where political issues don't have to be confronted on a daily basis, said Shannon Wires, who co-ordinated the project with Alex Martiniuk (both are past presidents of SUNSIH).

Within the structure of the Canadian program, the students collaborated on health related projects – specifically pediatric oncology – and presented papers about childhood cancer from physical and psychosocial perspectives.

During the last week, the students were partnered with families at Camp Trillium, a camp for children with cancer and their families. The experience allowed the students to understand what families dealing with cancer must cope with, Wires said.

At the same time, the intensity of the program facilitated the building of personal relationships between the medical students so that they all came away with life-changing experiences, she added.

Clearly, the application process only attracts students who are already interested in working together, Wires said.

According to Eddin and Brosh, not many students applied this year, but they suggested that the uncertainty of a new program may have discouraged applicants.

Four medical students – Brosh, Ahmed Daraghma, Eddin, and Racheli Goldfarb – from the Middle East joined two Canadian participants – Rae Brager and Stephanie Thompson – in CISEPO's first student-driven initiative, said its director Arnold Noyek.

Now in its ninth year, CISEPO attempts to bring together Canadians, Israelis, Jordanians, Palestinians and other regional neighbours to work on projects associated with medicine and health care and, at the same time, contribute to peace-building in the Middle East.

The current program was partially funded in memory of David Noik, who overcame childhood cancer and then died of complications from the illness at the age of 50, Noyek said.

"Reporting on the physical, medical and psychosocial dimensions of childhood cancer" was an important element of the program, he said.

Eddin and Brosh spoke with *The CJN* with the understanding that politics would not be discussed.

Instead, they chose to talk about the experience of meeting each other, sharing aspects of their backgrounds, and the benefits of being able to work towards a common purpose – the healing of children with cancer.

"While we can't ignore our history, co-operating on a professional level with our so-called enemies allows us to focus on things that bind us rather than on our differences," Brosh said.

Brosh's grandparents on his mother's side are Holocaust survivors. On his father's side, the Haifa native is a 15th-generation Israeli from the Galilee. For centuries, Brosh's family interacted with their Arab neighbours. Yet, Brosh admitted that he has never had Palestinian friends before.

The Canadian program, which forced the students to wake up, study and discuss their work each day together, gave them a basis from which to share their personal expectations and future goals.

"After we got to know each other, it wasn't that difficult to discuss politics," Brosh said.

It's especially important right now "because both peoples are suffering, and we can't ignore that," he added.

Eddin, whose father was born in Jerusalem and whose mother was born in Amman, Jordan, admitted this is the first time he has had any direct interaction with Israelis.

The one-month program, which ended with the week at Camp Trillium, allowed him to develop friendships that he is hoping will continue when they get home.

"We talked about the political, cultural and religious aspects of each other's lives," within a broader context of helping children affected by cancer, the Muslim student said.

"Children are the ornaments of our lives and we gained from the experience of dealing with children and their families and learning to listen to their suffering," Eddin said.

Maybe this is the first step, he suggested hopefully. While the situation in Israel is difficult, Eddin is optimistic that Palestinian and Israeli universities will try to get together in the future to "do something on the medical and educational level."

"The true test [of the success of the program] will be when we get home," Brosh said.

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Greater Toronto Area

Islamic terrorism not understood by newspapers, Montreal author claims

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Newspapers do not generally understand the threat posed by Islamic fundamentalist terrorism and treat Israel unfairly, a Montreal writer claims in a new book.

Martin Kramer, author of *Complicity: Terrorism in the News* and a former Israel Government Press Office employee, studied the portrayal of terrorism in 24 North American, European and Israeli newspapers before reaching this verdict.

It's based on a close reading of headlines rather than text.

"Headlines are the responsibility of each paper," he said in an interview to promote his self-published book. "Articles are often lifted from [news] services. Thus, no paper can pass the buck on its headlines. A headline is often the only thing [a reader] sees and remembers."

In his view, newspapers are guided by an "outdated agenda" in which Islamic states are misleadingly regarded as pro-Western and open and free.

Only two of the newspapers he examined, the *Jerusalem Post* and the *National Post*, believe Islamic terrorism poses a "critical problem" to the West, Kramer, a McGill University graduate, concluded.

"The 22 other newspapers whitewashed terrorism continuously," he writes. "The U.S. press did not adjust collectively to anti-American attacks abroad, nor did it [regard] such assaults as something to which it felt its readers could relate."

Kramer suggests that in the decade prior to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the mainstream press "suppressed an awareness of terrorism" because it was not perceived as a "serious issue."

The media thereby prevented the public from demanding action from the government against terrorism, said Kramer, who edited the conservative, Montreal-based journal *Dateline: Middle East* in the late 1980s.

By lulling the public into complacency, the media was thereby complicit with the terrorists dispatched by Osama bin Laden, he charged.

According to Kramer, the media presents Israel as an aggressive, vengeful state.

"The *Toronto Star* is the worst of the Canadian papers I examined," he said.

The headlines he studied were often misleading, Kramer said, citing two examples.

When Palestinians razed Joseph's Tomb in Nablus in the first days of the current intifadah, the event was generally portrayed as a Palestinian takeover of a "holy site."

When three Israeli soldiers were kidnapped by Hezbollah in October 2000, the emphasis was on "violent clashes [spreading] to Lebanon."

Kramer had harsh words for the media's portrayal of Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority and chair of the PLO.

"Arafat is presented as the ultimate peacemaker. The Canadian media never links him to terrorism and only runs stories about him condemning terrorism."

In his study, Kramer also lambasted newspapers for being "soft" on Middle Eastern states such as Iran and Syria.

The public is partially to blame for "sloppy" reporting because it has not demanded "media accountability," he said.

Asked whether the media can be reformed, he replied: "I think it can if people won't tolerate lies and distortions any more."

He urges readers to send comments to his Web site, www.complicitybook.com.

Grieving mother unhappy with verdict

Continued from page 1

The courtroom procedures and rules, she said, are nothing more than "a game. I'm not playing a game. I live it. I don't believe it's justice. It's not justice."

Baranovski said she would prepare a letter to be read in court during the sentencing stage of the trial. (Last week, she and her husband Elliot Korczak, Matti's step-father, were quoted as calling for a sentence of at least 15 years.)

Lawyers for Mariani and Cochrane, who argued the evidence implicating their clients was as weak as that against Weiz, were reportedly considering a motion to return their clients to youth court, where they would face a maximum sentence of three years in jail. If they are successful, it would mean the two killers would be released immediately, since they have been in custody longer than that.

The court will convene Aug. 5 to set a date for sentencing.

Meanwhile, defence lawyers are also calling for an independent investigation into the Crown's star witness Lipschitz, who they say admitted to kicking Matti, perjured himself and counselled others to lie.

Weiz's Canadian lawyer, Marie Henein, called the charges against her client a miscarriage of justice deserving of compensation for the 3½ years of his life that were lost.

His Israeli lawyer, Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, who represented Weiz during a widely publicized extradition case, said police should be held accountable for basing their case on perjured testimony.

In Toronto, meanwhile, Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman, executive director of the Russian Jewish Community Centre, said the media deserves harsh criticism for the way it played up Weiz's service in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) during his extradition and prior to the trial, and then for ignoring it when he was acquitted.

"Now that he was acquitted, they don't say an Israeli soldier was acquitted, they say Daniel Weiz was acquitted. Is it fair? Is it right?"

Rabbi Zaltzman said Matti's murder "shook up our community because [Matti] was a member of our community... It's painful, very painful."

With the verdict now delivered, Rabbi Zaltzman said "I just hope it will give [Olga] some kind of closure and let her focus on the future of her life."

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University of Toronto professor explodes enduring myth

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

University of Toronto political scientist Jeffrey Kopstein, claims he has exploded "one of the most potent myths of the 20th century" – the myth that a disproportionate number of Polish Jews during the interwar period were communists.

The myth, a variation on the "dual loyalty" slur that Jews are disloyal to their native countries, surfaced in Poland and elsewhere after 1918.

In Poland, where it was particularly entrenched and still remains in vogue, anti-Semitic Poles peddled the notion of a Jewish-communist conspiracy, known in Polish as Zydokomuna.

Kopstein and his colleague, Jason Wittenberg of the University of Wisconsin, are exploring this malicious and enduring myth within the context of a multi-country study on ethnic politics in Eastern Europe between the two world wars.

They published the first installment of their findings in a recent edition of the journal *Slavic Review*, and plan to write a book about the subject.

Their data demonstrates that Poland's Jews cast their lot with mainstream political parties in the 1922 and 1928 elections, the only free and fair ones between 1918 and 1939.

"In fact, only about seven per cent of Jews voted communist, far below the proportion of Ukrainians, Belarusians and Poles," discloses Kopstein.

Kopstein, who started the study about two years ago, is not surprised that the myth gathered force in Poland. "Poland had a difficult time in the past century," he explained.

Reconstituted as a state after World War I, Poland was brutally occupied by Germany in 1939 and subjected to Soviet hegemony and communism after 1945.

"So it is not surprising that many Poles blamed someone for their fate," he adds. "Jews were the perfect scapegoats. If you think about it, the whole notion of a conspiracy is an appealing one. It posits a hidden hand that controls things behind the scene. Communism was seen by many Poles as just one more Jewish vehicle for seizing power."

Prior to 1939, this myth was mainly propagated by the National Democrats (Endeks). "The Endeks were violently anti-Semitic and did not hesitate to spread all kinds of falsehoods about Jews," he observes. "But Catholic priests also nourished the sentiment in their weekly sermons."

During the post-war communist era, Polish nationalists and the Catholic Church were important reservoirs of the allegation that communism had been imposed on Poland and that its "domestic agents" were disproportionately Jews.

"Because there were several prominent communists with Jewish backgrounds after 1945, this was less silly than the previous myth of mass Jewish allegiance to communism, but it too, was greatly exaggerated," says Kopstein.

In addition to Poland, he is studying Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Jeffrey Kopstein

"There are some important issues of Jewish political behaviour that emerge from each of these countries and especially from comparing them," says Kopstein, whose current research is funded by the National Science Foundation in the United States and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council in Canada.

Before embarking on his latest project, he wrote *The Politics of Economic Decline in East Germany*, published in 1997 and based in part on his PhD dissertation.

In this book, he argues that East Germany, its huge apparatus of totalitarian repression notwithstanding, was basically powerless to reform its economy.

"The irony is that one of the most feared police states of the 20th century could not save itself by instituting the necessary changes to transform its economy into a dynamic one," says Kopstein, whose master's thesis examined Joseph Stalin.

Kopstein gathered material for *The Politics of Economic Decline in East Germany* in the Berlin archives of the communist party and the secret police.

The research gave him a vicarious thrill. "For years, I had studied the inner workings of communist countries. Now, all of a sudden, I had access to the deepest, darkest secrets of the most secretive of communist states, East Germany."

Apart from his duties as a professor, Kopstein is research director of the University of Toronto's Joint Initiative in German and European Studies. Last February, it co-sponsored a conference on anti-Semitism.

Kopstein, who taught at several elite American universities before coming to the University of Toronto last year, was born in Chatham, Ont. Joel, his father, owned a furniture store in Toronto. Marlene, his mother, is a screenwriter and a producer whose credits include *Road to Avonlea* and *Emily of New Moon*. Today, they divide their time between California and Toronto.

"We moved to the United States when I was 15 so that my mother could pursue a career in screenwriting," says Kopstein. "I finished high school in La Jolla, Calif., and received all my degrees from the University of California, Berkeley."

Kopstein, the father of two young boys, Max and Isaac, returned to Canada for a mix of reasons.

He and his wife, Simone – a Montrealer and a professor of political philosophy at the University of Toronto – missed their respective families.

"On the professional side, the opportunity to take up a professorship at the University of Toronto was a big draw. The U of T is a world-class institution with a long history and a well known strength in East European studies. I also wanted a larger group of Jewish students for whom my research on Jewish political life in pre-World War II Europe would be meaningful.

"It's not often that both personal and professional considerations coincide so nicely."

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Community prepares for blitz by missionaries

Continued from page 3

Before that, an educational package will be made available to the public in the event that Jews for Jesus make telephone calls or go door to door to Jewish homes to spread their message. "There's a real possibility they'll do that," Rabbi Skobac said.

Andrew Barron, Canadian director of Jews for Jesus, told *The CJN* he didn't want to discuss the nuts and bolts of the Toronto campaign, such as how many volunteers will be here or what they will do, but rather the attempt by CJC and Jews for Judaism to stifle its message.

"Behold Your God is about talking to those Jewish people who want to talk about Jesus. We're simply going after an opportunity that rabbis have denied. We never said we promote or follow the Jewish religion. We're Jews who follow Jesus. God made us Jews.

"Suddenly, we're treated as outcasts and sinister people. We are the victims of intolerance, and that shows a real lack of *rachmunis* [mercy]. It's not the Jewish way," Barron said. "When they say we prey on vulnerable Jews, that demeans the Jewish community. I find that offensive as a Jew. There's no deception. We're up-front about it."

Barron said CJC's attempt to win the support of evangelical churches and calling on them to reject the tactics of Jews for Jesus reflects "a tyranny over the minority. We're not the ones doing the provoking. CJC is."

Last month, CJC sent a letter to some 850 mainline and evangelical Protestant churches in southwest Ontario, saying that while it understands the Christian mission to spread the "good news" of the Gospels, Jews for Jesus "engages in misleading practices;" is "shameless and dishonest;" and "fails [the] test of honesty as they continue to maintain there is little difference between Judaism and Christianity."

CJC called on the churches to repudiate the mission of Jews and Jesus and support the Jewish community.

As of last week, Congress received about 20 responses, most of them politely siding with Jews for Jesus, noting the group is not deceptive and is committed to ethical evangelism.

To date, three pastors have expressed solidarity with CJC in rejecting Jews for Jesus.

Some replies, though, were hostile. "So much for religious freedom!" hand-scrawled one pastor on CJC's letter. "When I was a drug addict, no one in the CJC ever told me about the mercy of God in the Torah!"

Kel Trudgian, senior pastor at Grace Church in Newmarket, wrote to say he found Congress's letter "offensive and a direct threat to the natural law of freedom of speech, association and religion."

CJC Ontario region's Len Rudner said he felt the churches did not understand Congress's distinction between the Christian mission to spread the Gospels, and the "dishonest" practices of Jews for Jesus.

"If someone says I'm going to hell if I don't accept Jesus, I have to acknowledge the honesty of that approach," Rudner said. "But if someone says I can be Jewish *and* accept Jesus, that's blurring the line."

According to Jews for Judaism, the Behold Your God campaign has converted 359 Jews to date, while another 9,450 Jews have expressed interest in more information.

Barron has a simple reply: "If you want to reject the message, it's a free country."

On Campus

SFU student society rescinds anti-Israel policy

By ARIEL ZELLMAN
Special to The CJN

After a year of heated rhetoric and widespread anti-Israel propaganda at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, British Columbia, a campus group has rescinded a controversial policy.

In early July, the Simon Fraser Student Society's (SFSS) constitutional policy review committee convened again to reassess its official policy of supporting the current Palestinian terror campaign against Israel.

Recently elected arts representative Brent Zacks, who is also the president of SFU's Israel Advocacy Committee, and other members of SFSS, had drafted a new resolution that they felt was more even-handed in its assessment of the Middle East conflict. They had hoped that the new resolution would replace the old one.

The original document, passed last February, read, "The Simon Fraser Student Society calls for the immediate end to the illegal U.S.-backed Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the right of return for all Palestinians to their homes, and an end to Israeli apartheid." The last draft of the resolution omitted the wording, "Long live the intifadah, long live Palestine, down with U.S. and Israeli imperialism."

Believing they had broad support for the new resolution, the students were surprised when it did not pass, but were even more shocked when the committee decided to completely table it, officially taking it off the policy books altogether.

"I didn't expect people to vote the way they did," Zacks said.

He said perhaps they discarded the resolution because of a documentary they saw on the violent reaction at Concordia University last September to a scheduled appearance by Finance Minister (at the time, former prime minister) Benjamin Netanyahu and because they had a sense that SFSS was getting embroiled in something beyond the interests of the students and the school.

"Maybe the video changed their minds, maybe they had an epiphany," Zacks said.

Either way, he said he is thrilled SFSS is finally taking a hands-off approach to the conflict.

But an article in the following issue of SFU's student newspaper, *The Peak*, carried the headline, "Student Union Bulldozes Palestine Policy," and quoted prominent campus anti-Israelists condemning the move, suggesting that heated debates will continue on campus.

But at least, said Zacks, "the SFSS will again be advocating for the students and not for their own personal political issues."

This move follows several others in recent months, including the almost complete turnover in May of the previous student government to new parties aimed at bringing SFSS back to campus issues, as well as successful Israel education awareness programs such as SFU's and the University of British Columbia's Israel Awareness Weeks and Israel Advocacy Shabbaton held in March. These programs were held in response to anti-Israel activities this past year at both campuses, such as SFU's anti-Israel "Dispelling Misconceptions: Media, Conflict & Imperialism in the Middle East" conference and the UBC-NDP's "Beyond the Headlines: Palestine/Israel" forum. Students involved in Israel advocacy are planning more programming and education campaigns for the coming year.

Western student forms alumni association

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Joshua Shuval has enjoyed the past four years at the University of Western Ontario (UWO) and his involvement with the Jewish Students' Union (JSU) so much that he's already involved in organizing a JSU Young Alumni Association – and he's still on campus this summer, finishing one last course for his Administrative and Commercial Studies degree.

Shuval, who served as JSU president in 2001-2002, said he's working with a committee of seven people on the new group's official launch, scheduled for Homecoming Weekend, the third weekend in September. It will feature a Shabbat dinner for alumni and students.

"Hopefully in February or March we'll have a larger affair in Toronto," Shuval said, noting the majority of Jewish students at Western are from Toronto.

The goal of the new network, Shuval said, is to "bring alumni of Western and the JSU together and 're-create' the sense of Jewish community feeling that they had during their years at Western."

In an initial contact letter, Shuval wrote that for many Jewish students, Western was "a place that empowered us to develop the leadership skills so important to us today. In particular, we were all able to make a contribution to the Jewish Students' Union, a way for us to give something back to the community."

He is hoping to get alumni involved again with the JSU and the university itself, which now has an estimated Jewish student population of 2,500.

For further information, e-mail jsualumni@rogers.com, call Jared Isaacson at London Jewish Campus Services at 519-642-3256, or go to www.jsu.ca.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Jews for Jesus missionary organization is poised to target the Toronto Jewish community for three weeks this summer, beginning August 25, with "Behold Your God" – their most intensive and aggressive evangelistic crusade ever. They will use the media, billboards and a street campaign to flood our city with conversionary tracts directed toward Jews.

In response to this threat, JEWS FOR JUDAISM is organizing a counter-leafletting campaign to alert and educate the public. We are seeking to train volunteers for our counter-missionary "Rapid Response Unit." JEWS FOR JUDAISM is seeking volunteers who will act as "Spotters" – who will notify us where and when the missionaries appear, or as "Counter-Leafletters" – who will distribute our counter-missionary literature in a non-confrontational manner on the street beside the missionaries.

This campaign is scheduled to hit Toronto from Aug. 25 – Sept. 14. Montreal and Vancouver are slated for 2004 - 2005. If you would like to volunteer in our program and/or help support our vital work, please contact JEWS FOR JUDAISM.

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By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Due to the civic holiday, Tuesday, Aug. 5 is deadline for Aug. 14 issue and Monday, Aug. 11 is deadline for Aug. 21. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Sunday Aug. 3

FEMINIST BOOK GROUP

The Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network will discuss *Small Wonder* by **Barbara Kingsolver**, 1:45 p.m. For location and time call **Ruth Goldsmith**, 416-782-6414.

Other News

VARIETY PLAYERS

The Variety Players, a senior performing group presents the 10th anniversary of The Jerry-At-Trick Revue, *Magic Moments*, in September at Fairview Library Theatre. Group rates available. Call 416-366-7723. All proceeds go to charity.

JACS

Jewish Alcoholics, Drug Addicts and Families teen outreach program, for ages 10+, Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Confidential phone line, 416-410-JACS.

FALL HEBREW CLASSES

Registration is open for fall session Hebrew language and Bible classes at the Keren Hatarbut Institute, 788 Marlee Ave. Classes are offered for adult, teenagers and pre-teens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. Call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

HELP – WE'VE GOT KIDS

UJA Federation-Jewish Information Service welcomes babies with a package that includes a personalized certificate, picture frame and the latest edition of *Help... We've Got Kids* service directory. Call 416-635-5600.

MOSAIC OUTDOOR CLUBS

Mosaic Jewish Outdoor Clubs of America is holding the 2003 Mosaic (Inter)National Event Survivor Wisconsin, Aug. 28-Sept. 1. www.mosaics.org/events/2003.

CHARITY GOLF TOURNEY

The 3rd annual Sheila Lederman Memorial Golf Tournament to raise awareness and support cancer research in Canada, Aug.18, Cardinal Golf Course. To volunteer, participate or sponsor, call **Andrew**, 416-985-5483, 608golfpro@rogers.com.

GOLF TOURNAMENT

BBYO and Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad are holding their 9th annual golf tournament at Glenway Golf & Country Club, Tuesday Aug. 12. Shotgun start at 1 p.m., includes lunch, dinner, raffle and silent auction. Part of proceeds donated to the Colorectal Cancer Foundation in memory of BBYO alumnus **Steve Glickman**. 416-398-2004.

WALKING TOURS

Jewish Women International of Canada's My Women's Group, for women 45+ who meet right after work, is holding a walking tour of Toronto's Greektown, Aug. 11. Reservations required. Call 416-630-9313.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Learning Disabilities Association of Toronto District is accepting applications for the social skills program for children and adolescents 6-18 years old, running September to June. It is also launching a homework club for children in grades 3-8 who have trouble doing homework. Call **Lesley**, 416-229-9046.

ART SHOW

A show of paintings by **Florence Hertzman** will be held at Holy Blossom Temple, July 31-Sept. 2, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Jewish Centre for Learning

Continued on page 21

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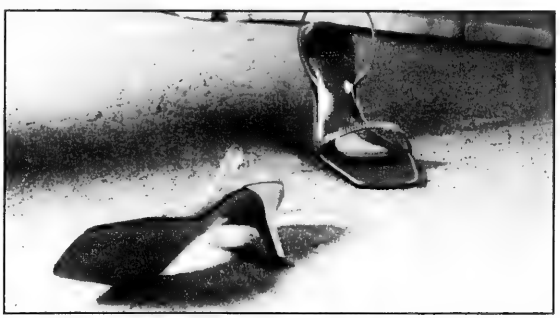
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What's New

Continued from page 20

and Living in the Sobey's plaza at Bathurst and Rutherford in Thornhill is accepting applications for Sunday school. Call 905-762-0566 for information on classes, activities, bar/bat mitzvah classes.

CELTIC AND KLEZMER

Am Shalom Barrie presents a fundraising concert titled Celtic and Klezmer, featuring klezmer musicians **Brian van de Ven** and **Brian Katz**, with guest **Paul Gellman.** Opening the concert will be celtic and folk musicians from Barrie. Concert will be held Aug. 26, at Theatre by the Bay, Heritage Park, Barrie. For details, call Am Shalom voice mail 705-721-6126 or Theatre by the 705-735-9243.

HEBREW CLASSES

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation's Institute of Hebrew and Judaic Studies presents adult Hebrew education classes for beginners and advanced learners, with **Hana Werner**. Classes start Sept. 15 and run Mondays from 7:30-9:30 for 26 sessions. Fees, $36 members, $50 non-members. Call 416-633-5500.

TISHA B'AV PROGRAM

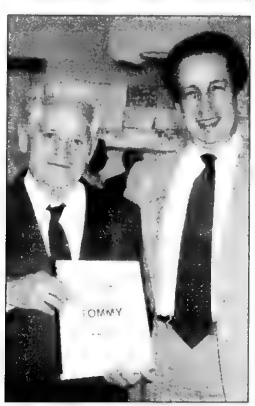
The community is invited to a day of reflection and introspection, Thursday, Aug. 7. Shacharit, 8 a.m. followed by explanations and analysis of selected *kinot* led by **Rabbi Jay Kelman**, screening of the Chofetz Chaim Foundation film *Shaping a World of Kindness*. Minchah, 2:00 p.m. followed by rabbis **Moshe Hochman**, **David Zauderer, Jay Kelman, Eli Karfunkel,** as well as **Dr. Elliot Malamet.** Beth Jacob Congregation, 416-638-5955. www.torahinmotion.org.

HEBREW SCHOOL

Ateret Shalom Hebrew School offers junior kindergarten to Grade 7 classes, as well as bar mitzvah programs and remedial and advanced tutoring. Principal **Joseph Klinger**; **Sadie Domb**, administrator. 905-886-1457.

MISSION TO ISRAEL

Toronto Israel Experience Centre volunteer mission to Israel for people ages 30 to 40, Dec. 21-Jan.4. $1,999 includes flight, meals and accommodations, Shabbat at Kibbutz Ketura. Acceptance based on interview and medical report, and participants must be in good standing with a contribution to the 2004 UJA campaign. **Shelly Rotman**, 416-635-2883, ext. 137 or srotman@ujafed.org.



RETIREMENT TRIBUTE: Tommy D'addamio, left. recently retired after more than 40 years as chief caretaker at Bialik Hebrew Day School. With D'addamio is Bialik principal Uri Korin. [Mollie Rothman photo]

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors' Cultural Club meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call the office at 416-630-9444 for information.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. July 31, movie; Aug. 7, bingo. **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday in August. Casino Niagara, Aug. 28; cruise and casino, Aug. 14. Bingo, Tuesdays 1 p.m. Call 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Lifelong Learning Institute presents "The Outsiders-People who have Influenced Us and Made a Difference" with **Hugh Innis**, Tuesdays in August, 10 to 11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. Call **Barbara**, ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays 7 p.m. For information call **Anna**, ext. 110.

The centre is now delivering kosher Meals on Wheels, fresh or frozen, $6.50 per meal. Areas served: between Dufferin St. and Yonge St., between Hwy. 7 and Wilson Ave. Call **Daniel**, ext. 114.

Diners' Club Congregate Dining provides an intimate and informal setting around a hot kosher lunch, Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. in back auditorium. Cost $6.50, includes entertainment. Seats must be reserved by Tuesday of each week. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

Low vision interest group with **Bubbles Jacobs**, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1:15-2:15 p.m. in the music room.

BAYCREST CENTRE

3560 Bathurst St., 416-785-2500.

If you're a senior living with osteoporosis, register for the fall session of "Power," a seven-week wellness program that covers exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes start Oct. 20. Registration is $70. Call ext. 2588.

Volunteers, ages 18-85 needed for research studies on aging, memory and cognition. Call the Rotman Research Institute, ext. 2080.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca

The Chai Dancers will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on Aug. 27 at the Leah Posluns Theatre. If you are a former Chai dancer and would like to participate, call **Teme**, ext. 364.

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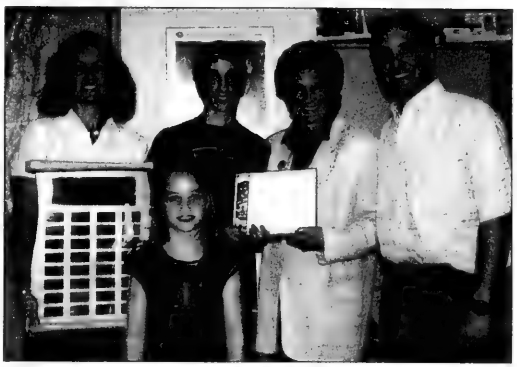
Registration open for drama classes at Leah Posluns Theatre, ext. 464, and photography and calligraphy, ext. 269.

BRIDGE MASTER: Bridge master and advanced class teacher Kurt Eisenberg, front row third from left, celebrated his 98th birthday recently at Two Neptune. Pictured are, back row from left, Nina Zoltkin, Dodie Master, Betty Lastman, Pearl Waxman, Bernice Dworkin, Esther Chapman and Betty Sweet. Pictured front row from left are Lil Rose, Norman Altman, Eisenberg, Sevie Walt, Faye Stein. [Monty Mazin photo]



BAR/BAT MITZVAH HONOUR ROLL: Zachary Potashner, third from left, contributed part of his bar mitzvah gifts to Toronto Hadassah-WIZO to support Youth Aliyah Netanya Sports and Cultural Centre in Israel. With Zachary, from left, are his mother Melissa, his sister Dana, Toronto Hadassah-WIZO past president Beverley Crackower and his father Wayne.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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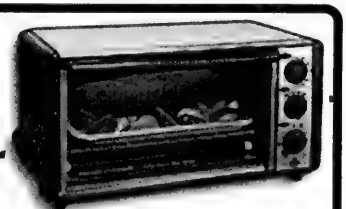

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Coast to Coast

Alliance MP Jason Kenney (fourth from right) with the families of Israelis being held by Lebanese terrorists.

Kenney queries feds on Lebanon grant

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canadian Alliance MP Jason Kenney is calling on the federal government to explain why it has granted a Lebanese advocacy group that supports terrorist detainees in Israeli prisons more than $11,000 (US).

In a letter to Foreign Minister Bill Graham, Kenney asks whether "supporting this organization is the official policy of the Canadian government?

"If so, what similar support has the Canadian government offered to the organizations that work for the release of Israeli MIAs [missing in action] held by Hezbollah in Lebanon? What similar action has the Canadian government taken to help secure the release of Elchanan Tannenbaum, the Israeli citizen taken hostage by Hezbollah in October of 2000?" he asked.

Kenney, who represents Calgary Southeast, has introduced a motion in parliament calling on Canada to take "aggressive measures" against the governments of Lebanon, Syria and Iran to press for the release of Israeli army prisoners, some of whom have been held for close to 20 years, and for the release of Tannenbaum, an Israeli businessman in poor health whose whereabouts are unknown.

The governments of Syria, Lebanon and Iran are believed to have influence over Hezbollah, a Lebanon-based Islamic group that has been declared a terrorist organization by Ottawa.

Kenney said he was tipped to the $11,000 grant by the Lebanese organization's Web site (www.followupcsld-ip.org.lb). The site is run by the "Follow-up Committee for the Support of the Lebanese Detainees in the Israeli Prisons."

The organization claims Israel is holding 13 Lebanese "hostages," yet its own site describes the first person on its list of detainees, Samir Sami Qontar, as being "arrested on April 22, 1979, during an operation in Nahariya inside occupied Palestine. He's serving a life sentence in Nafha prison in the desert. He was sentenced into 542 years imprisonment."

The town of Nahariya is in northern Israel. Others on the list were caught during "operations" against Israeli forces in Lebanon or were arrested by Israeli security forces.

The Web site also features a description of "the visit of Ambassador Duval [of Canada] and the delegation of the embassy to the office of the Follow-up Committee [as] a confirmation of this friendship and a concrete and moral support for the issue of the detainees…"

The Web site says the ambassador presented "a grant of $11,421 U.S. supporting the activities of the committee." The money is for the purchase of two computers, the editing of eight reports about the condition of detainees and supporting two Web sites.

The site also notes that representatives of the Canadian Ministry of Justice met ex-detainees in Lebanon to gather information about former Lebanese militiamen who allegedly tortured them and who are now seeking asylum in Canada.

Kenney said he wants "to know why we're so concerned with terrorist, guerrilla detainees held legally."

Canada, he added, does not seem to see a distinction between Israel holding terrorists, who can be visited by the Red Cross and are subject to Israeli legal standards, and prisoners seized by Hezbollah who are held incommunicado.

"I've been able to get nowhere with the government on the Israeli MIA issue, so it seemed peculiar in the extreme that it would be giving money to this Lebanese organization," he said.

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), the Jewish community's lobbying arm on Israel, applauded Kenney for trying to raise the issue of missing Israelis.

"While not diminishing the substantial behind-the-scene activities of the Canadian government in support of the Israeli MIAs, Jason Kenney has to be commended for his leading role in raising awareness of the plight of the MIAs," said David Cooper, the CIC's assistant director of government relations.

Foreign Affairs spokesperson Marie-Christine Lilkoff said Canada supports the Lebanese NGO's humanitarian mandate, including its goal of rehabilitating ex-detainees and supporting their families' welfare.

"Our support was directed at these functions," she said. "Canada has worked to alleviate the suffering of victims on all sides of this conflict. We have also supported the families of Israeli detainees, and are continuing to follow their situation."

Looming Iranian threat to Mideast ignored

While the media's global focus is on the Israeli-Palestinian road map and the U.S. imbroglio in Iraq, important military developments in Iran are being given scant attention.

Israel has long maintained that Iran poses a far greater risk to Middle East stability than Iraq. Iran is officially dedicated to the destruction of Israel. It is the principal backer of Hezbollah, to the tune of $100 million (US) annually, and it is also the chief supporter of Islamic Jihad.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

On July 20, according to an Associated Press report, Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khameni formally unveiled the domestically produced Shahab-3 (Shooting Star) ballistic missile. With a range of about 1,300 kilometers – capable of reaching Israel – and the ability to carry nuclear and other non-conventional warheads, the missile worries not only Israel, but also Europe and the United States.

At his recent meeting with the European foreign ministers in Belgium, Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom warned that Iran "is today the biggest strategic threat to stability and peace in the Middle East, and indeed, to Europe." In a rare act of agreement with Israel, the EU concurred and issued a statement referring to the need to check Iran's nuclear ambitions.

The Shahab-3 has been under development for the past five years and is based on North Korea's No Dong surface-to-surface missile. While the missile is not yet fully accurate, it is assumed that with additional co-operation from North Korea, Iran will soon be able to produce an upgrade capable of hitting any target within a wide radius, including U.S. assets in Afghanistan, as well as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and even southern parts of Europe.

The day after Iran announced the Shahab-3, Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz attempted to reassure his country that Israel's Arrow anti-missile defence system would be effective against Iran's weapons, including an advanced, nuclear-armed version of the Shahab.

As one of the few journalists paying attention to Iran's weapons program, Samuel Segev wrote the following in the *Winnipeg Free Press* on July 16: "Leaving aside the mud-slinging, disinformation and even sheer propaganda by all parties, one thing has become crystal clear: should Iran succeed in miniaturizing a nuclear weapon to fit into the Shahab's warhead, the regional balance of power in the Middle East would change beyond recognition." Segev's words are not merely alarmist. They reflect sober analysis within both the Israeli and U.S. strategic and defence communities.

Segev continues: "The testing of the Shahab came at a time when there is growing concern about Iran's nuclear ambitions. Contrary to the past, not only Israel but also the U.S. and its European allies are equally alarmed and are pressing for more intrusive and stricter inspections of Iran's nuclear facilities."

Segev recalls that on June 19, U.S. President George W. Bush warned (some might say threatened) that "the world would not tolerate the development of nuclear weapons in Iran."

It is certainly time for the international media to examine the looming threat from Iran. Since Iran is a signatory of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), closer scrutiny might help push it to sign an additional protocol to the treaty that would allow UN inspectors to make more intrusive, extensive and short-notice checks of Iran's nuclear facilities. If Iran has no intention of building nuclear weapons, acceding to this inspection regimen would be one way of proving it.

Evangelical Christians plan fall solidarity mission

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — A group made up largely of evangelical Christians from various denominations across Canada is planning a mission to Israel this fall to show solidarity with the Jewish state and to build better relations and understanding between Christians and Jews.

Calling their trip the "Together for Israel Mission," organizers Annie Elliott and Dean Bye say they can accommodate up to 300 people, and they hope Canadian Jews will join them.

The mission is scheduled for Oct. 9 to 19, which will enable Jews to celebrate Sukkot and Christians to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Israel. Participants will also be able to join the annual Jerusalem March, a parade through the capital attended by Jews and evangelical Christian from abroad each Sukkot for more than 20 years.

Elliott described the trip as a "grassroots event [that] is not sponsored by one Christian organization or one Jewish organization."

The Israeli Embassy in Ottawa recently hosted a meeting for representatives of various churches and faith organizations, as well as interested Jewish groups, to hear about the trip from Elliott and Bye.

Both have been involved in various pro-Israel evangelical Christian groups and both have been to Israel before.

In 2002, Bye participated in a mission of 17 Christians and 24 Jews who "left Toronto for Israel and embarked on a journey that would change our lives," he said.

"We were the first group that asked to have dinner at the Park Hotel, the scene of the Passover massacre two months before," an experience he found deeply moving, he said, referring to the scene of a Hamas suicide bombing that killed 30 Jews sitting down to a Passover seder in March 2002.

Elliott has been involved in various leadership roles in churches and Christian organizations for 24 years and is on the national leadership team of Watchmen for the Nations, an organization of evangelical church leaders from across Canada. She also participated in last year's Jerusalem March.

"It was one of the highlights of my spiritual journey as 20,000 Jews and Christians, comprised of 15,000 Israeli citizens and pilgrims together with 5,000 Christians from 200 nations, marched in solidarity with Israel proudly waving flags and colourful banners with exuberant cheering and joyful celebration in the streets of Jerusalem.

"I personally felt compelled to come back to Canada and rally as many Canadian Jews and Christians to travel to Israel together to be a strong delegation representing our nation."

Anna-Lee Chiprout, a longtime employee of the Israeli Embassy who is going on the mission, has known Elliott for a number of years and the two have become friends.

"We have formed a wonderful, close friendship and even though we come from two different worlds, through two different paths, something drew us to each other and we have respect for each other's religions. It has been our dream to be able to walk hand in hand in friendship and love for Israel down the streets of Jerusalem," she said.

Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon pledged support for the mission, "as an Israeli, as a Jew, as someone who believes in very strong relations with the Christian community and as a Jerusalemite."

To learn more about the trip, visit www.sunworldtours.com/documents/togetherinternet.doc. For information on travel arrangements from Canada, contact Michal Galhoss at Sunworld Tours in Calgary at 1-800-461-6854.

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Coast to Coast

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

ט' באָב, דער טאָג פון טרויער און אבילות

(פאַקטן, דינים און מנהגים)

פון א. חריף

אין טונקעלע שילן און בתי־מדרשים, ביים קאַרגן שיין פון חלבנע ליכטלער, מיט א פאַרשאַרצטן פּרוכת איבערן ארון הקודש, אין זאָקן אַדער גומי־שיך און אויף נידע-ריקע בענקלעך וועלן יידן אפריכטן דעם נאַציאָנאַל־יעלי-גיעזן יאָרצייט פון חורבן ביתּ־המקדש אין טאָג פון תשעה באָב, וואָס פאַלט אויס דאָס יאָר דעם 5763 אויגוסט. יידן זאָגן „איכה" און קינות און טרויערן שוין טויזנטער יאָר אידערן חורבן פון ביידע בתי־מקדש, וועלכע זיינען חרוב געוואָרן דעם זעלבן טאָג. דער ערשטער בית־מקדש אין 586 (פאַר דער נייער צייט רעכענונג) דורך נבוכדנצר מלך בָּבל; און דער צווייטער אין יאָר 70 (פון דער נייער צייט רעכענונג) דורך דעם רוימישן קיסר, טיטוס הרשע.

דער תענית היבּיט זיך שוין אָן ערב תשעה באָב אין אָוונט. מען פאַרפאַסט אוֹן נאָך אָט־דער „סעודה המפסקת" עסט מען אַ שטיקל ברויט אין אַש. אין דער סעודה גופא איז מען זיך נהג צו עסן אייער אַדער לינדזן, ווי אַ סימן פון אבילות; יעדער יִד באַטראַכט זיך ווי אַן אַבל אויפן חורבן. מען לייענט נאָך מעריב די מגילה „איכה" אוֹן אַ טייל פון די קינות.

צומאַרגנס דאָוונט מען אָן טלית אוֹן תפילין. די „תפילין" הייסן „פּאַר" אוֹן אונדז איז די שיינקייט פאַר-שטערט. מען הייבט אויך אָן געווּיסע תפילות אין שחרית אוֹן מען דערגענצט זיי ערשט צו מנחה, וואָס מען דאָוונט שוין אַ אין טלית אוֹן תפילין. לויט דער אגדה איז תשעה באָב נאָך האַלבן טאָג געבוירן משיח אוֹן עס פאַרשווינדט שוין די אבילות.

אין תשעה באָב גילט אַ פאַרבאָט אויף פּינף זאַכן, אוֹן מען מוז אפֿהיטן די „עינוים": מען טאָר נישט עסן אוֹן טרינקען, נישט וואַשן זיך, נישט שמירן זיך, נישט אַנטאָן קיין לעדערנע שיך אוֹן זיך דערווייטערן פון דער פּרוי. אויב דער געוווּנט צושטאַנד דערלויבט נישט, דאַן קען מען זיך באַפרייען פון תענית. מען דאַרף אָבער פרעגן אַ שאלה חכם ביי אַ פאַרלעסלעכן רב. תשעה באָב טאָר מען זיך אויך נישט קלייַדן אין שיינע בגדים.

וואָס שייך לימוד התורה, זיינען פאַראַן נאָר פאַרגע-שריבענע טעקסטן, וואָס מען מעג לערנען אום תשעה באָב, וועלכע האָבן צו טאָן מיט אבילות. (פרק „אלו מגלחין", מדרש איכה, ספר איוב א"אני.) לערנען תורה איז אַ שמחה אוֹן דאָס איז אום תשעה באָב פאַרבאָטן.

די קריאה תשעה באָב צו שחרית איז אין פּ' ואתחנן „כי תוליד בנים", אוֹן די הפטורה איז אין ספר ירמיהו „אסוף אסיפם", וויל דאָרט רעדט זיך וועגן חורבן. אין תפילת מנחה לייענט מען „ויחל" אוֹן די הפטורה איז „דרשו ד' בהמצאו". אין דער תפילת „שמונה עשרה" זאָגט מען „עניו".

וויי אַ זכר לחורבן איז ביי יִדן דאָ אַ מנהג, אַז ווען מען פאַרבּט אַ הויז דאַרף מען איבערלאָזן אַ פלאַץ, אַן אייל אויף אַן אייל, אַן פאַרב, כּדי אפּצומערקן דעם טרויער. אַ חתן אוֹנטער דער חופה צעברעכט אַ גלאָז, וויי אַ סימן פון צער: „אם אשכחך ירושלים תשכח ימיני, אם לא אעלה את ירושלים על ראש שמחתי". אַז מען זעט חרובע יידישע שטעט, רייסט מען קריעה אוֹן מען זאָגט: „ברוך דין האמת", באַזונדערס ירושלים בחורבּה זאָגט מען „ציון המזה מדבר שממה" אוֹן מען רייסט אויך קריעה.

מיר האָפן, אַז דער „צום החמישי" וועט פאַרבּיטן וועלן אין „מאבל לשמחה". מיד וויטשטן אַלע יִדן אומעטום אַ ליכטן תענית אוֹן אַ גאולה שלימה עם בנין בית הבחירה בעגלא ובזמן קריב, אמן!

B.C. court considers extraditing Seifert to Italy

VANCOUVER — A B.C. Supreme Court judge is considering whether to order the extradition of convicted Nazi war criminal Michael Seifert to Italy.

Last week, the evidentiary portion of Seifert's extradition hearing ended with federal prosecutor Roger McMeans recounting the details of 11 murders for which Seifert was convicted in absentia by an Italian military court in 2000.

According to the *Vancouver Sun*, McMeans presented a deposition from a former prisoner who described how he witnessed Seifert and his colleagues beat and then shoot two fellow prisoners.

"Then we we went out to clean, because the Red Cross was due to arrive," the prisoner, Giovanni Boni, stated in the deposition.

Another former prisoner, Maria Teresa Scala, described how Seifert and another guard tortured and killed a 50-year-old Jewish woman. "She was murdered only because she was Jewish. Her daughter arrived the next morning looking for her mother, but she was strangled by the two torturers," Scala said in her statement.

McMeans, who is representing the Italian government, pointed out Seifert was also convicted of gouging out the eyes of a teenage prisoner.

Seifert, however, denied the allegations.

"I never killed anybody," he said under questioning from defense lawyer Doug Christie.

Speaking in response to questions from Christie, Seifert said he never heard prisoners screaming from torture and he never heard shots in the camp. "Nobody shot nobody," he said.

Under further questioning, Seifert denied each charge levelled against him in his Italian trial.

"Did you see any cruel or unusual treatment of those prisoners?" Christie asked.

"No," Seifert replied.

A native of Landau, Ukraine, Seifert testified he first became a guard in 1943 at a facility in his native Ukraine, where he swore an oath to "the Fuehrer, the people and the fatherland."

Seifert acknowledged that after he was transferred to Bolzano, which had been established in 1944 as a transit camp for deportees destined for death camps, he was convicted of raping a local woman. He was imprisoned from September 1944 until his court martial in December, he said, rejecting other evidence that he was able to come and go from his cell and was able to keep a weapon with him.

A retired sawmill worker, Seifert has lived in Canada since 1951.

White supremacists running for municipal office

Canadian Jewish Congress is alerting voters in upcoming Ontario municipal elections that several avowed white supremacists are running for office.

In Ottawa, Donna Upson, founder of the Canadian branch of the National Socialist Movement and a supporter of racial segregation is running for mayor.

Upson served 13 months of a two-year sentence for threatening to kill the pastor of a predominately black congregation in Dartmouth, N.S. She is also a member of the Nationalist Party of Canada, the political heir of the Western Guard, and in an interview with the *Ottawa Citizen*, she acknowledged she has received campaign money from supporters of both the Ku Klux Klan and the National Socialist Movement.

In Toronto, perennial mayoralty candidate Don Andrews is again seeking the city's top job. Andrews has served two jail terms, one for conspiracy to create mischief and possession of explosives and one for wilfully promoting hatred of non-whites.

While much of Andrews' campaign platform focuses on typical urban issues, its top item promises to introduce a motion to officially proclaim European Heritage Week in the city.

Jim Brookman is running for councillor in Ward 30 – Toronto-Danforth and Bob Smith is a candidate for councillor in Ward 31 – Beaches-East York. Smith is a member of the Nationalist Party of Canada and was convicted along with Andrews of hate activities; Brookman is described on the Nationalist Party Web site as a party activist.

"We are sending out a message, spreading it far and wide only to inform the electorate," said Congress spokesperson Bernie Farber.

"They are attempting to use the democratic process to raise the profile of so-called white racialism," said Frank Bialystok, CJC's chair of community relations in Ontario.

Young leadership award winners, retired businessman to lead Winnipeg 2003 CJA campaign

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — For the second year in a row, semi-retired businessman Mel Lazareck will be chairing Winnipeg's annual Combined Jewish Appeal campaign.

But the women's campaign will have a new look this year: its three first-time co-chairs are close friends, and two are former community young leadership award winners.

Ivy Kopstein was one of the winners in 2001 while Glenna Kay won in 1998. They are joined as co-chairs by Sherry Lercher Davis. The threesome first worked together on the federation's Family Matters program, a yearly one-day seminar for women initiated four years ago.

"I guess because we all still have young kids, the federation thought it would be easier if all three of us shared the position," Kopstein says.

Last year's overall campaign brought in $4,130,500, about $345,000 more than the year before and about $1 million more than four years ago, when Federation/CJA began a determined effort to raise revenues.

This year's goal is $4.3 million. "We can see that with the growing anti-Semitism in the world, if we don't do for ourselves, nobody will do for us," Lazareck says. "We can't pass on our responsibilities to anyone else."

For its part, the women's campaign aims to raise $1 million over the next five years.

"We also want to increase awareness of communal needs," Kopstein says. "We are not sure that people know where the money is going and we want to get the message out. We also want to involve more younger women."

Overall revenues may be up, but some federation board members are concerned allocations are not keeping pace. Last year, for example, despite the additional funds raised during the campaign and an additional $155,000 in interest earned on investments, only $85,000 more was available for beneficiary agencies than in 2001.

The principal reason is the CJA's "designated gifts" program, the pros and cons of which were debated at Federation/CJA's board of directors meeting at the end of May.

The program was introduced four years ago as a way to help increase CJA campaign revenues. The idea is that big givers may be more generous if they have a say in where their gifts go. But the drawback has turned out to be that the recipients are not necessarily the usual CJA beneficiaries.

A large chunk of the Asper family's donation last year, for example, was designated for the Asper Foundation's annual Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program, which subsidizes yearly visits by Grade 8 students from Winnipeg's Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate, as well as Grade 9 students, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. The amount designated last year for this purpose was $340,500, compared to $46,500 the year before.

Federation executive vice-president Bob Freedman says the designated gift program is being re-evaluated.

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Signs of new concessions as Sharon in U.S. for Bush talks

By GIDEON ALON, MAZAL MUALEM and AMOS HAREL
Haaretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — New Israeli concessions to the Palestinians were in the works as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon landed in Washington Monday for talks with U.S. President George Bush and senior administration officials.

Diplomatic sources accompanying Sharon said Israel was planning to release 540 Palestinian prisoners in the coming week, including 210 Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists, 210 Fatah members and 120 Palestinians jailed on criminal offences.

As a further sign of concession, some 18,000 Gaza residents were expected to pass through the Erez terminal at the northern border to go to jobs in Israel on Monday, Israel Radio reported. The 18,000 permits were to be granted to labourers, with an additional 2,000 permits given to merchants for transfer of goods through the Karni terminal.

In the West Bank, 3,000 work permits were granted to Bethlehem residents, with an additional 1,000 for merchants; and 500 permits were granted to residents of Tul Karm for agricultural work.

The figures represent a marked increase over the number of workers allowed out of Gaza and the West Bank during most of the nearly three-year uprising.

Israel has also removed a number of West Bank roadblocks in recent days.

On Sunday, the cabinet voted 14-9 to approve Sharon's proposal to release 100 Hamas and Islamic Jihad prisoners, just hours before Sharon departed for Washington.

Israel's ambassador to the United States Danny Ayalon, speaking to Israel Radio as Sharon landed in Washington Monday, turned aside speculation that Bush would press the visiting prime minister to alter the route of the security fence.

Ariel Sharon

"I am still not sure that [the security fence issue] will be raised by the president," said Ayalon.

Palestinians fear the route of the fence, which during Sharon's premiership has been changed to include areas of the West Bank beyond the pre-1967 war demarcation lines, is intended to unilaterally set the borders of their future state by ensuring that settlement blocs and other tracts of West Bank land are on the Israeli side of the barrier.

Bush expressed concern over the fence after talks with Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas at the White House last Friday.

"It is very difficult to develop confidence between the Palestinians and Israel with a wall snaking through the West Bank," Bush said.

Ayalon noted that when the fence issue was raised during a visit last month by Bush's national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, "she did not voice any opposition to the basic position of a separation fence as a security response to the terror of suicide bombers. They were certainly interested in speaking about the pace [of construction] or the route, but here also this will not head the agenda."

Ayalon said he was certain that mutual agreement would be reached with Washington over the fence, "even if it does not come during this visit. I don't think that there is any special urgency to reach agreement over the fence specifically today or tomorrow," he said.

Body of IDF soldier found near Arab villages

By URI ASH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The body of an IDF soldier, Cpl. Oleg Shaichat, who has been missing for a week, was found buried in an olive grove between the Arab villages of Kafr Kana and Mashad in the north of Israel, police reported Monday.

According to the initial investigation, police said Shaichat was abducted at the Beit Rimon Junction and then taken to a nearby field, where he was murdered.

According to Northern District Police Commander Maj.-Gen. Yaakov Borovsky, the body was found by volunteers searching the area. Borovsky said searches concentrated on that specific area after Shaichat's belongings, which he apparently left behind on purpose, were found nearby.

Borovsky said he could not give many details about the condition of the body or any other details on the case, because of a court-imposed gag order. Israel Radio reported that judging from the condition of the body, Shaichat had fought back. His gun was not discovered and is believed to have been stolen by his assailants.

"The motive for the murder was nationalistic. We do not yet know the identity of the murderers, and therefore the question of whether they were Israeli Arabs or Palestinians remains open," Borovsky said.

Israel's Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Monday, "I don't want to reach any conclusions until we have studied all the evidence."

Hundreds of police, soldiers and volunteers had scoured the north of the country in the last week looking for the missing soldier..

Six of Iraq's last Jews brought to Israel from Baghdad

By AMIRAM BARKAT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Six elderly Jews from Iraq, from among the last remaining Jews in the country, landed last Friday evening in Israel on a direct flight from Baghdad.

The six were flown to Israel as part of a joint operation of the Jewish Agency, the organization responsible for bringing Jews to Israel, and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), a Jewish-American international migration and refugee resettlement agency that provides humanitarian aid to Jews around the world.

Iraq once had a thriving community of some 130,000 Jews. Between 1949 and 1952, around 120,000 made their way to Israel, with smaller numbers of Jews leaving the country in subsequent years.

Among the six is a 99-year-old woman and her 70-year-old daughter, another 70 year-old woman who was the last remaining Jew in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, and a blind 90-year-old former Baghdad resident.

Their names, along with the names of the other two, were not released until they landed in Israel.

Before Friday's mission, 34 Jews were found in Iraq by an agency envoy who visited the country after the U.S.-led defeat of Saddam Hussein's government, said Giora Rom, the agency's director-general.

The other 28 Iraqi Jews did not want to come to Israel, said Rom, speaking on Israel's Channel Two, adding that the agency had provided those who had stayed behind with religious articles.

A memorial and a name in my house and within my walls ... a name imperishable for all time Isaiah 56:5

On Wednesday, July 31, 2002 at 1:32 p.m., a bomb exploded in the cafeteria at the Frank Sinatra Student Center on the Mount Scopus campus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. In this act of terrorism, nine University students and staff were killed. More than eight were wounded.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Wiesenthal Center fights Oxfam boycott of Israeli agriculture

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Faced with a boycott targeting Israeli agricultural products, the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC) has launched a boycott campaign of its own.

Last week, the centre's Canadian office unveiled a multi-pronged approach to allow its members to register their dissatisfaction with Oxfam International, the worldwide famine relief organization, for a campaign that originated with Oxfam-Solidarité, the organization's Belgian wing.

Leo Adler, director of national affairs of Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said the centre is calling on its supporters to consider charitable alternatives to Oxfam Canada, one of 12 Oxfam affiliates worldwide. It's also urging its members to avoid purchasing Belgian products, including diamonds and agricultural products, and it suggests avoiding Belgium as a vacation destination.

In its most visible response to Oxfam's campaign, the centre is also urging members to sign an online petition asking the relief organization to drop its boycott.

Earlier this summer, Oxfam-Solidarité joined 15 Belgian NGOs in a boycott campaign against Israeli products. A graphic on the Oxfam-Solidarité Web site featured a picture of a grapefruit dripping red juice in the form of a teardrop, underlined with the caption: "Israeli fruit tastes bitter. Say no to the occupation of Palestine. Don't buy any fruit from Israel."

Angered by the graphic, the Wiesenthal Center quickly wrote to Ian Anderson, chair of the Oxfam International Secretariat in London, calling the online poster discriminatory.

"This obscene campaign recalls an earlier one, when during the Second World War, Belgian Nazis exhorted the public, 'Do not buy Jewish products,'" the letter states. "This boycott effort, which we reached through the main Oxfam Web site, violates your provisions against ethnic and racial discrimination."

In a response, Anderson said Oxfam supports the U.S.-sponsored "road map" peace plan and condemns Palestinian suicide bombings and all other acts of terror and violence.

"We want our campaigns to be challenging, but never offensive, and we apologize for any offence that has been caused."

Anderson's letter noted the Belgian affiliate had amended its Web site to include "a measured explanation of its own involvement in this Belgian campaign… Its Web site also now makes clear… that Oxfam-Solidarité's involvement in the campaign was to target only those goods grown in the occupied territories and exported to the European Union. As such, the campaign is against certain actual policies of the Israeli government. It is not against the Israeli or Jewish people."

Adler called Oxfam's response inadequate.

The claim by Oxfam-Solidarité that it was aimed at goods from the territories is not believable, he said, since there is no way to distinguish them from grown-in-Israel produce.

"It's always disappointing when a good charity that does good work tries to involve itself in politics. You ask, where are they when there's a civil war in Liberia? I don't see them taking a side there, and there's starvation there."

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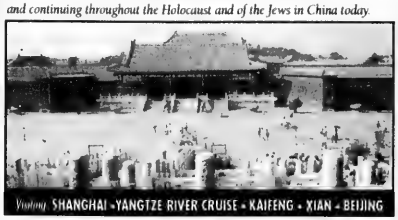

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Mofaz: Arrow can counter Iranian missile threat

By SHARON SADEH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz reassured Knesset members last Monday that Israel's Arrow missile defense system is able to counter any threat by Iranian missiles, and he promised missile defence would not be affected by budget cuts.

The previous day, Iran equipped its elite revolutionary guards with a locally-made ballistic missile, the Shihab-3. The missile, with a range of about 1,300 kilometers, is capable of reaching Israel and U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Since the 1991 Gulf War, Israel – with U.S. financial backing – has developed the Arrow anti-missile system, the only operational one in the world.

The Arrow-2 missile was successfully tested in August 2001, when it shot down a missile dropped from an Israeli Air Force F-15 fighter at high altitude on the path of an incoming Scud missile.

The Shihab-3's deployment came as Iran faces mounting scrutiny of a nuclear energy program Washington says may be fronting a covert bid to make atomic arms. The missile was unveiled in a military parade before Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who heads the country's armed forces. The missile's deployment comes after its final testing several weeks ago, Iranian officials said.

Also last Monday, Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom accused Tehran of "trying to do everything" to build a nuclear weapon and warned Iran would pose a threat to the whole world unless it was stopped. Speaking after a meeting in Brussels with his European Union counterparts, he said Iran was enriching uranium and refusing to accept tougher inspections of its nuclear program.

"I think the EU should take a key role in the last efforts to prevent them from having [nuclear weapons]," Shalom said.

Later the same day, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi denied Tehran was seeking to build a nuclear weapon, saying it was Israel that represented a nuclear threat to the region.

Iran also said last Monday it has no intention of pulling out of the Iranian hardliners to do so.

The Week in Israel

July 21

• The cut in the 2004 budget will be primarily in defence and government ministries said Ori Yogev, head of the budget department in the Finance Ministry. Yogev refused to say how broad a cut is planned for next year's budget. However, there is a general consensus among economists that some NIS 7-9 billion will be cut and about NIS 4-5 billion will come from the defence budget.

July 22

• PA President Yasser Arafat called Jewish visits to the Temple Mount a "big crime." He made his comments to Palestinian children at a summer camp in Ramallah. Visits by Jews and some non-Jewish tourists have resumed in the past two months for the first time since September 2000. He said visits by Jews could have "grave consequences."

July 23

• A ministerial committee authorized the release of 530 Palestinian prisoners, including members of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the coming days. A senior Hamas official said Israel would pay a price if it did not release Hamas members during the three-month ceasefire.

July 24

• Police intensified the search for a missing soldier, with concern growing that he had been kidnapped. Oleg Sheichat, 20, of Upper Nazareth was last heard from July 21.

July 25

• Israel announced a series of humanitarian gestures toward the Palestinians. Among the moves announced are the removal of three key West Bank checkpoints, the reopening of roads in the West Bank and the transfer of NIS 72 million in tax money and the issuing of 8,500 permits for Palestinians to enter Israel to work.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

The Na Laga'at company in performance.

Hearing and seeing is believing

By BARRY DAVIS
Special to The CJN

JERUSALEM — In a country that has experienced more than its fair share of conflict, with a resulting commensurately high number of physically disabled, the Israeli public is used to providing for people with special needs. Even so, the Na Laga'at ("Do Touch") acting company is a unique group.

Early next month, Aug. 5-10, Jerusalemite actress and director Adina Tal will make a presentation about Na Laga'at at the 13th annual Deaf Blind International Conference to be held in Mississauga, Ont.

Tal's Canadian visit follows a similar presentation she made in March this year, at a British conference on the subject of Charge Syndrome and Ushers Syndrome. Most of the Na Laga'at group suffer from the latter, a degenerative ailment that causes hearing impairment at birth, or in early childhood, developing into profound deafness. The person's sight is later similarly impaired.

"The other people at the conference in England couldn't believe the things we'd achieved with the group in Israel," Tal recalls. "They had never encountered anything like the Na Laga'at group before."

Four years ago, Tal began working with a dozen severely visually and hearing impaired adults with varying degrees of thespian aspirations. Even with almost a quarter of a century of theatre work behind her, Tal says Na Laga'at presented her with professional and logistical problems for which she absolutely had no training.

"I had no previous experience at all of working with disabled people," she says. "You walk into a room with people, most of whom can't see or hear you. It's a daunting moment."

Tal came across the group at a centre for the visually and hearing impaired in Tel Aviv in 1999. The center had received a donation for the specific purpose of establishing an amateur dramatics group, but the activity started to wind down as the funds ran out. What Tal got was a bewildering encounter with 12 physically disabled adults with almost no acting experience, and with whom she had no way of communicating her directives. Her protégés had to climb a steep learning curve before she could lick them into shape.

Three and a half years later, Na Laga'at began performing a musical comic drama, called *Light Is Heard in Zig Zag*, at major venues around Israel. To date, they have appeared more than 20 times [illegible] to packed houses, and there are more bookings for the coming months.

When you have to work with actors with whom you cannot communicate directly, the pitfalls often become a nightmare. The more severely disabled actors are constantly escorted by interpreters. When Tal barks out a directive – she admits to expending an enormous amount of physical and vocal energy in her work on a production – the interpreters transmit her instructions, via touch sign language, by tapping out the words on the actors' hands.

It is the same during the performance itself. Although they are, by now, well-rehearsed, most of the actors have no way of knowing exactly what is happening on the stage at any given moment. As the next scene kicks in, the interpreters inform their thespian wards of the transition, and the actors take it from there. Observing the actors perform and interact with each other onstage, it is hard to believe they have to contend with such severe physical limitations. Even Tal admits she has doubts.

"Somewhere, deep inside, I am not entirely convinced they can't really hear or see me," she says. "But things happen that I can't explain. I'm not a mystical person. Sometimes, I do an exercise with them and when I shout 'Stop!' they all stop without hearing me. I can't explain that."

Ultimately, it is hoped Na Laga'at – financial backing willing – will have its own arts and cultural centre staffed by people with visual and hearing impairments. The group recently received suitable premises at a preferential rental rate. But then disaster struck. The day after the group's manager, Eran Gur, received the key, the whole building burnt down. So the search for a new site, and financial support, has been renewed.

"I believe we can offer the world something special," says Tal. "There is no reason why a centre in Israel shouldn't spawn branches all over the world for people with sight and hearing disabilities."

More than anything, Tal says she wants the actors to have strong self-esteem and feel they are capable of contributing something to society. After a recent performance of *Light is Heard in Zig Zag* at Jerusalem's Israel Museum, a high school girl approached Tal and told her that she started out watching the show feeling sorry for the actors but, by the end, she looked up to them.

"That's what it's all about," Tal says.

For more information on Na Laga'at, visit www.nalagaat.org.il.

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10 UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Soulpepper's *No Man's Land* showcases two Canadian greats

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Refreshing is not a word that would likely be used to describe a mysterious play written by a 72-year-old British playwright that features two grizzled veterans of Canadian theatre.

But Harold Pinter's *No Man's Land*, being staged by Soulpepper at Toronto's Harboufront Centre, carries itself with both dignity and sizzle, a combination that elevates the production into the must-see category.

Peter Donat as Hirst.

Pinter's style of creating manipulative characters who lock horns in power struggles figures prominently in this 1974 script, which was written for British acting greats Ralph Richardson and John Gielgud.

Now, Toronto audiences are being treated to the acting acumen of Canadian theatre lions William Hutt and Peter Donat. Hutt plays philosophizing poet Spooner, and Donat envelops himself in the impassive essayist Hirst. The two past-their-prime writers drink at Hirst's London home one night, trading clever quips and emotional attacks.

Between intense moments, the audience is left wondering: Who is telling the truth, and do these two people even know each other? Add the shuffling Hirst's two brutish caretakers, Briggs (Michael Hanrahan) and Foster (Stuart Hughes), and the play shifts from human expressions as crass as intimidation to fears of reviving "old ghosts."

Hirst's reliance on memory leaks into Spooner's sermonizing on artistic integrity, sending both word-crafters into spirals of debate. In the first act, Hutt flexes his impeccable diction while delivering mini-monologues to a speechless Donat. The lines are often as witty as the unobtrusive physical comedy — Donat's cheek-twitching becomes a subtle sign to swig some more alcohol.

William Hutt as Spooner.

Watching the two theatre legends banter in the second act is poetry in motion (Hutt is a Stratford regular and Donat has ranged from Broadway to Stratford to Soulpepper's *Don Carlo*).

Michael Hanrahan (Briggs), Hutt and Stuart Hughes (Foster).

And when Pinter weaves poetic musicality into his script, freeing the actors from his patented long silences, the play soars with suspense and eloquence. Pinter's words, though, can sometimes be less effective than these actors' expert non-verbal expression – indeed, the tension of one Huttian glance can convey a mouthful of grumbling asides.

Director Albert Schultz, who is also Soulpepper's artistic director, keeps the pace taut and allows his principals to shine. A lesser director might have confined Hutt's smirking retorts and caged Donat's eye-catching presence.

Hirst and Spooner trade clever quips.

It's been said that Pinter, who was born to a Jewish tailor and his wife in East London, wrote Hirst as a nightmarish extension of whom he might become — a whiskey-swilling writer left spiritually empty and creatively depressed. Donat imparts those fears and more: while thinking out loud about his past glories, eyes cast upward, he barks for his servant to bring over the bottle of whiskey, and he gulps down an impressive amount to douse the intruding cobwebs.

The two men of letters describe no man's land as an icy limbo of no change, no growth, with Hirst remarking, "In my day, nobody ever changed."

But one thing has changed for Toronto theatre lovers: they can now watch two remarkable actors dance over the thought-provoking words of a major playwright. This *No Man's Land* is a symbol of artistic growth, not only for Shultz's company, but also for two of Canada's premier actors in the twilight of their careers.

The play runs until Aug. 23. For tickets call 416-973-4000.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

CHINSKY TELLS STORIES OF OLD TORONTO IN "THE TAILOR'S DAUGHTER"

Toronto freelance writer **Miriam Chinsky**, whose byline has appeared often in *The CJN* and other publications for decades, has written many delightful historical articles about life in the north Toronto of half a century ago and more.

Chinsky grew up north of the Yonge-Eglinton area, where her father, a custom tailor, usually kept a store. "We always lived within walking distance of the store so he could come home for lunch," she recalls.

Some of her best articles have been gathered into a collection that is scheduled for publication under the title *The Tailor's Daughter* by Chestnut Publications in October.

"It tells you what it was like growing up in north Toronto in the '30s and '40s — which is very different than what it's like now," Chinsky says, adding wryly that she's starting to feel a bit "like Grandmother Moses."

* * *

Goldfarb Wins Drama Award: Playwright **Daniel Goldfarb** of Toronto and New York has won the Canadian Authors Association Carol Bolt Award for Drama for his play, *Adam Baum and The Jew Movie*. The play premiered off Broadway in the fall of 1999 and won the 2000 New York Oppenheimer Award. It played more recently in Toronto at the Canadian Stage.

Goldfarb is a graduate of the Juilliard School and New York University, where he now teaches playwriting and screenwriting. He received the award and a silver medal at a banquet in Edmonton earlier this month.

* * *

Casting Call: Teatron, a Toronto theatre company that focuses on producing Jewish-themed plays and is Shomer Shabbat, is seeking actors and crew for an upcoming production of the Holocaust play *This Night* by **Robert Majzels**. Rehearsals start in mid-October and the play is scheduled to run Nov. 12 to 30.

Actors are required to play brothers David and Benny Hellman, both in their mid-30s, as well as their father. Stage manager, lighting and special effects designer and ASM also required. Contact artistic director Ari Weisberg, 416-781-5527 or teatron@sympatico.ca

* * *

Mayne Wins Educators Award: Seymour Mayne, a poet and professor of Canadian literature and creative writing at the University of Ottawa, was among 15 winners of the Capital Educators Award given recently by the Ottawa Centre for Research and Innovation. The award recognizes Ottawa educators who have made a difference in the lives of their students by acting as role models, instilling confidence and nurturing leadership.

Mayne, who has taught at the University of Ottawa for three decades, is author, editor or translator of more than 40 books and monographs. His most recent literary works include *Light Industry* (2000), a collection of humorous and satirical poems, and *Hail* (2002), a sampling of word sonnets.

* * *

Aussie Comedy: Toolkit Productions presents what it calls "the longest running Australian comedy of all time" — *He Died With A Felafel In His Hand*, based on the cult novel by **John Birmingham.**

The play focuses on JB, affable, easy-going and always ready for a party. The play features eight "young and sexy" actors playing 40 characters "whizzing by in a whirlwind," as well as a live band cranking out all the best Aussie tunes. The Latvian House, 491 College St., just west of Bathurst. $15. Runs Aug. 1 to 30, 8 p.m. nightly except Sundays and Mondays. www.toolkitproductions.com

* * *

Arts in Brief

• Toronto producer **Michael Rubinoff** presents *Evita*, the popular Tony Award winning musical, with "sensibly priced" tickets running from $5 to $40. Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre, Aug. 8 to 30. 416-366-7723 or www.stlc.com. Website, www.evitathemusical.ca

• FFIDA's International Dance Festival runs Aug. 5 to 17 at multiple venues in Toronto. 416-410-4291. www.ffida.org

* * *

At the Galleries

•An exhibition of works by Toronto-born photographer **Jason Schwartz** is on view at Pikto Photo Gallery, 55 Mill St. in the Cannery Building of the Distillery District. Part of all sales proceeds will go to Selah, an Israel-based charity providing support for victims of terrorism. July 30 & 31, 6 to 9 p.m.

•Visions and Apparitions is a series of works on paper that explore the concepts of beauty, eroticism and the grotesque. Justine M Barnicke Gallery, Hart House. July 31 to Aug. 23.

•An exhibition of works by Ethel Harris exploring "light on water" continues at Rebecca Gallery, 317 Grace St. at Harbord, thru Aug. 9. www.rebeccagallery.com

Local comic helps Torontonians chase their dreams

By DAVE GORDON
Special to the CJN

Two years ago, Ieden Wall had a dream: to make the dreams of others come true.

Today, using a camera and a chauffeur, Wall is mixing raw earnestness and nerves of steel to explore the path to people's secret ambitions.

The result is a bare-bones production called *The Dream Chaser*, a maverick approach to the "man on the street" interview that uses massive doses of chutzpah to help unknown dreamers pursue their life-long goals.

The segments – which Wall shows on big screens at live performances in informal café-like environs – are unscripted and offer audiences a fusion of slick, wry humour and gritty human drama on the streets of Toronto.

To add an air of elegance to the proceedings, Wall uses a chauffeur to shuttle himself and the dreamer on their quest.

The goal? To show that anything is possible.

There are two aspects that are equally fulfilling about *The Dream Chaser*, Wall says.

"First, being able to step into someone's life at a low point or moment of vulnerability and motivate them to go the distance. Second, to create a show that flies in the face of convention using humour to inspire others to chase their dreams with a greater tenacity," says the 30-year-old Wall, who also does some standup comedy.

Wall has nurtured his networking and interviewing skills since the age of 15, when he would talk to celebrities on camera and then publicly screen the interview. Wall also had a brief stint as host of his own show on cable television.

American audiences have turned the charismatic talk-show renegade into a campus cult favourite. His show was a smash hit at Penn State, the University of Pittsburgh, UCLA and Stanford University.

The sometimes-edgy *Dream Chaser* keeps its groove by regularly refreshing its roster of "dream" segments.

So far, Wall has helped a waitress become a cover model and a fledgling chanteuse audition for a Broadway show, and he has helped a veteran subway singer follow his dream of signing with a major label.

When he began the project, naysayers tried to deter him.

"Everybody we spoke to told us the concept was unrealistic. But now tens of thousands of people are writing letters and e-mails and want their dreams fulfilled," says Wall.

His partner, Brian Korson, has also helped out by loaning more than $500,000 worth of digital equipment and donating hundreds of hours of his time, and sometimes even risking his own safety, to shoot and produce the six *Dream Chaser* pieces he and Wall have made so far.

It's that kind of selflessness that Wall sees as *Dream Chaser*'s raison d'être.

"Tikkun olam was a concept that was taught to us by our grandparents at a very young age. The concept of mending a broken world is a tall task, but through *The Dream Chaser* I can do this in a very unique way," Wall says.

"By reaching out to dreamers who have a broken wing or have endured great adversity, I can repair some of the damage or lift some of their baggage, and that is what being Jewish is all about."

On Thursday Aug. 7 at 7 and 9 p.m., the Carlton Cinemas will showcase *The Dream Chaser*. As well, a segment in which Wall helps someone escape from a mental institution to pursue their dream of becoming an actor will be shown this fall at the Toronto International Film Festival.

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Arts & Travel

Phil Pivnick has a Purpose for his playwrighting

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to the CJN

When Phil Pivnick speaks, his brain spews ideas faster than his mouth can handle them.

Listening to him is not only an exercise in attentiveness but a lesson on idea-generating — the 24-year-old playwright seems to overflow with notions on life's meaning, on finding a passion to dive into, on discovering a purpose.

Phil Pivnick

And how appropriate that Pivnick's first play (which he also directed) debuted at the Toronto Fringe Festival recently under the title *Purpose*.

Like Pivnick's own late-night reflections, the play's main character seeks answers to questions on his role in the world.

Alex (Brian Froud) ponders, quite existentially, how to elevate himself above normalcy.

"I had a conversation with my friend about meeting our Creator, and how intriguing that would be," Pivnick says. "I think it's impossible for us to get away from our desire to search for God."

He calls his one-hour play a marriage of Samuel Beckett and Woody Allen, citing Allen and Steve Martin as his main comedic influences. The tone of *Purpose* carries that Allen-like self-reflection, and punchlines centre on boy-girl foibles with tight sharpness. Pivnick directs little action into the script, instead allowing the dialogue to convey the suspense, drama and comedy.

And brains need not be checked at the door. "These are real characters with strong humour mixed with intelligence," says Pivnick, a Toronto resident transplanted from Kingston.

Pivnick cut his comedic teeth as a stand-up comedian, jumping on open mike stages in Montreal while taking English at Concordia University. After switching to York University for film and then creative writing, he wrote the initial script for *Purpose* for his final year project. He penned the tale with the Fringe Festival in mind, plotting few props and set pieces to accommodate the annual 900-show festival.

Winning a feature at the Fringe by chance (since applicants vie for spots through a lottery system), Pivnick found a purpose for his graduate life — apart from the doldrums of working retail. Rehearsing three times a week, and seeking assistance from every friend he could think of, Pivnick slaved over his play in June, wishing for enough packed houses to finance an off-Fringe production.

The administration weighed down his days, and he credits his time at B'Nai Brith Youth Organization for learning how to stay focused and open-minded. "To give you a sense of how organized you had to be," he says, "when you join BBYO, you have to buy a briefcase."

Pivnick aspires to be a full-time TV writer, claiming he entered theatre life "because developing a TV series is so difficult to do at my age it's almost impossible."

That practicality is another symptom of the logical mind Pivnick reveals; but impish grins interrupt his word flow, and he dreams out loud, "Y'know, I want to leave something behind. My goal is to get a five-minute segment on *Entertainment Tonight*."

Like his character Alex who hungers for purpose to his life — even though that epiphany could be closer than thought — Pivnick has found his path. The graduate finds himself thrust into an opportunistic world, looking to cement his future via the words swimming furiously in his head.

Arts & Travel

Ron Wiseman is a man of many styles

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

It's a sweltering summer afternoon and the sounds and smells of Toronto's Kensington Market waft through the open door of the Anshei Minsk Congregation where Ron Wiseman prepares for his last performance in Canada.

The reggae singer says his music is a lot like a stroll through the eclectic downtown neighbourhood that he has frequented for roughly 20 years.

"You walk down the street here and you'll hear reggae bass and it mixes in with some Portuguese ballad and sometimes you can stand at a certain point between three corners and you'll hear three types of music and it's pretty wild," Wiseman, 43, says. "I'm a man of many hats, many styles."

After performing at the Minsk for nearly two decades, the Winnipeg native has decided to "move the party" to Israel.

"Anything I'm doing here I can do better there. It's the land of opportunity," he says.

Wiseman's newest album, *Mystical Mood*, was released in May by Phase I Studios. While he has released several home-recorded albums, this one is his first studio-produced record.

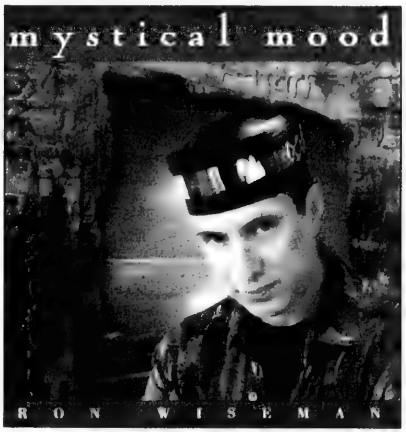
Wiseman says he fell in love with the reggae sound as a youngster in Winnipeg.

"It's a music where every instrument knows its place," he says. "It's a music that has a lot of space, not a lot of talking."

Mystical Mood features the heavy bass and percolated guitar riffs typical of most reggae music, but by using klezmer-style clarinets and Middle-Eastern instrumentation, Wiseman gives the album a distinctly Jewish sound.

Unlike reggae artists such as Bob Marley, Wiseman does not focus on politics, but rather draws his inspiration from the Torah.

"There are laws that transcend politics. I believe in a higher rulership. Problems in the world don't have to do with this system or that system... You find truth wrapped up in smaller packages. Reading words of Torah, it's sort of like every letter is significant."



In Israel, Wiseman will give weekly performances on top of Mount Zion, where King David, a source of his inspiration, was buried.

"David Hamelech is the ultimate Jew and the ultimate king and the ultimate human being. He was a soldier, a scholar, a dancer, a singer, a lover. He was a well-rounded individual," says Wiseman, adding it was the king's openness and versatility that made him such a great ruler.

He says he tries to carry some of these attributes into his playing: he rarely rehearses and prefers to go with the flow.

At his last show in Winnipeg, he says, he only met his saxophonist and drummer five minutes before going onstage, but managed to pull off a seamless performance.

"I'm mister improv," he says. "If I have good players, it works."

As for songwriting, he says there is no one right way to do it.

"My brother knew two very good writers. One was Leonard Cohen and the other was Alan Ginsberg. He asked Leonard Cohen, 'What is the rule in writing songs?' and Leonard Cohen said, 'The first thought is the best thought.' And so when he saw Alan Ginsberg, he asked the same question, and he said, 'The last thought is the best thought.' I basically agree with both of them.

"What I strive for in a song is that it's simple and you can carry it with you," he says.

To purchase Wiseman's CDs, contact Barry Lubotta at Marshmellow Records 416-291-9553.

Film chronicles American tragedy

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"I had a good family," laments Elaine Friedman, still puzzled and devastated over the dreadful turn of events that nearly ruined her life. "Where did this come from?"

The question she poses so plaintively lies at the core of Andrew Jarecki's fluid, thought-provoking documentary, *Capturing the Friedmans*, which opened in Toronto last week.

The story of the Friedman clan, which is told in incremental fashion, is an American tragedy that raises relevant questions about the nature of truth and justice.

By all appearances, the Friedmans of Great Neck, an affluent community in Long Island, N.Y., were a tight-knit Jewish family.

Arnold was an esteemed teacher and his wife, Elaine, was a model homemaker. Their grown children, David, Jesse and Seth, seemed normal and well-adjusted.

In 1987, the facade was abruptly shattered when police burst into their tree-shaded home and seized incriminating possessions, then arrested Arnold and Jesse and led them away in handcuffs through a maze of reporters and cameras.

What had they done to deserve this ignominy?

Arnold and Jesse, the youngest son, were charged with sexual crimes so horrible that Arnold's brother, Howard, blurted out in shock: "I sat there in disbelief. Is this my brother? My brother? This isn't my brother, he's not a monster, he's a good loving brother and husband and son and citizen and teacher. This isn't happening. This is a mistake."

But according to Frances Galasso, the police sergeant in charge of the case, there was not any doubt about Arnold's guilt.

Nevertheless, she proceeded with the utmost care. As she put it: "You always want to be very careful about how you proceed because the one thing that you worry about, I know I worried about it all the time, is just charging somebody with this kind of a crime is enough to ruin their lives."

In presenting the facts, *Capturing the Friedmans* is just as cautious. The documentary, which won the Grand Jury Prize at this year's Sundance Film Festival, unfolds through interviews with a wide assortment of personalities, file footage of the crime scene and Friedman home movies (one of which portrays a Passover seder).

This is a film about a quiet, responsible school teacher who hid his dark secrets behind a piano; a housewife who never really knew or understood her husband; and the relationship they had with their conflicted sons.

It is also about the depths to which dysfunctional families can sink, as well as about figurative skeletons rattling in the closet and a police investigation that was supposedly short on actual physical evidence but long on damning testimonies.

In short, this is a sensitive, multi-layered film about an unusual family whose universe was torn asunder, with tragic results.

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Brain injury recovery evokes *Crooked Smile*

By LINDSAY SOBERANO
Special to The CJN

Statistics on brain injuries and predictions for recovery are not black and white.

That's what Lainie Cohen discovered when her eldest son, Daniel, now 27, suffered a severe brain injury in a car accident in late August 1993.

Doctors did not think Daniel would ever walk or talk again, but he has regained most of his cognitive thinking and motor skills. *Crooked Smile: One Family's Journey Toward Healing* (ECW Press) is a first-person account that charts the first 16 months of Daniel's recovery and how his injury affected his family. (All of the author's proceeds will go to the Bloorview MacMillan Children's Foundation.)

"We couldn't imagine then how we would cope with this trauma, yet somehow we did. Helped by the love and support of family and friends, we waited and watched, hoped and prayed," writes Cohen.

Cohen has more than 25 years experience as an educator and a psychological consultant. Although this is her first book, she has edited and co-authored educational material on brain injury and is a public speaker on the subject. She has also been published in *Parchment*, *The Globe and Mail* and *The Canadian Jewish News*.

The book is divided into three sections: part one details a time of hope and despair, as the Cohens grapple with the dismal predictions doctors made about Daniel's future.

In part two, when Daniel is transferred from Sunnybrook Hospital to the Bloorview Macmillan Centre, Cohen and her husband, Joel find innovative ways to include rehabilitation in Daniel's life.

Part three provides closure, when Cohen faces Daniel's friend John, the driver of the car he and Daniel were thrown from, in court.

Crooked Smile closes with a satisfying epilogue, where Cohen counts her blessings and outlines some of Daniel's achievements over the past 10 years, from relearning how to walk and ski to graduating from high school.

Initially, Cohen intended to document the first year of Daniel's injury for him, since he spent a month in a coma and suffered memory loss.

But she soon discovered she was telling her story—a mother's story—and in turn, the story of her family, which also includes her two other children, Daniel's older sister Alyssa and his younger brother Jonathan. (Indeed, within months of Daniel's injury, Jonathan became involved with drugs and Alyssa suffered a physical collapse that put her in a wheelchair.)

Crooked Smile is so raw with emotion that Cohen makes the reader feel as though he or she is reliving the tragedy. She creates this feeling by including newsletters she wrote to friends and family outlining Daniel's progress, by turning family members into well-developed characters, and by baring her heart and soul, as any good writer must have the courage to do.

Cohen's writing style is descriptive and metaphorical. For instance, the title *Crooked Smile* refers to the first time Daniel smiled after the accident – he could show pleasure, which was positive, but the crookedness was one of the visible signs of his injury.

Cohen also shares a scene that displays the discomfort some people feel around those who suffer from brain injury: two girls Daniel went to school with made a beeline for the door when they saw him at a corner store.

In *Crooked Smile*, Cohen has done something very commendable: she has given a face and a name to brain injury. The book makes you look at life from a new perspective. It makes you challenge stereotypes and statistics, as well as your own self-imposed limitations, as Daniel and his family did.

She succeeds in showing how Daniel is living proof that determination and support from friends and family can turn a negative into a positive.

"He constantly surprises us," Cohen says, when explaining how nine years after his injury, Daniel relearned how to drive.

Likewise, she says no one expected her to publish what was at first just notes from her journal and a collection of her newsletters. It looks as though surprising others is a Cohen family trait.

Ribbons raise breast cancer awareness

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Sandra and Lionel Waldman would like to see the world covered in pink ribbons.

As owners of Labelad/Sandylion Sticker Designs, the Waldmans have created sheets of pink ribbon stickers that they have donated to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF). The pink ribbon is the official mark of the foundation.

The stickers, along with a letter from Sandra Waldman, have been sent out to more than 300,000 people to help raise awareness and funds for breast cancer. To date, the project has raised more than $470,000.

Sandra initiated the campaign in honour of her late mother Sara Salter, who was a breast cancer survivor. Sandra would like women to put the pink ribbons everywhere, "on your calendar as a reminder to do a monthly breast self examination, on book covers, in cookbooks, or on envelopes when sending a letter. "Every time you see or use a sticker, I hope you will think of a woman you love who has this disease… If everyone used a sticker to represent a woman who has been touched by breast cancer, the country would be covered with pink ribbons," she wrote in the letter.

It is essential to raise breast cancer awareness, said Rochelle Kahn, CBCF national marketing and communications manager. "There are still ethnic communities in which people do not talk about [the disease]. As we do not have a cure yet, early detection is our most important ally," she said.

Stickers are a great tool because "they're accessible. You peel them off and stick them on. The logo is pretty, and pink reminds people of breast cancer. It's a no-brainer." Carol Seidman, CEO of the CBCF, said that as far as breast cancer is concerned, "although more women are becoming aware, many are still in the dark. Education must be a focus."

In the last 20 years, she said, mortality from breast cancer has dropped 20 per cent, because women are starting to take charge of their health.

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500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

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BATHURST-CLARK - 1/4 ACRE LOT!
Large 4 bdrm with finished basement apartment with separate entrance - ideal 2 family home! Extras!! Shows well - fast closing! $479,900. *Ted Waxman

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YONGE-19TH $409,900
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BATHURST MANOR GEM!
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Approx 2,200 sq. ft., very upgraded condo! Renovated top to bottom! A Gem! 4 large terraces! 3 parking! Granite, marble, hardwood, crystal. Asking $799,000. **Berta Kogan

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VIEWMOUNT/BATHURST/ENGLEMOUNT
$1,195,000 – Fabulous 5 bedroom family home, Richard Wengle design, shows to perfection! Move-in condition. Large kitchen, cooks delight. Grand principle rooms, beautifully landscaped. Jack Samuel* & Gert Kerbel* ext. 252

RIDLEY BOULEVARD'S FINEST!!
This immaculate 1 bdrm suite w/solarium provides mangificent sunsets & a tree-top view of downtown North York. Includes "locker", parking and 5 appliances. Perry Steinberg** ext. 334

CEDARVALE CO-OP $195,000
Opportunity to live in demand location. Updated and renovated! Open concept LR/DR, eat-in kitchen, 2 bdrm + 1 bath, wood laminate flrs, 2 car prkg, locker. Hannah Math Slan* ext. 504

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3+2 bdrms, detached bungalow, 51 x 117 lot, 2 pce ensuite, eat-in kitchen, separate entrance to finished 2 bedroom aptartment, garage. Don't miss this one. Ellie Parker* ext. 355

BATHURST MANOR PERFECTION
$399,000. 3+1 bedroom. Bungalow. Totally renovated! 50 x 145 ft. lot. New hardwood floors thru-out. New roof, A/C. Just move right into this stunning home. Natalie Kopman* ext. 315

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1179 ALFRED STREET
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AVENUE RD./LAWRENCE
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8 SPADINA ROAD #19! N/BLOOR!
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BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS BRAND NEW
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BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS EXCL
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2 bedroom corner, stunning open living, dining, break. Hardwood. 2 baths. Near subway. 2 parking. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

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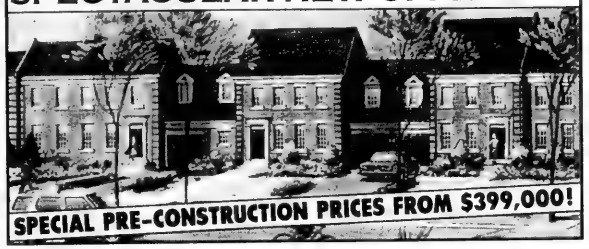

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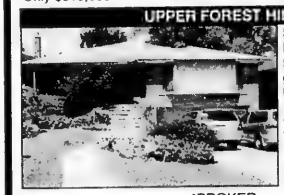

Stunning 4 + 1 bdrm. backsplit on gorgeous 50 x 125 ft. lot in prestigious location! Huge family room, w/o to magnificent garden. Modern fam. size kit. **REDUCED TO $729,000 — ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE — REDUCED $50,000!
Spacious, well-maintained executive 4 + 1 bdrm. sidesplit in prime central location close to all amenities, main floor family room, lovely garden, 55 foot frontage, double garage. Asking $799,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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Bathurst/Steeles, Townsgate. 1550 sq. ft., 2 bed., 2 bth. 2 prkng., all amens. $2100/mo. 647-299-0371, 416-224-2837.

3555 Bathurst (at Baycrest), 1 bed., 7th flr. w. exp. Avail. immed. 416-445-0549 lv. msg.

85 Skymark Dr, lux 2 bed., 1+1/2 bth, from Sept. 1st. Indr./outdr. swim. pls., gorgeous rec. centre. 905-764-8608 eves.

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Sixplex, 2-3 bdrm, 2-2 bdrm, 1-1 bdrm, 1-bachelor, bath in suites, balconies, garages + parking, fully rented, A1 location, steps to all.

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Bathurst/Lawrence, 1 bdrm, above ground brand new bsmnt apt. Call 416-782-6490.

Bath. Manor, 3 x-lrge. bdrms., kit., 2 bths., TTC, shops, shul, parking. Call 905-882-1502

Bath./Wilson/Avenue Rd., lge. reno. 1 br. bsmt. apt., sep. entr., partly furn. $825. 416-782-2139.

660 Briar Hill, xtra. lge. 2/3 bdr. 1 1/2, 2 1/2 w/c, util incl., near bus & shul. Kurt, 416-823-2700. office: 416-769-6779.

Bathurst/Lawrence, newly decorated 2 bdrm. bsmnt. apt., priv. entrance, 4 piece bathroom, perfectly located, close to all amens. No pets/smokers, references. Call 416-783-8775.

SHEPPARD/BATHURST, lg. 1 bdr. sep. entr. apt. in new home, 2 appl. + laundry, prkg., A/C, $800/mo. neg. 416-489-2650.

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Rental Office
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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

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- Cabins available for large groups

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YORK, Mannie – on July 2, 2003, late of 262 Ridley Blvd.
KALINA, Bluma – on July 3, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
WACHSTEIN, Sophie – on July 3, 2003.
JAMES, Jules – on June 26, 2003, late of 22 St. Thomas St., #11.
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LEBOW, Anne – on June 28, 2003, late of 2121 Bathurst St., #61.
LITTLE, Betty – on June 30, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
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Arts & Travel

Z is for Zacharin, and his CD gets an A

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

Noah Zacharin's work can't be easily categorized, which makes each album of his a unique treat. His newest album, *Big Daddy Z*, his sixth, is a mixture of folk-rock and blues.

But Zacharin is no stranger to odd combinations. What makes this musician stand out is that he works on his chops in more than one way - he supports his musical aspirations as a part-time dentist.

He's a professional with his instruments: by day he peers into people's mouths, but by night songs come out of his own.

About a year after his last album, *Crow Dark Wind*, Zacharin's musical instincts told him it was time for a new album. Having written a batch of new songs, performed them, and recorded the gig, he wanted to, "make a reasonably elegant home" for the tunes.

That home is host to a smooth line-up of gratifying performances, exemplifying Zacharin's always-evolving folk style. The disc intersperses original work with cover tunes, but the disparate styles still maintain contextual consistency from song to song.

He's been listening to his musician's intuition for over three decades, since he picked up his first guitar at age nine, wrote his first song at 15, and began performing his own material at 17.

At 12, he was already beginning to improvise and explore, leaving his music teacher to learn to play guitar by ear.

Noah Zacharin

"Sometimes sloppy is best, and you have to reach for notes you are not certain are waiting for you in the dark, but you gotta reach anyway," says Zacharin.

Indeed, the sometimes sloppy, unpolished live element of *Big Daddy Z* evinces the natural and raw Noah Zacharin - melodies just as easy to listen to in a club, as in your own living room.

Gonna Drown is a solitary man's lament on his troubles with heart wrenching lyrics. *Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues* is a colourful rendition of the Bob Dylan song, layered with accordion and live nuanced inexactness.

Whipping Post, a Gregg Allman cover, is filled with frisky acoustic guitar strumming and infectious riffs, blended with the kind of contemplative lovesick verses you'd hear on the car radio while cruising an open rural highway.

Topping off the recording is *High Lonesome Sound*, a hummable folksy finger-popping ditty, reminiscent of pop singer John Cougar Mellencamp's work from the 80s.

Honing his lyrical chops in the Montreal poetry scene before moving to Toronto in 1987, Zacharin has published hundreds of poems, reviews, and translations internationally. He was also very active in the poetry scene while still living in Montreal, doing public readings frequently, and publishing poems, translations and reviews all over the world.

That's why his music can be appreciated on so many levels. Melodically, Zacharin paints a spectrum on his palette, and lyrically, the rich detail is there to brighten the canvas.

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Orthodox boxer won't fight on Shabbat

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Havah Nagilah was in the air as Dmitriy Salita marched to the ring in Puerto Rico on a Saturday night in late June, well past sundown.

For Salita, the featured fighter in the opening bout of Latin Fury, a card in which he was the only English-speaking fighter, it was time to get to the task at hand.

The 21-year-old junior welterweight (13-0, 9 KO's) made short work of journeyman John Hoffman, scoring a third round TKO and maintaining the unblemished record he's sported since the 2000 U.S. National Under-19 Championships.

Coincidentally, that was the time Salita made the decision to stop boxing on Shabbat. Prior to the championships, when he learned one of his matches conflicted with the Sabbath, the Orthodox Jewish fighter went to his rabbi for a blessing.

The rabbi, a member of the Chabad Lubavitch movement, told Salita he would be successful in anything he does, but that he shouldn't fight on Shabbat.

Salita was able to get the bout rescheduled and he went on to win the tournament. He declined to fight in the World Championship later that year because it conflicted with Shabbat.

"I definitely think it helped me and there probably is a connection [in not losing since that time]," said Salita, whose contract with renowned boxing promoter Bob Arum's Las Vegas-based Top Rank agency stipulates that he doesn't fight on any of the 70 Jewish holy days in the year (Shabbat included). "That's one of the things required of me as a Jew, to sanctify the Sabbath."

His Web site (www.dsalita.com) puts it a little differently: "If anyone want a whupping from me, they got to wait until after sundown."

Salita sees many similarities between the sweet science and Judaism, including the need for focus, dedication and self-sacrifice.

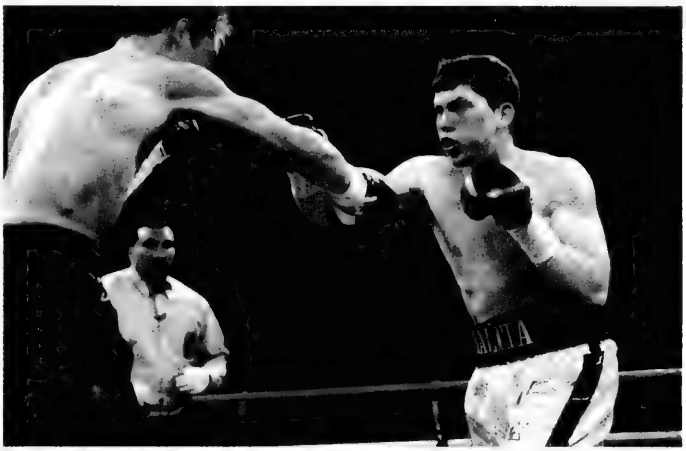
Diet is important and Salita watches what he eats – as a Jew, to make sure it's kosher, and as a boxer, to give his body energy and to make a certain weight.

His typical day starts with morning prayers, usually around 6 a.m. Afterward, he goes for a run, has breakfast and heads for the gym. After he rests up, he's back at the gym for more work, and, if the requests are there, he takes time for a few media interviews.

Salita was born in the Black Sea port of Odessa and moved with his family to Brooklyn when he was nine. Growing up in Ukraine, Salita always wanted to be a champion athlete, at first in karate. But a few years after coming to America, he visited New York's Starrett City Boxing Club, run by his current trainer Jimmy O'Pharrow, and immediately he was hooked.

He didn't fail to impress O'Pharrow: "My gym's like a league of nations," O'Pharrow said. "I seen every kind of kid come through the doors, but I ain't never seen one like this Dmitriy. The kid looks Russian, prays Jewish and fights Black."

In his early days in New York, Salita was picked on by his classmates. When he first started going to school, he was dressed in the same clothes he wore in Ukraine. His classmates made fun of him because of his wardrobe and because he didn't speak English. While he didn't take up boxing to protect himself on the street, he said it sure helped make the teasing go away in a hurry.



Dmitriy Salita (right) has signed a contract stipulating he won't fight on any of 70 Jewish holy days during the year, including Shabbat.

Being different is nothing new for Salita, who has been the only white, Jewish boxer in his gym since he took up the sport eight years ago.

"I consider it an art," he said. "That's how I create my magic when I'm in the ring. A painter uses canvas, I use the ring canvas. I think great fighters are great artists. Boxing is much more than it appears to the average eye or person who doesn't know what's involved in it."

Salita, who had a 59-5 record as an amateur and was the 2001 New York Golden Gloves 139-pound champion, is a sharp, accurate puncher with good hand speed. He throws a variety of effective punches and mixes combinations to the head and body.

His mother, Lyudmila, was originally opposed to Dmitriy's boxing, but she eventually became an enthusiastic supporter. It wasn't until she was being treated for breast cancer in 1998 at a New York hospital that he truly discovered Judaism.

Before she died in January 1999, Lyudmila shared a hospital room with a Jewish woman who persuaded her son to look into Judaism.

After her death, Dmitriy began going to synagogue each day to say Kaddish and he studied with Zalman Liberow, a Chabad rabbi. Rabbi Liberow's brother, Israel, was Salita's initial connection to Arum. Israel, who also has smichah, is Salita's advisor on everything concerning the interaction between boxing and Judaism.

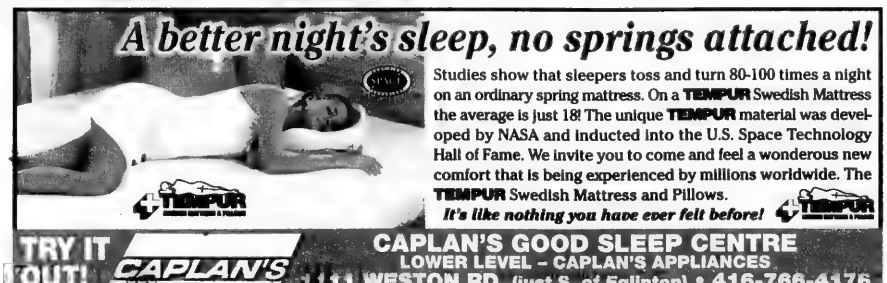
"I believe God guides people in certain directions for certain reasons and I really believe in Divine Providence," Salita said. "Whatever happened to me, happened to me for a reason. I'm just doing what I love."

In the ring, the 5-9, 144-pound Salita wears a Star of David on his trunks with his initials in it, just like Jewish fighters did early in the last century to give themselves motivation and inspiration.

He's striving to become the first Jewish champion since Mike Rossman, who briefly held the light heavyweight title in 1976-77.

"He's very good and he's improving all the time," said Arum, a Boxing Hall of Fame promoter who comes from an Orthodox Jewish background and who is a big supporter of Chabad. "He's probably 18 months away from a title shot."

FLIP OVER FOR ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD.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Recommended Reading

FICTION AND POETRY

• ***The Centaur in the Garden***, by Moacyr Scliar, University of Wisconsin Press, SC, 25.95.

When successful Canadian author Yann Martel was accused of borrowing the storyline for his award-winning work of fiction, *Life of Pi*, from another book by Scliar, the brilliant Brazilian-Jewish scribe began to attract worldwide attention. The *Centaur in the Garden*, a masterpiece, has been named one of "100 greatest works of modern Jewish literature" by the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass. Translated for the first time into English, this edition includes an interesting introduction by renowned writer Ilan Stavans.

• ***Crowd of Sounds***, by Adam Sol, Anansi, SC, $16.95.

Poet Yusef Komunyakaa had this to say about this collection: "These wonderful poems don't sound like anyone else on the scene… they journey to what matters in the world. Sol is a superb virtuoso whose range is unique. Listen to these sounds and get ready for the transcending moments, for the changes that count."

NON-FICTION

• ***Crooked Smile: One Family's Journey Toward Healing***, by Lainie Cohen, ECW Press, SC, $19.95.

"Sparing us nothing, Lainie Cohen takes her readers on a cook's tour through the trauma of her son's car accident and its devastating effects on her family. A brave chronicle, elegant in its unblinking honesty, and beautifully written," writes Joseph Skibell, author of *A Blessing on the Moon* and *The English Disease*.

Cohen will be at Israel's, 897 Eglinton Ave. W., Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 8 p.m., to read from and discuss this work. Refreshments, admission free.

• ***Complicity: Terrorism in the News***, by Elliot M. Kramer, self-published, SC, $29.99.

This shocking information about the culpability of the media in terrorism is a must-read. (The author, a journalist, also wrote *A Time for Truth: 100+ Responses to Common Misconceptions about the Middle East.*)

• ***On Cab Drivers, Shopkeepers and Strangers***, by Tzvia Ehrlich-Klein, Feldheim, HC, $15.99.

These heartwarming and true events that could only have taken place in Israel portray the profound up side of life in the Holy Land.

• ***The Miracle of the Seventh Day***, by Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, Jossey-Bass, HC, $34.50..

Subtitled "A Guide to the Spiritual Meaning, Significance and Weekly Practice of the Jewish Sabbath," this magnificent book – written by, as *Time* magazine described Rabbi Steinsaltz, a "once-in-a-millennium scholar" – gives explanations and insights into one of the most important mitzvot.

• ***This Jewish Life: Stories of Discovery, Connection and Joy***, by Debra B. Darvick, Eakin Press, SC, $29.95.

"Debra Darvick blesses us with a warm and loving portrait of contemporary Jewry in all its rich diversity," author Aryeh Lev Stollman says of this work. "From wonderful moments in the lives of numerous and varied individuals comes a magically woven whole, the story of a living, thriving, joyous people."

• ***Traditions and Celebrations for the Bat Mitzvah***, edited by Ora Wisking Elper, Urim Publications, HC, $43.50.

This large, inspiring volume includes stimulating essays by exceptional Torah scholars – men and women – on various topics related to the bat mitzvah. A very important book for those trying to capture the true meaning of this milestone and contemplating the proper way to celebrate it. A perfect bat mitzvah gift.

YOUTH

• ***The Bachelor and the Bean***, by Shelley Fowles, Frances Lincoln, HC, $26.95.

The retelling of a delightful Jewish Moroccan folktale, with wonderful, bright illustrations. For ages 3 to 7.

• ***Jerusalem of Gold: Jewish Stories of the Enchanted City***, by Howard Schwartz, Jewish Lights, HC, $31.95.

Another splendid collection of traditional Jewish folktales retold by this master storyteller. Beautifully illustrated by Neil Waldman. Winner of the National (U.S.) Jewish Book Award and the Aesop Prize of the American Folklore Society. For ages 5 to 10.

• ***The Secret of the Space Scrolls***, by Gidon Marc and ***Cholent***, by Peter Syle, Pitspopany Press, SC, $11.95.

Two hilarious space adventures featuring the fighting power of cholent. For ages 9 to 12.

The Recommended Reading list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

CAESAR COLESLAW

1 cup mayonnaise
1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
9 anchovy fillets, finely chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 large head of cabbage very thinly sliced (about 16 cups)
16 green onions, thinly sliced
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Whisk first 4 ingredients in small bowl to blend. Season dressing to taste with salt & pepper. Place cabbage & green onions in large bowl. Add dressing and toss to coat. (Can be prepared 1 day ahead. Cover and refrigerate.)

Mix cheese into coleslaw. Transfer to large shallow bowl and serve. Makes 8 servings.

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By MIRIAM PORTER

A journey in progress

Hi, I'm Miriam Porter. I am a Jewish independent woman with strong morals and beliefs. I don't believe in compromising my integrity where careers, relationships or religion are concerned. I am now in my 30s, and as I journey down this path, I look forward to sharing what my peers and I have learned so far.

I won't pretend to have all the answers in this column, but I do promise to raise a lot of questions. I have the knowledge of my 20s behind me and the unknown future of my 40s in front of me.

As a 30-something female, I am faced with various societal pressures and cultural expectations. When confronting them, it's important to keep things in perspective and do what you feel is right, regardless of whether you are Reform, Conservative or Orthodox.

I grew up in a Conservative home in North York. I remember when I was younger being told by adults that by my 30s, I was supposed to "have it all figured out." I innocently believed them. But now when someone says this to me, I laugh (sometimes to myself, sometimes out loud, and sometimes just to cover up a nervous cough).

I happily accept where I am in my life today, and I try not to compare myself to others. As the famous saying goes, the grass is always greener, or more beautiful, or luckier, or happier, on the other side. (Or so we foolishly think.)

The truth is, we can't look at what other people have and judge whether it's better, easier or more satisfying. I learned this lesson gradually during four years living and working in Los Angeles as an actor, and later producing my own television series here in Canada.

My personal experiences have taught me to have faith and believe that things usually happen for reasons, whether we know what they are at the time or come to understand them years later. I have used this faith and applied it to my personal and professional life.

It is through faith and the guidance of friends and rabbis that I have found a deeper connection to Judaism. This connection has affected many things in my life, especially how I feel about dating, marriage, kids, family, careers, Israel, friends, spirituality and love. I will be covering these topics in future columns. I welcome your comments at miriam@jtvproductions.net.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

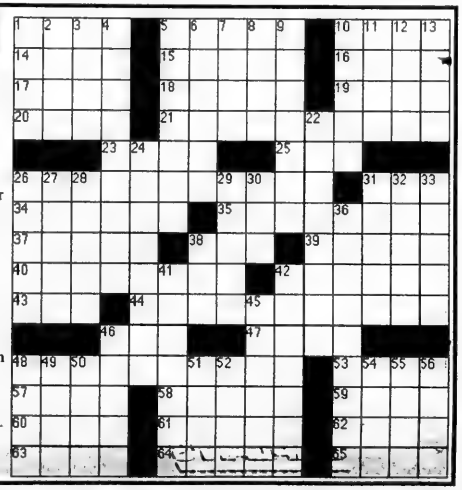
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 38.)

Way Up on the Maps
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann/ Legacy Crosswords

Across
1. Cardinals' Musial
5. No ___ of life found in the ill-fated Franklin expedition
10. Goldstar or Maccabee
14. Exclamation of shock, sympathy
15. Can be sold again, for short
16. -re State, i.e., New York
17. Polar ____
18. Humong. or gigant.
19. In Canada, this easily changes to sleet
20. Med. sized sofa
21. Where Sacram. and Russian riv. are
23. FDR's successor, as the first of a line of namesakes
25. Car assistance org.
26. Aurora boreal.
31. Morns.
34. First months, in Madrid
35. More than simply rapt
37. High price or slope
38. Airport acronym
39. ____ Apple, the singer
40. Deli side
42. Negative conjunction, repeated
43. News wire serv. and namesakes
44. Popular tv series on a fictional Alaskan commun.
46. Mister turkey
47. Cockney's pronunciation of Viscount Templewood's name?
48. Storm out of the Pacific, with indefinite article
53. Need
57. ___-gravure
58. First of Caesar's three claims, in his report to the Senate
59. Blackthorn, much loved in gin
60. Harvest yield
61. Appelations
62. Awesome periods
63. Idea at the Sorbonne
64. ___ man
65. The Bee ___

Down
1. Tearful cries
2. " ... 'tis of ____"
3. Med. school course
4. Larch or spruce, generically (2 wds.)
5. Thirties, in French
6. Impressionist Auguste
7. David's 10-string harp (Heb.)
8. Two-wheeled light wagon
9. Caps made from stately tree?
10. Yogi
11. Cipator with this start freed slaves
12. Homeric
13. Hebrew girl's name meaning joy
22. Tributary designation, referring to a compass point
24. Two-word phrase: Pick out the best white stuff, or select a place to ski
26. Fe starter yields instant coffee
27. North Pole's ____ of the world
28. Parts of a feature film
29. Supermarket scale readout term
30. Display in lap-tops, watches, etc.
31. What one does on Yom Kippur
32. Camera brand
33. Bluff or ridge face
36. Producer's memo instruct. for showing next episode?
38. Otic organ
41. Chinese menu items
42. Most proximate
45. Garden workers? (2 words)
46. Chanting system learned for bar and bat-mitzvah
48. ___-form, the shape of an arch
49. Gare du___, Paris train station
50. Nebraska Native American tribe
51. Jazz singing style
52. Tex. university
54. Medicinal plant
55. " ... and then there were ___"
56. Hardy's heroine



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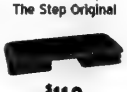

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KITCHENER	935 Frederick St.	519-744-1133	ST. CATHARINES	475 Welland Ave.	905-688-7111
LONDON	555 Wellington Rd. S.	519-686-9738	THORNHILL	55 Glen Cameron Rd.	905-731-3339
MARKHAM	8561 McCowan Rd.	905-201-9899	WINDSOR	6000 Tecumseh Rd. E.	519-944-1744
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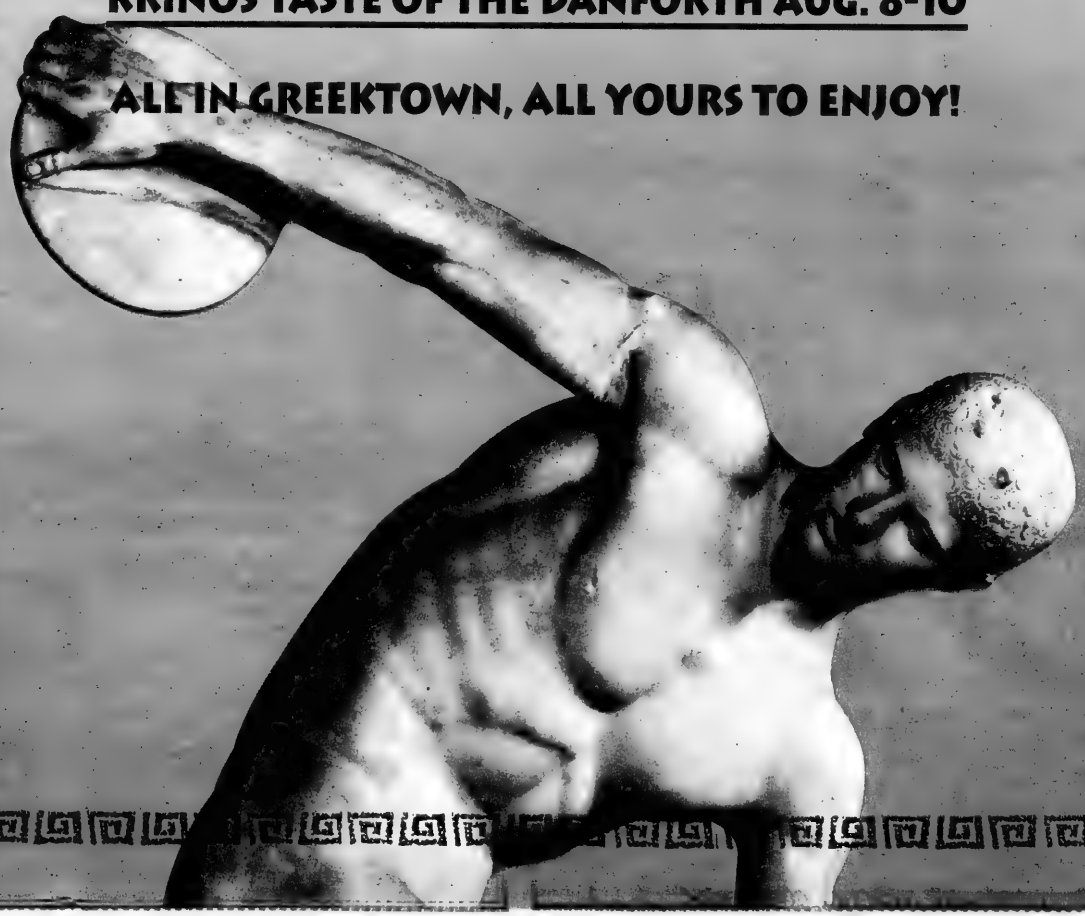

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

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10th Anniversary Krinos Taste of the Danforth celebrates the Greek Spirit

The 2003 Krinos Taste of the Danforth, being held August 8 —10, promises to be Toronto's best yet, with over a million people expected. Events kick off Friday, August 8 at 6 p.m. with over 100 restaurants featuring Greek and international cuisine, three stages featuring music ranging from Melanie Doane to Pavlo — which will continue throughout the weekend — and such favourite events as the BBI Bell Mobility/Express Vu/Audiovox Waiter Race, starting Saturday at 1:30 p.m. just west of Logan Avenue on the Danforth.

Favourite Toronto media personalities will stage their own waiter race, followed by the expert professionals from various Danforth restaurants. The VISA Fashion Show will also be a hit, highlighting Olympic athletes for the first time. The Krinos Taste of the Danforth will also feature performances by the Toronto Police Service Winged Wheels motorcycle team. Watch the new big screen TV sponsored by the Government of Greece and the World Council of Hellenes Abroad — SAE The Business Network. Enjoy the popular beverage gardens, sponsored by Labatt's. Metaxa and Mythos, makers of Greek brandy and beer respectively, will host an authentic Hellenic Garden just west of Chester.

Thanks to the participation by RBC Financial Group and VISA Canada, Official sponsors of the Canadian Olympic Committee, the Krinos Taste of the Danforth will transform Danforth Avenue east of Pape into an interactive sporting area with families able to try their hand at various summer games, sports, and appearances by Canadian Olympic athletes. Drop by the Toronto East General Hospital tent and purchase a lottery ticket to win a Honda Civic compliments of Toronto Honda or a trip to Greece compliments of World of Vacations and Air Transat.

"Toronto's GreekTown is perhaps more supportive of the Olympic Games than any other community in Canada, given our heritage," says GreekTown BIA Chair Sue Zindros. "We're thrilled to help Athens celebrate the forthcoming summer games, and tip our toque to Vancouver-Whistler for their successful 2010 Winter Games bid. We look forward to helping Canada's athletes compete at both sets of games."

"We're proud to have sponsored the Krinos Taste of the Danforth for 10 successful years," says Krinos Foods General Manager Alex Alexakis. "This is truly one of Toronto's greatest jewels, and the pride of Greek communities not just here in Canada but around the globe."

For more information on the 10th Anniversary Krinos Taste of the Danforth, visit www.tasteofthedanforth.com, or watch for the Krinos Taste of the Danforth supplement appearing in the August 2nd, 2003 *National Post*.

Danforth's telecommunications leader makes fabulous offer

Now entering its 10th year, **BBI Telecommunications** has established a reputation for expertise and reliability not only in GreekTown, but city-wide. During the month of August, in conjunction with the Taste Of The Danforth, of which it is a founding sponsor, BBI is featuring a fabulous digital phone and satellite system offer (details below).

BBI is a complete mobile solutions and telecommunications centre providing telecommunications products and services, data and mobile office solutions development. Savvy consumers and corporations alike seek out BBI for their knowledge and reliability.

Owner Sotiris Buseas and his staff are thoroughly versed in the products they sell, and will take the time to explain all the features of the device you purchase. Says Buseas, "we can help people get their messages across clearly — in English, Greek, Hebrew, or any other language."

BBI is located at 455 Danforth Avenue, in the heart of GreekTown, and can be reached at 416-465-4342, or on the web at www.bbitel.com.

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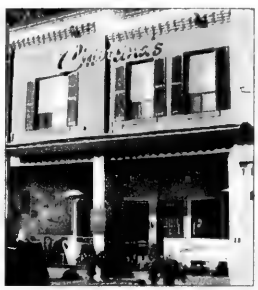
† Offer only available on-site at the Taste Of The Danforth on August 8, 9, 10, 2003, or at the dealer listed, between August 11-31, 2003 with special coupon. (1) Applicable to new activations on a 24-month term on a $25/month or higher postpaid rate plan. (2) The $100 programming credit applicable on select programming packs. Customer must maintain service for a minimum of 12 months otherwise a $70 deactivation fee will apply. Only one programming credit per account per household. Products may not be exactly as shown and while supplies last. Offer subject to change and/or extension. Not combinable with any other offer. See dealer for complete details.

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Christina's crown jewel of Danforth

For truly authentic, upscale Greek cuisine, live entertainment and star quality, no restaurant shines quite as brightly as the effervescent Christina's. Outside, its golden frontage sports elegant wrought-iron signage, and its year-round patio is THE spot to eat, greet, see and be seen — an epicentre of Danforth activity. Inside, earth tones, buttercup yellow and turquoise form a soothing backdrop for historical Greek etchings.



Christina's
On The Danforth
492 Danforth at Logan
416-463-4418
www.christinas.info

Christina's is ideally suited for private functions such as Bar Mitzvah parties. Indoors, a cozy, slightly elevated dining area at rear provides intimacy; outdoors, the patio reigns supreme for open-air celebrations.

If you've been to Greece, you'll recognize the distinctive differences in Christina's menu. In addition to wonderful mainstream Greek fare, you'll find specialties such as Kolokithokeftedes — minced, mildly spiced zucchini patties with potato, onion and parsley, gently pan-fried to golden crispness, an exquisite complement to any meal. THIS is GreekTown at its finest. The assorted dip platters (Pikilia Mezedakia, cold; Christina's Pikilia, hot & cold) are both teeming and delicious. The Seafood Souvlaki features large, marinated chunks of calamari, shrimps and scallops, grilled to perfection. The Greek Island Seafood Soup is heartwarmingly flavourful.

Fresh fish and seafood lovers will be thrilled with the whole grilled red snapper and fresh whole sea bass. There's even a seafood souvlaki! Traditional items also prove gratifying. The leg of lamb, succulently stuffed with spinach, sautéed onion, pepper and fresh herbs, is noteworthy, as is the moussaka, both traditional and vegetarian.

The portions are always generous, the prices reasonable, the Greek wine selection vast.

Live entertainment on weekends includes belly dancing and a two-piece (bouzouki and guitar) Greek band playing a blend of old and modern Greek tunes. There's nothing like a rendering of *Never On Sunday* or *Zorba The Greek* to tug at your heartstrings and whet your Greek appetite. On Wednesday nights there's live jazz, and, as part of an ongoing tradition, Christina's is open late daily to accommodate the theatre and entertainment crowd.

Christina's also does a brisk business catering to special events. Enjoyed in or out, the GreekTown experience doesn't come any better.

Sharing the taste of Greece at Mezes

Sharing the taste of Greece with its customers, and accordingly celebrating family and culture, is the definition of Mezes' appeal. Consistency, quality, and freshness have been the anchors of its success.

For years Mezes has been enticing patrons to choose from a markedly extensive menu of its namesake: small, appetizer-sized portions of deliciousness meant to be ordered in multitudes and collectively enjoyed by the table. In fact, this communal style of dining, which is as authentically Greek as the gastronomy, serves to uniquely heighten the experience at Mezes.

"It makes for a convivial meal," says Mezes proprietor Sue Zindros. "It stimulates conversation, sharing good feelings as well as food, and it encourages people to try new things."

Mezes
AUTHENTIC GREEK CUISINE
456 DANFORTH AVENUE
416-778-5150
WWW.MEZES.CA

Hungry diners, in Sue's experience, tend to order familiar things, or "comfort food". Mezes encourages diners to blend the familiar with the new. The fact that everything at Mezes is made fresh from scratch, with the finest natural ingredients, is added incentive to experiment.

Seafood abounds on the Mezes bill of fare. Certainly try the tender grilled octopus, or the shrimp prepared one of three ways: broiled and crusted with garlic; surrounded by fresh vegetables and splashed with lemon; or baked with feta in a tomato sauce. The fish, broiled whole and drizzled with the best olive oil, is embellished only by the promotion of its own natural flavour. *Dolmades* — grape vine leaves embracing a delicate mixture of rice, ground beef, and dill — remain one of the most popular selections. The tender lamb chops, ordered by the piece or as an entrée, have inspired quite a following of their own. Vegetarians will delight in a vast number of menu items, among them the *Gigantes* — lima beans slow cooked with garden vegetables and fresh herbs in a tomato base.

For the summer, Mezes has a covered, luxuriously curtained, waterproof pavilion that extends the warm, candlelit setting of the indoors right out into the street. The attention to detail at Mezes — from the service to the cookery to the creation of memories — is truly what makes every day, and every meal, a celebration.

Going home . . . to Kalyvia

In a culinary reverse twist of sorts, dining out at **Kalyvia** means going home.

Mike and Peter Tsafatinos, who hail from the Greek town of Kalyvia, a few miles from Sparta, have seen their efforts rewarded by an unerring reputation for authentic, "homemade" Greek cuisine at the Danforth's most approachable prices. This is no small achievement, considering that literally everything on the menu — including the appetizers and dips — is prepared from scratch fresh daily.

KALYVIA
420 DANFORTH AVE.
416 463-3333
WWW.KALYVIA.COM

Kalyvia's lofty standards for quality and freshness have earned it a four-star rating from *Toronto by Night Journal*, and a loyal clientele that has ushered Kalyvia into its second decade of success.

Under the watchful eyes of the Tsafatinos' sons Jim and Jim, and a host of other family members, each and every dish emerges from the kitchen brimming with homemade taste. As befits a "homemade" meal, portions are gargantuan — worthy of any doting mother. The combination platters of seafood and meat, priced from $26.95, offer a staggering variety of Greek specialties, yet each item is prepared with individual attention and care. The appetizers and dips are particularly zesty. Appetizers include the wonderfully decadent Mushrooms à la Kalyvia ($4.95) — sautéed in spices and brandy. Any three dips can be ordered for only $9.50; try the *Melitzanosalata* (eggplant), *Skordalia* (potato), and *Taramosalata* (red caviar). If you're partial to *Spanakopitakia* (spinach pies), you'll be able to taste the Kalyvia difference.

The peach-toned walls are adorned by Greek murals and original art. The ceramic-tiled dining room fronts a smaller, more intimate elevated dining area at rear with strip oak flooring. But it's on the inviting patio where the fun really starts; consider it your "front porch".

A family atmosphere prevails, with a general air of congeniality and an abundance of kids' selections on the menu.

Kalyvia's homemade goodness can be enjoyed on the premises, or in the privacy of your home or office. Large enough for substantial gatherings, but configured for intimacy, Kalyvia is ideal for birthday parties, Bar Mitzvah parties, and other special events.

Kalyvia is one of a very few places in Toronto where you can still enjoy the tastes and trappings of home in a family restaurant environment. It has "Mom" written all over it.

Every meal a special occasion at The Palace

At The Palace, every meal is a special occasion. From the moment you enter, you're treated like royalty.

The Palace's menu reveals a selection of royal fare unmatched on the Danforth. The appetizers alone provide more choice than some entire menus, and they stand alone in terms of freshness, preparation and authenticity.

THE PALACE RESTAURANT
722 Pape Avenue at Danforth
416-462-1166
VISIT US DURING THE TASTE OF THE DANFORTH AUG. 8-10

Among the hot appetizers, the Hot Mezze Platter (Kalamari, Grilled Octopus, Loukaniko, and Bifteki) is a meal in itself; among the cold, try the Cold Mezze Platter (Tzatziki, Taramosalata, Melitzanosalata, Kalamata Olives and pickled beets with pita).

If you can ever tear yourself away from the appetizers, the Avgolemono soup, a chicken & rice broth finished with gently whipped egg & lemon juice, is delicately prepared, the Greek salad crisp and lavishly portioned.

Rack of lamb and moussaka are two prized specialties of the house; you'll be hard-pressed to find their equal. The Lamb Kleftiko also deserves special mention; the combination of lamb, feta cheese, sweet bell peppers, onions and mushrooms is simply divine inside its phyllo pastry envelope.

The Palace is also highly reputed for its fresh fish; try the Grilled Swordfish Steak with lemon and herbs, the Whole Broiled Sea Bass, or the Atlantic Salmon Steak. Whatever your preference, you'll find it here, prepared to the absolute maximum of its flavour.

As befits a Palace, there's a private Party room for up to 100 people. Located on the upper level, it's ideal for birthday parties, Bar/Bat Mitzvah parties, or any event requiring the kind of ambience a banquet hall simply can't provide.

The management and staff go to great lengths to ensure your comfort and satisfaction. A visit to this culinary kingdom is pure pleasure; nobody does Greek like The Palace.

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Myth, or reality? You decide.

So many superlatives, from so many sources. Is Myth too good to be true?

Thankfully, the qualities that drew an outpouring of rave reviews on Myth's opening in 1994 are still in evidence today. For example:

- "The most distinctive new restaurant on Toronto's Danforth strip" (Adele Weder);
- "Myth sets a new standard on the Danforth by which everything else will be measured" (Sara Waxman);
- "...heaven for vegetarians, both in terms of choice and finesse ... fragrance and flavour to die for." (*Vitality*)

myth

417 Danforth Ave.
416.461.8383
www.myth.to

Today's Myth is actually a restored theatre with theatrical mystique intact, complete with a loft-style mezzanine that hosts some of Toronto's most upscale private parties. Architecturally, it's a glorious fusion of Greek, Far Eastern and Italian motifs, outrageously hurled together in a rich palette of gold, black, copper, maroon, and pewter. Improbable on paper, it works spectacularly well in person. With palatially high ceilings and enthralling sightlines, Myth is fronted by gigantic, articulated glass garage doors that unfurl to accommodate the Danforth's most lively patio.

Myth has achieved ultrahip status while maintaining a firm grip on the warm hospitality and consistently high quality that are the underpinnings of any fine restaurant.

Executive Chef Ken Brudner's menu is Mediterranean, but like the decor, it melds influences from further afield. One example: the Grilled Moroccan Half Chicken with braised eggplant, dried fruit & nut ragout and herbed couscous. Eclectic vegetarian offerings include Imam Biyaldi (currants, pine nuts & saffron pilaf stuffed in purple eggplant with melted onions & tomato). Among the pastas, try the Rabbit Stifado Mantia: oven-baked pasta purses with aromatic spices, mavrodaphne jus & pearl onions. For more mainstream tastes, the grilled Black Angus Striploin Steak is absolutely scintillating.

Bar Mitzvah parties

Its size and cutting-edge chic have made Myth a prime destination for Bar Mitzvah parties and other catered private events. If you haven't yet had the pleasure of this Myth-ological dining experience, one visit will corroborate everything you've heard and read about it. That's Myth — *and* reality.

Fair trade crafts at Ten Thousand Villages

Can you really represent handicrafts of 10,000 different origins in a small, unassuming shop? Ten Thousand Villages makes a valiant and visually compelling attempt.

Featuring some of the most intriguing hand-crafted items imaginable — from a myriad of geographic destinations — this fascinating concept store carries *objets d'art* fashioned according to the fair trade credo: fair prices paid promptly to artisans who work in humane conditions. That means neither child labour nor exploitation of any kind.

In fact, Ten Thousand Villages pays an advance of up to 50% for crafts to provide artisans with operating capital.

The word "unique" has become overworked, but it really does apply here; each item is one of a kind. Striking, dishwasher-safe ceramics; an incredible variety of handwoven baskets; magnificent silk scarves; jewellery; candle holders; mobiles and other handmade toys; chess sets; scented soaps; even musical instruments, including conga drums prized by musicians city-wide. If it's hand-made and has a unique cachet, chances are Ten Thousand Villages has it. From the practical to the whimsical, from the inexpensive to the extravagant, there's a gift here with your name — or a lucky recipient's — on it.

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES.

362 Danforth Ave.
416-462-9779

2599 Yonge St.
416-932-1673

189 Lakeshore Road E.,
Oakville
905-337-2377

tenthousandvillages.com

In-store videos are available to explain how many of the items were created. Steeping yourself in a piece's history — and knowing that by purchasing it you're nurturing the artist who created it — makes the Ten Thousand Villages experience doubly gratifying.

This being the Danforth, even your taste buds are catered to, with some heavenly fair-trade Columbian coffee. The beans are fresh roasted when ordered by each store.

A non-profit corporation staffed mainly by volunteers, Ten Thousand Villages has seen its popularity soar to the tune of 180 stores across North America. The recent opening of its GreekTown location is a natural fit for the ever-expanding Danforth cultural mosaic, and further evidence of the growing popularity of the Fair Trade movement. If you have a strong sense of esthetics — and value fair play — you'll be right at home here.

Messini Authentic Gyros a GreekTown hit

Just when you think you've tasted it all in GreekTown, along comes a new culinary sensation to reset your dining parameters. Long known for Toronto's finest souvlaki, moussaka and other Greek specialties, the Danforth now welcomes **Messini Authentic Gyros** to its cavalcade of fine restaurants.

Recognized for its beautiful beaches, the city of Messini, in the southeast corner of Peloponessos, is also known for its excellent southern Greek cuisine. Following some 20 years of experience in Europe, owner Marinos Dafnas has opened Messini with the singular goal of elevating gyros preparation to the lofty level it enjoys in Greece.

MESSINI AUTHENTIC GYROS

445 DANFORTH AVE.
416-778-4861

Roasted slowly to perfection on a spit, the gyros (pronounced *yee'-ros*, from Modern Green *guros*, "turning") combines the finest marinated cuts of moist and dry meat to ensure that it retains its juiciness and tenderness throughout the cooking process, during which a consistent temperature must be maintained. Prepared fresh from scratch — no freezing, no precooking — Messini's version will make your palate sing.

Once your gyros is ordered, the meat is carefully sliced and served in a soft, fluffy pita with tzatziki, red onions, parsely, spices, and French fries (ironically, the traditionally Greek style).

Messini has further innovated by offering chicken and vegetarian gyros, allowing it to cater to a broader range of dietary preferences and palates.

According to Dafnas, each component of the gyros, including the pita it's served in, is designed to maximize the taste and enhance the flavour of the overall product. The result: a sandwich that absolutely melts in your mouth with a rich blend of flavours, the subtleties of which seem to become more distinct with each bite.

The prices are more than reasonable, with gyros dinner entrées starting from $8.95, lunch specials from $5.95. The menu also includes mainstream Greek selections, but you'll do yourself a disservice if you don't at least try the gyros.

Messini's immaculate interior flanks an open kitchen. Soothing brown and cream tones — gleaming ceramic tile floor, rich wood trim and comfortable seating — create an aura of casual dining elegance.

The beaches of Peloponessos may seem far away, but at Messini, some of southern Greece's best tradition and culture is right here for the sampling.

Sushi Delight leads in taste, value

Now entering its fourth year on the Danforth, Sushi Delight has established itself as Toronto's leader in quality, freshness, variety, and price.

A recent renovation has enhanced Sushi Delight's already bright and inviting decor, making the dining experience even more enjoyable. With a menu that's easy on the pocketbook and delightful to the palate, Sushi Delight is always busy, and their lunch special is the best value you'll find anywhere.

Sushi Delight
JAPANESE RESTAURANT
• NO MSG •

Complete meals, in a Bento box, range from $6.95 for the Vegetarian Box, which includes Tempura, to $11.95 for the Tokyo Box, which includes Sushi. Sushi Delight's Special Party Trays are a hit for large groups; priced at $29.95 for 48 pieces or $49.95 for 86 pieces, they offer tremendous variety and value. Custom catering is available, as is take out and delivery.

For a light meal or a tasty snack, four delicious Sushi Bar specials are offered: three at $6.50 and the delectable 6 pc. Sushi Pizza (a crispy Sushi Rice Base topped with Salmon, Green Onion, White Onion, Tobiko & Special Sauce) for $6.95.

You can taste the Sushi Delight difference in the freshness of the ingredients, and the entire menu is MSG-free. Good taste and good health at great prices, a cheery atmosphere, and a caring staff — what more could you ask for in a sushi restaurant?

LUNCH SPECIAL
11 am – 4 pm 7 days a week

$5.95

Choice of
CHICKEN TERIYAKI,
BBQ BEEF RIB,
SALMON TERIYAKI
or WHITE FISH CUTLET
served with Miso Soup, Salad, Rice & Fresh Fruit Dessert

DAILY SPECIAL
Special Box $9.95

- *3 pcs. Salmon Sashimi & 6 pcs. California Roll, Shrimp & Vegetable Tempura*
- *Choice of Grilled Black Codfish or BBQ Beef Ribs*

served with Soup, Salad, Rice & Fresh Fruit Dessert

SPECIAL SET DINNER Six fabulous courses to choose from, serving 2 – 6, starting at $23.95

461 Danforth Avenue 416•406•0288 Sun. – Thurs. 11 am – 11 pm Fri. & Sat. 11 am – 12 midnight

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Dramatic differences are the rule at Pan

Innovation. Creativity. Flair. Poignancy. All of these words apply in equal measure to **Pan**, where Greek / Mediterranean cuisine takes on a delightfully proprietary dimension.

PAN ON THE DANFORTH
516 Danforth Avenue
416-466-8158
Visit us at panonthedanforth.com

Cited as "one of the city's best" Greek restaurants by *Toronto Life* magazine, Pan keeps its customers coming back by delivering consistently superb quality across an ever-evolving array of dishes that are deliciously different — sometimes subtly, often dramatically — from any other versions out there.

Pan's updated menu is a case in point. While retaining signature dishes like the Char-Grilled Loin of Lamb with fig and orange glaze and the Santorini chicken due to ongoing demand, it features a number of new, absolute must-try offerings. The Pan Seared Grouper is delicacy incarnate, with its thin strip of salmon, in a white wine cream reduction wrapped around asparagus and served with new mini potatoes and cherry tomatoes.

Topping the heartiness scale, without sacrificing refinement, is a Black Angus New York striploin served with garlic mash and grilled portobello mushrooms, finished with Madagascar peppercorns in a brandy-beef reduction sauce. And just when you think you've tasted the be-all and the end-all in seafood pasta, Pan raises the bar another notch with its Linguini with shrimp, calamari, mussels and sea bass in a heavenly basil tomato sauce.

The dips — one standard by which all Greek restaurants can be measured and compared — still lead the Danforth parade in flavour and presentation.

Meeting elevated expectations isn't just a responsibility, it's fun, says owner Peter Kyriacou. "Our customers expect each meal to be better than the last; we wouldn't have it any other way." Peter, wife Maria and daughter Stella are a welcoming presence. Though Pan caters to an international clientele liberally sprinkled with movie stars and other show business personalities, this is one celebrity restaurant that always treats each customer with the same warmth and personal attention.

Recently renovated, Pan now sports a shiny new hardwood floor and a brighter, uptempo colour scheme, though the feel is still warm and artsy-vibrant. The stage is always set for a gala performance, and night in, night out, Pan rewards with an elevating dining experience.

It's Our 5th Anniversary

For the month of September

•Free gift with Purchase

•Specials •Promotions

Thank you for your Support,

Loyalty & Friendship

THE COOK'S PLACE

488 Danforth Ave. (416) 461-5211
www.thecooksplace.com

Big Carrot's commitment to organics & service repaid by customer loyalty

How do you remain the leader in an increasingly crowded field? By stocking your shelves with products that are as good for the environment as they are for your customers, and by providing a level of expertise and personal service unmatched in the industry. From humble beginnings in 1983, **The Big Carrot** has grown into metropolitan Toronto's largest Canadian-owned purveyor of products for healthy living.

Organic, GMO-free, Kosher products

Run as a worker owned co-op since its opening, The Big Carrot caters to a loyal clientele that embraces both its ethos and its products: minimally processed, organically grown, cruelty free, environmentally safe and, increasingly, GMO-free. As it happens, many of these products are also Kosher.

Anchoring the Carrot Common Mall with a laid-back, homespun atmosphere that its customers value as much as the products themselves, The Big Carrot is really three stores in one: a health food store and market, a wholistic dispensary, and an organic juice, coffee and sandwich bar.

Health-conscious customers seek out The Big Carrot for its extensive organic fruit and vegetable department (over 100 varieties at peak season) and its unmatched selection of organic bulk foods, dairy products, frozen foods, and packaged goods. Its extensive body care department boasts Canada's widest selection of personal care products for the entire family, including baby.

While most health food stores carry a few brands of a particular item, The Big Carrot often has half a dozen or more, and its well-versed staff is more than happy to help you decide which products will suit your dietary needs and your palate. If it's wheat-free — if it's dairy-free — if it's simply *good for you*, The Big Carrot has it.

For natural and organic pastas, breads, buns, bagels, flatbreads, cookies, muffins, and other wholesome *nosherie*, no other store — or bakery, for that matter — even comes close. There are literally dozens of choices here, many of them wheat-free, dairy-free, Kosher — or a combination thereof. The Big Carrot has by far Toronto's largest selection of soy milks and other non-dairy beverages, both fresh and tetra pack.

Among many others, the Kosher products include Crofters Organic Premium Fruit Spreads from Ontario; tomato products from Utopia, also Ontario-grown; Imagine Foods Tetra Pack Dairy-Free Soups (the ultimate in convenience); Neil's Prepared Soups; Nature's Path Organic Cereals; Organic Meadow Yogurts & Pressed Cheese; Cold Mountain Miso; Jersey Farm Non-Dairy Soy Yogurt; cookies from Organica; Soy Delicious Non-Dairy Frozen Desserts; selected products from Eden Foods; and an immense variety of chips and other snack foods. For babies and toddlers, Stonyfield Farm YoBaby Yogurt, in 6 x 4 oz. packs, is both organic and Kosher.

"Searching for Nature's Finest"
348 Danforth Ave.
416-466-2129
www.thebigcarrot.ca

M-W 9:30–8 **Sat. 9–7**
Th & F 9:30–9 **Sun. 11–6**

Wholistic Dispensary
416-466-8432

The Big Carrot carries a tremendous variety of healthy desserts and sweets. Tropical Source Kosher chocolate bars, made in Israel, are available in several delicious flavours. Try the Toasted Almond! Country Choice Sandwich Creme Cookies and Ginger Snaps, Pavich Farms packaged dates, raisins and pitted prunes, and Cocoa Camino Fair Trade Cocoa mixes are both organic and Kosher.

Sunflower Kitchen dips, pesto and soups are popular mainstays, as are Bob's Red Mill packaged grains, cereals and baking goods; the Big Carrot stocks both in abundance.

The Deli counter offers more than 50 mouthwatering selections, both hot and cold. From the Organic Lentil Daal to the Organic Couscous Salad, every item is a taste and visual treat. It also offers a selection of sinfully delicious desserts *without the sin*, since they're free of refined ingredients.

The Big Carrot's Wholistic Dispensary, located across the courtyard, constitutes a store in its own right. Among other Kosher products, it carries Omega Flax Seed Oil and selected Solgar Supplements.

Of Toronto's growing number of juice bars, The Big Carrot's is the only one that's 100% organic, giving you, in a quick pit stop, the optimum high-octane fuel. There are over 50 choices of juices, blender drinks, nutritional boosts,

Toronto's only 100% organic juice bar

shakes, and fair-trade organic coffees, as well as sandwiches and other treats. Popular blender drinks include Zen Berry (banana, blueberries, orange, vitamin C crystals, bee pollen, flaxseed oil, and protein powder) and the Energy Elevator (carrot, spinach, raspberry, Ginseng). This isn't just juice, it's a meal replacement.

Among the sandwiches, try the Grilled Tempeh, lettuce, tomato, red onion & honey mustard mayo. Fresh, delicious and wholesome — just as Nature intended.

For a summer treat, enjoy Mapleton's organic ice cream, as well as Cool Hemp, a Kosher, organic non-dairy dessert available in a cup or wholesome organic waffle cone.

Through its continuing expansion, The Big Carrot has retained the humility and friendliness of its early years. This is a store that's down to earth in every possible sense, and a real pleasure to visit. If you want the word "stress" to disappear from your vocabulary — at least temporarily — shop here.

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Kristian: high style, personal service

A wealth of hairstyling expertise, prestigious industry awards and a down-to-earth approach add up to **Kristian Haute Coiffure** on the Danforth.

Nestled comfortably among the boutiques and shops west of the Carrot Common, Kristian offers a relaxed environment for personal beautification. From the elliptical signage to the peaches-and-cream decor, an air of softness and gentleness prevails.

The mother-and-son team of Mary and Kristian Petrou have a combined 50 years of experience in cutting, styling, and colouring. Now in their tenth year at 236 Danforth Avenue, they cater to a loyal and discerning clientele wanting to look and feel their very best.

Kristian's avant-garde approach to hairstyling has garnered three prestigious International Beauty Show awards, while Mary has been a finalist for the l'Oreal Colour Trophy. Over and above the awards, however, the biggest testimony to the salon's success is that it's always busy.

kristian haute coiffure

236 DANFORTH AVE.
416-466-8800

Between scheduled appointments and walk-in trade, the activity level is always high; a reputation for downtown styling at uptown prices — and an easygoing attitude — will do that for you.

Weddings and other special occasions comprise a large part of Kristian's business. Brides-to-be usually book their appointment six months in advance, with a trial styling scheduled two months prior to the wedding to "dress rehearse" the look you envision.

Kristian is a full-service salon, offering esthetics, facials, manicures, pedicures, waxing, and sculpted acrylic nails, all rendered with the same commitment to excellence. Only the finest hair and beauty products are used, including L'Oreal Professional, all-natural Biolage by Matrix, Rusk, and Curly Hair Solutions.

The Danforth is all about style, and your hairstyle is the focal point of your personal appearance. At Kristian Haute Coiffure, your treasured locks, curls and tresses are in the best of hands.

Thuna Herbals' past a beacon for future

It's a delightful anachronism reminiscent of an old English apothecary shop. Fifteen hundred glass jars, each filled with a different herb or root, stacked high in orderly rows. The original creaking hardwood floor. And a proprietor who's all about knowledge and caring.

Established in 1888 (how's that for history?), this family business is now run by Evelyn Dorfman, the granddaughter of founder Dr. Max Harriman Thuna, and a staff of qualified herbalists on the original turn-of-the-century premises at 298 Danforth Avenue.

Over the years, the Thuna family has seen the use of herbal remedies — once the *de facto* method of treatment for most medical problems — lose ground to the synthetic drugs that have flooded the marketplace.

More recently, however, the pendulum has slowly but surely begun to swing back, as more and more people seek alternatives to mainstream medicine. Thuna's doesn't diagnose problems presented to them; rather, they advise customers seeking a diagnosis to obtain it from their medical practitioners. Some come with the blessing of their GP, but many are referred by naturopathic practitioners. Typically, clients come in on their own initiative.

Saul Pasen helped pioneer herbalism in Canada

THUNA HERBALS
298 Danforth Avenue
416-465-3366

Drawing on their schooling, Dorfman and staff choose from some 2,000 herbs, berries, roots, and leaves the precise combination most likely to alleviate an ailment presented to them. To cite but one example, a formula for bladder infection, or even interstitial cystitis, might include uva-ursi leaves, buchu leaves, parsley leaves, marshmallow root, corn silk, and goldenseal leaves.

Dr. Thuna and his children, including son-in-law Saul Pasen, pictured above, helped pioneer herbalism in Canada.

The current premises stand as a rich reminder of Canadian history. Even if you have only a passing interest in herbalism, you owe it to yourself to visit this Toronto landmark. And who knows — by asking a few questions, you might become further enlightened on this ancient practice.

Pantheon's popularity continues to soar

Of all the restaurants in GreekTown, Pantheon's decor is perhaps the most inviting. The creamy white tile floor etched with gold is soothing, yet refined; the walls, alive with colourful murals, are capped with finely etched wooden trim; the tables, bedecked with crisp linens in white and gold, are flanked by real wooden chairs.

Last summer, Pantheon doubled in size while retaining its charm, intimacy and — most important — its culinary excellence. The "west wing", with rust-coloured tile and working fireplace, gave Pantheon's growing clientele much more of it to love.

Though its mainstream Greek cuisine compares favourably with that of other Danforth restaurants, fresh fish is what keeps Pantheon's loyal following coming back in droves. Whole sea bass, striped bass, red and white snapper, orange roughy, black porgy, salmon, red mullet, sea smelts — the variety is incredible, the preparation impeccable. As one major daily noted, "Above all, small fish imported from Greece, such as anchovies and baby sardines . . . demand repeat visits. [This lovely fish] is what sets Pantheon apart from most Toronto Greek restaurants."

407 Danforth Avenue
ACROSS FROM CHESTER SUBWAY
416-778-1929
OPEN 11 AM – MIDNIGHT, 7 DAYS
www.pantheonrestaurant.com

"... a winning charm ..."

"... fresh fish, care with good products and little razzmatazz nudges Pantheon ahead of most competitors ..."

Chef Nick Paroussis — who, with partner John Troupis, is responsible for maintaining these lofty standards — clearly understands the need for delicacy and refinement when preparing fresh fish. Likewise for the fresh Ontario lamb chops, which can be enjoyed on their own or as part of a substantial mixed grill.

Mouthwatering homemade desserts provide a fitting conclusion to your meal. In addition to the traditional baklava, you'll find Pantheon's walnut cake particularly enticing, and its honey cake will no doubt give rise to endless comparisons with you-know-who's.

You'd expect to pay a premium for such superb cuisine, but Pantheon's prices are actually below average for the Danforth. When you combine this with the aforementioned ambience, you're talking exceptional value for GreekTown.

Exotic delights at Sher-E-Punjab

The soulful strains of the sitar greet you as you enter. The deep, rich earth tones of Indian slate tile — reddish brown, copper, a hint of gold — are at once exotic and peaceful. Magnificent tapestries, hand-woven in Rajastan, adorn the butternut-yellow walls.

You're not even seated yet, and already you've begun to experience the tranquility that is **Sher-E-Punjab.**

SHER-E-PUNJAB RESTAURANT
351 Danforth Avenue
(East of Chester subway)
416-465-2125

For Amar and Malkit Singh, this is more than a restaurant; it's the place where they've lovingly served Northern Indian home cooking for the past 29 years. In the process, they've not only shared wonderful flavours, but also touched everyone who'se visited with their gentle demeanor and quiet dignity.

Connoisseurs of Punjabi specialities have known about Sher-E for decades, but with its major renovation eight years ago and the growing popularity of Northern Indian cuisine, a much larger dining public has come to know and savour its diverse delights.

Widely reputed for its Butter Chicken, Chicken Tikka Masala, Pakoras and Samosas, Sher-E holds the distinction of making Toronto's finest *Naan* bread — a soft, oval loaf that's best served hot. But be forewarned: it's addictive! Hand-made on the premises, it is baked fresh virtually on demand — every 15 minutes or so, at busy times — and delivered piping hot to your table. The experience of seeing it emerge from the massive Tandoori clay oven is surpassed only by the pleasure of eating it.

This, truly, is manna from heaven.

Saag — a pureed mixture of spinach, broccoli, and rapini — is another dish prized by Sher-E's customers for its unique combination of sharp and mellow tastes. The ever-popular *Daal* (pureed lentils) and *Bartha* — barbequed eggplant with green peas — are also first-rate.

If you can put down the *Naan* bread long enough to order dessert, try the refreshing *Kulfi* (Indian ice cream). Indian Tea – strong, sweet, and mildly spiced — is a piquant complement to any meal or dessert.

Those unfamiliar with Northern Indian cuisine tend to associate it only with curry. To be sure, you'll enjoy fine curried dishes here, made from scratch with the freshest, hand-blended spices; but this is only a very small part of the culinary picture. Sher-E-Punjab completes the tableau with elegance and grace, and with the kind of personal attention, respect and warmth that's only found in a long-established family business.

Nowhere is the multicultural appeal of the Danforth better exemplified than at Sher-E-Punjab, and those who visit it are in for a richly rewarding experience.

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

Iliada Kaffeteria will make you *kvell*

It could just as well be Paris, Athens, Budapest, or Prague. But it's Greektown Toronto, and if your caffé latté's to die for, you're probably at **Iliada**.

In an expansive, high-ceilinged, uncluttered space reminiscent of the great cafés of Europe, Iliada raises beverage-making to an art form.

The ambience is relaxed, the seating ultracomfortable, the service warm and thorough. This is a landing strip for the serious coffee connoisseur. If you like your atmosphere mellow and your beverages bang-on, Iliada will fit you like a glove.

ILIADA kaffeteria / bar

550 DANFORTH AVENUE • 416.462.0334

The Greek influence is omnipresent, from the pleasing mix of melodies to the menu, where the "K" in *Kaffeteria* ubiquitously replaces the familiar "C". Thus coffee is koffee, cake is kake, and so on.

Ks aside, Peter Kazantzi and daughter Jimmi clearly know their ABCs when it comes to service and satisfaction. Whether you're here for a casual drink or a light meal, the red carpet treatment is the rule — as red as the pleasing crimson that highlights the decor.

In keeping with European tradition, all speciality beverages are made fresh from scratch with pure ingredients. That means real ice cream in the iced cappuccinos, real liqueurs in the specialty coffees, and real care and attention to detail. Snacks are fussed over as if they were complete meals. In short, this is everything a chain restaurant isn't.

Though Iliada's known best for its speciality beverages and seductive desserts, the menu also includes freshly-squeezed fruit juices (the Citrus Blast blend of orange and pink grapefruit provides welcome relief on a hot day) and a variety of salads, starters, and sandwiches. Among the latter, Pete's Gourmet Burger (with sautéed mushrooms, aged white cheddar, red onion & roasted red pepper aoli) is a house favourite. The lavish dessert menu includes crisp Belgian waffles and Iliada's special Baked Bananas with vanilla ice cream, honey and walnuts.

Open late daily, Iliada presents only one Homeric struggle: deciding which temptation to yield to first. This *kaffeteria* will make you *kvell*.

Voted Best Bagel 8 years in a row!
Ottawa Sun & Ottawa Xpress

Authentic
Montreal-style bagels, hand-rolled fresh from our wood-burning oven!

There's nothing quite like them on the Danforth, or around Toronto! We use a centuries-old European recipe to produce the tastiest bagels anywhere. Crusty on the outside, soft and chewy on the inside, Kettleman's bagels are hearth baked for a truly authentic flavour! Come in for a sandwich any time of the day, or take home fresh bagels with your favourite *shmears*. Also available at selected Costco, Loblaws stores; Daiters, Le Gourmand and Sick Kids Hospital.

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If Jane Hall be the voice of colour, sing on!

Remember the first time you saw a peacock feather, and how it thrilled you with wonder and joy? A visit to **Jane Hall The Voice of Color** arouses those same emotions.

In concert with Pittsburgh Paints, this renowned artist's signature style takes clients on a unique home decor adventure.

The stunning European-style showroom offers an exclusive home collection of artwork, custom painted and upholstered furniture, plus bedding, throws, cushions, area rugs, and 225 colors of paint. Each of six room vignettes evokes a different mood with inspired color combinations.

Jane Hall
707 Pape at Danforth
416.462.2949
www.janehallthevoiceofcolor.com

In fact, to call this a "showroom" is to somehow diminish it, for it has the aura and feel of a highly personal space. Hall and partner Ian Levack don't *tell* you how colors work, they *show* you. The visual feast — a glorious palette of mustard, fuschia, avocado, yellow gold, burnt orange, and other breathtaking hues — demonstrate a quasi-spiritual connection with color. The custom-painted fabric which upholsters Hall's chairs and spans her elegant wrought-iron screens is but one example.

After years of designing fabric and painting murals — including many for the Second Cup chain — Hall was moved to do her own paintings and custom furniture. Levack creates and designs home furnishing products on a licensing basis; among others, he designed the first Royal Doulton licensing program for home furnishings.

The store's dramatic room vignettes were created by Zerick Garner, the third member of the team, who has worked for 37 years in eclectic areas of the design and decor world.

Jane Hall is one of only a handful of North American retailers carrying the whimsical *Solo* line of upscale furniture. Created by Toronto-area craftsman Joe Salerno, these custom high-quality sofas and chairs, with their strong hues and curving lines, are a perfect complement to Hall's fearless approach to color.

You won't find any paint cans on the floor; customers order the paint, which is delivered to their homes. In-store consulting, home visits, and a contracting service are all part of the Jane Hall experience.

The buzz of excitement that's surrounded the store since its opening continues unabated. One visit explains why; your eyes will thank you.

Symphony of flavours at Diners Thai

With the recent explosion in popularity of Thai cuisine, it's no surprise that a sterling representative of this genre now resides in GreekTown.

Perhaps no other cuisine offers such a wide diversity of tastes, temperatures, nuances and subtleties. Whether chili-hot or comparatively bland, harmony is the guiding principle behind each dish. Thai cuisine is essentially a marriage of centuries-old Eastern and Western influences harmoniously combined. Culinary influences include Chinese (stir frying), Portuguese (chilies), French, and Japanese. The use of coconut oil and coconut milk, fresh herbs such as lemon grass and galaga, and aromatic spices like coriander is characteristically Thai.

The Diners Thai
395 Danforth at Chester Subway
416-466-9222
Dine In, Take Out, Delivery

Whether your tastes run to hot, sour, sweet, or any number of combinations thereof, Diners Thai satisfies them — often on the same plate.

The menu is replete with exotic gems at extremely affordable prices. Above and beyond the obligatory Pad Thai, Diners' version is exemplary — you'll find wonderful soups, salads, chicken dishes galore, and many vegetarian selections. All entrées are served with fragrant jasmine rice.

The Thai Mushroom Soup (fresh mushrooms in a spicy sour broth with lemon grass, lime juice and chili) is hot and flavourful, the Green Mango Salad (spicy green mangos marinated with ground chili, sweet sauce and peanuts) particularly zesty. Attention chicken lovers — try the Basil Chicken, redolent with fresh basil, garlic, sweet peppers and chili peppers. Also noteworthy are the Mango Chicken (stir fried with sliced mango, ginger, and garlic in sweet and sour sauce and vegetables), and the Cashew Chicken. The Garlic and Pepper Lamb — particularly apt for GreekTown — is a stirring success. Among the vegetarian dishes, the Thai style eggplant is an elegant mélange of spicy and sweet tastes.

One can never have too much harmony, either in one's life or on one's plate. Diners Thai is music to the palate.

Advertising Feature

GREEKTOWN ON THE DANFORTH

"Why are we so busy?"

And you thought Saul Korman had all the answers. As another sunny Danforth morning brightens his sixth decade as GreekTown's pre-eminent fashion retailer, Korman seems at a loss to explain why, in a tough economy, Korry's sales are at an all-time high.

"I'd like to think it's because we've always tried to do things the right way," he says. "You can use all the economic buzzwords you want, but when it comes right down to it, it's about people. If you treat them right, they'll keep coming back. And the customer is always right!"

Having the right product, says Korman, is only a small part of the equation. Korry's success with the Hugo Boss and Canali labels, as well as with the homegrown Arnold Brant, is well-known, but it's what he and his staff do with them that makes the difference. When you buy a suit at Korry's, you're not just buying a label; you're buying the 50 plus years of expertise that ensures you'll walk out the door with a perfectly-fitting garment that flatters your physique, complexion and personality.

Do the right things, and they will come

Korry's also takes great pains to educate their customers in the *value* of a garment. The price tag of a $1600 Canali suit might seem daunting, says Korman, but when you've experienced how its timeless elegance and flawless tailoring enhance your appearance and overall aura, you'll understand that it's the "finest value in the clothing industry."

The latest swing in the men's fashion pendulum has seen the re-emergence of two-button suits, with more venting, and flat-fronted and single-pleated pants. This revival of bygone elegance is further evidence that crisp, beautifully tailored garments "never go out of style. Whether you're in a social environment or a business setting, you're better off erring on the side of distinction". And, he notes, you should never underestimate the power of a compliment. "When someone tells you that you look great, it can make your day. It can literally make the difference between closing your next deal or not."

Sept. 22 golf tournament to benefit Toronto East General Hospital

"There's a reason," he continues, "why we stop and think about what to wear every morning. We care about how we look, and how we appear to other people. So if that's true, why should we feel bashful about looking our best? No one ever got a compliment for being underdressed."

At Korry's, treating people right extends far beyond the confines of 569 Danforth. Korman is actively involved in a number of charitable events, such as the Sept. 22 golf tournament he's sponsoring at Scarborough Golf and Country Club. Proceeds go to Toronto East General Hospital; Korman is a Director of the Hospital Foundation. He's also a kingpin in most GreekTown events, particularly the annual Taste Of The Danforth, which raises money on behalf of a number of charities. If Korman is enthusiastic about men's fashion, he's positively ballistic about the Taste Of The Danforth.

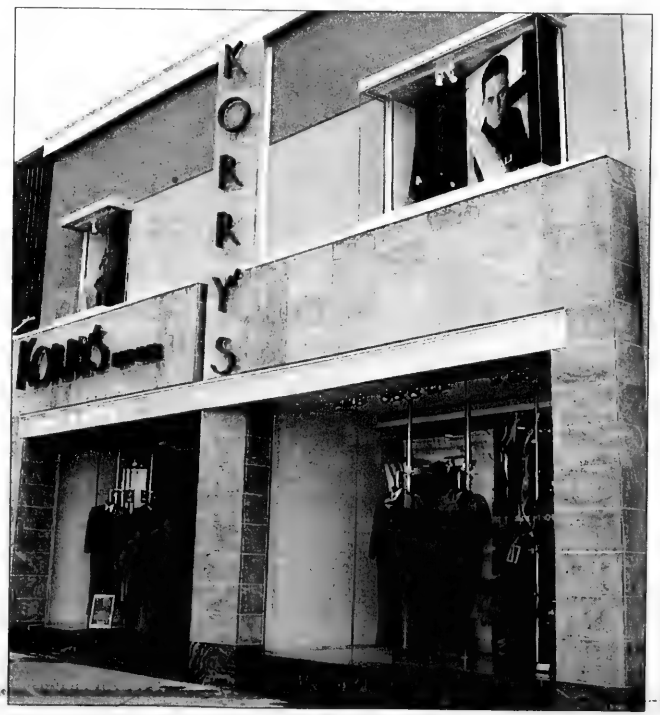
"We're talking about the largest street festival in *North America* here", he crows. "We're talking about sampling the best of a dozen different cultures, right here in GreekTown. You can't eat better and you can't eat cheaper anywhere else, anytime — and you're benefitting worthy causes to boot. What' s not to love?"

Korman's radio commercials, heard daily on a variety of local radio stations, are a natural extension of his effusive personality. He ad-libs them, live from wherever he happens to be when they air — often from his cell phone. Love him or hate him, virtually everyone who listens to radio in Toronto is all ears when his dulcet tones swathe the airwaves. They're a refreshing change from the canned commercials we all get so tired of hearing. "My radio spots are prepared fresh from scratch — just like the food in GreekTown," he winks.

"My radio commercials are prepared fresh from scratch — just like the food in Greektown"

Korman and his fellow Danforth merchants form a mutual admiration society of sorts. Many of these neighbours are lifelong friends who Korman has known from the time they immigrated from Greece. Seeing the same, familiar faces for decades has given him the largest extended family anyone could wish for, so it's not surprising that he spends so much time at 569 Danforth. "I'm always home, whether I'm here or in my "other" home."

A taste of the Danforth isn't complete without a tour of 569 Danforth Avenue. He's been called the King of the Danforth, the Duke of the Danforth, and many other monikers, but the bottom line is, Saul Korman is one *haymishe* Greek dude.



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This Week

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www.cjnews.com

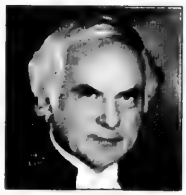
Montrealer named to Supreme Court

First Jewish appointee since Bora Laskin

Morris Fish of Montreal has become the second Jewish person named to the Supreme Court of Canada. The first was the late Bora Laskin, who stepped down as chief justice in 1984.

The appointment was widely applauded by lawyers, jurists and laypeople.

Fish, 64, a Quebec Court of Appeal justice, was appointed last Thursday by the federal Justice Department to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Charles Gonthier of Quebec.



Justice Morris Fish
[CBC file photo]

Fish's name has frequently been suggested for a seat on the highest court. He is the first Quebec anglophone named to the Supreme Court in decades.

Fish was a star criminal lawyer before being appointed directly to the Quebec Court of Appeal in 1989, and served as special counsel to the Quebec commission of inquiry into the construction industry in 1974 and to the Security Intelligence Review Committee of Canada from 1985-89.

He was a partner in the Montreal law firm of Cohen, Leithman, Kaufman, Yarosky, Yarosky & Fish and its successor firms from 1967-89.

Fish received his law degree from McGill University in 1962, and was editor-in-chief of the *McGill Daily* before the student newspaper became known for its radicalism. He is currently chair of the McGill law faculty advisory board, which assists the dean.

In addition to the Bar of Quebec, he was also a member of the Alberta and Prince Edward Island bars. He became a Queen's Counsel in 1984.

Continued on page 26

BOOSTING MEDICAL RESEARCH: Actor Christopher Reeve was the guest of the Israel Defence Forces disabled veterans organization last week at Beit Halochem Tel Aviv, where he witnessed a basketball game on wheelchairs and a performance of the dance troupe on wheelchairs, Hora on Wheels. Reeve was on a five-day trip to Israel. The former *Superman* actor delivered the message that "it is important for scientists to realize the sense of urgency, that every day counts for patients." Reeve has been paralyzed from the neck down since a 1995 horseback riding accident. Israel is a leader in the treatment of spinal injuries. *[Israel Sun photo]*

Rona Ramon

'Ilan started something unique'

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

The widow of Israel Air Force colonel Ilan Ramon, one of the seven astronauts who perished aboard NASA's Space Shuttle Columbia on Feb. 1, is determined to carry on her husband's legacy.

"He brought unity to our people and delivered to them a message of hope and peace. I will not let that stop because he's not here.

"It is unfortunate that circumstances have called for me to continue my husband's mission, but as his partner, it is up to me," said Rona Ramon, 39, in a telephone interview from her home in Houston, Tex.

Ilan Ramon, who was Israel's first astronaut, brought some hope and positive spirit to Israelis during a long, hard period, she said, "when it was easy to lose hope. [He showed] them that they are special people, and that message still needs to be emphasized.

Continued on page 26

Shabbat Nachamu: Va'etchanan
Candlelighting: 8:14
Havdallah: 9:19
Greater Toronto Area

Belgium revises controversial war crimes law — please see page 27

The News in Brief

Canada

Tamir B'nai Mitzvah

OTTAWA — Four men and four women with developmental disabilities took part recently in a group bar and bat mitzvah as part of Tamir's Judaic Outreach Program. The B'nai Mitzvah program, which was inaugurated last year, was held at Agudath Israel Synagogue.

Immigration Up

WINNIPEG — The number of Jewish Argentine families in Winnipeg tripled over the past year, jumping from 26 to 78 and bringing the total to more than 200 people. Jewish community officials expect to receive inquiries from 30 to 40 additional families in the next six months as Jews attempt to leave economically ravaged Argentina.

Canadian Jailed

OTTAWA — The government of Lebanon has jailed a Canadian man for travelling to Israel. Bruce Balfour, who was visiting Lebanon as part of the Cedars of Lebanon reforestation project in association with the Maranatha Evangelistic Association, has been held in custody since July 10. In a letter to the Canadian ambassador in Lebanon, Balfour said, "My freedom has been taken away and I have been treated horribly." Lebanon does not allow entry to travellers carrying a passport stamped by Israel.

Israel

Kidnappings Urged

JERUSALEM — An aide to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat said Palestinians should kidnap Israelis to use them as bargaining chips for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Ahmed Jbarra, whom Israel recently released from jail as a confidence-building measure, made the comments at a rally in Bethlehem. Jbarra served 28 years for planting a bomb that killed 14 people in downtown Jerusalem in 1975.

Black Hebrews

JERUSALEM — Israel has given permanent resident status to the Black Hebrew community. The decision by Interior Minister Avraham Poraz means the 2,000 Black Hebrews will be able to serve in the army. The Black Hebrews, African Americans who emigrated from the United States, believe they are descended from the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel.

World

Jews For Jesus Ad

LONDON — British Jews are demanding that a Jews for Jesus billboard be taken down. The poster in a Jewish neighbourhood of London features a group of haredi Jews at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, one of whom is wearing a Jews for Jesus T-shirt with the caption "Think for yourself." The Jewish Board of Deputies wrote to the Advertising Standards Authority that the "advertisement is clearly based on the principle that the majority of Jews are unable to 'think for themselves' – i.e., believe in Jesus. This is a highly objectionable notion."

Web Site Shut Down

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An anti-Semitic Web site that posed as a "Who's Who for Jews" has been shut down. Hoozajew.org was "little more than a cyberden for anti-Semites," the Anti-Defamation League said. The site included lists of Jews in various professions, with each section concluding Jews were over-represented in that field.

Trial Delayed

ATLANTA — A U.S. judge has delayed the trial of Eric Rudolph, a white supremacist suspected of involvement in a deadly bombing of a Birmingham abortion clinic and the 1996 Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta. The judge said both sides need more time to prepare for the case.

U.S. Poll

NEW YORK — More than 70 per cent of both U.S. Jews and Arabs back the road map peace plan, according to a new poll conducted by Americans for Peace Now and the Arab American Institute. The poll found that 95 per cent of Arab Americans back Israel's right to exist.

President Backtracks

NEW YORK — Romanian President Ion Iliescu has backed away from remarks that downplayed the Holocaust, saying he recognized the uniqueness of the Nazi campaign against the Jews. Ion's statement came two days after he told *Ha'aretz*, "the Holocaust was not unique to the Jewish population in Europe. Many others, including Poles, died in the same way." He stated later: "I merely wanted to put the Holocaust, the most tragic event in the modern history of humanity, in the larger framework of Nazi totalitarian rule, which left millions of European citizens dead. The fact that Jews were the primary target of the criminal policies of Nazi Germany and its allies or satellites is a truth which cannot be doubted."

Hope Helped European Jews

NEW YORK — Comedian Bob Hope, who died last week at age 100, volunteered in 1944 to perform at a World War II show to benefit endangered European Jews.

Fifty-nine years ago, Hope performed at a Madison Square Garden benefit for the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. The show took place as the Allies were refusing to take action to stop the mass killing of Jews in concentration camps, scholar Rafael Medoff wrote.

"This was not merely another benefit concert for a worthy cause," the director of the David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies wrote in the *Jewish Press*. "For Hope to support the controversial Emergency Committee took real political courage."

The Canadian Jewish news

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Aliyah program offers free schooling in Israel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The New York-based director of North American aliyah offices was in Toronto recently to launch a new project offering three years of high school in Israel for free.

Michael Landsberg, executive director of the Israel Aliyah Delegation, North America (www.aliyah.org), said in an interview at Toronto's Israel Aliyah Centre that the "Elite Academy" program offers air fare, free tuition and free room and board for North American teens to attend religious or secular schools in Israel, "no strings attached." Students are also matched with a foster family with whom they can spend weekends and holidays.

Given the high cost of Jewish education in Canada, Landsberg, who oversees 18 aliyah offices including two in Canada (Toronto and Montreal), said he thought this program – which is funded by the Jewish Agency and the Israeli government, and has been running for almost 10 years with European, Latin American and Australian students – would suit the needs of the Jewish community here as well. Students must pass psychological and academic tests to qualify for the program.

Even without publicity, Landsberg said, his office has fielded 30 applicants from across North America, 10 of whom are going in September.

From an aliyah standpoint, "these kids tend to bring their parents later on to stay with them in Israel," said Landsberg. "If the kids can make it, they are paving the way for their parents. If not, it's win/win for our people. The chances that they'll intermarry are slimmer, and the chances that they will one day be writing in the Jewish newspaper or be active in the Jewish federation are bigger if they go through an experience like this."

Michael Landsberg

Free university education is also offered to new olim up to age 27: three years of study towards a BA is offered to those under 25, and two years towards a Master's degree, as long as the students are 27 or under when they begin.

The university benefit is not new, said Landsberg, but it is not well known in North America.

Since Landsberg, a sabra and son of Holocaust survivors, took on his new position in January, he has been trying to reframe North American ideas about aliyah. "The whole concept of aliyah is really creating a difficulty for the Jewish people – the thought that someone has to uproot everything they have and go somewhere else forever and ever, with a moral commitment that it must work, is really frightening," he said.

"Instead of this, I think we should talk to people about what they need. Let's say they need education, or an adventure – let's offer that in Israel."

Another pilot project in Toronto is designed for professionals in about 10 different areas, including medicine, nursing, pharmacy, biology, chemistry and engineering, all of which are in demand in Israel, said Landsberg. The program includes Hebrew ulpan, language instruction specific to each profession, facilitating recognition of Canadian certification, and employment.

Despite the intifadah in Israel, aliyah from North America has increased over the past two years, said Landsberg. In 2002, 2,040 North Americans moved to Israel, an increase over the previous year's 1,600 olim.

Aliyah by Canadians increased 21.6 per cent from 2001 to 2002, said Landsberg. Seventy-four Canadians made aliyah in the first five months of this year, he added.

This year, an estimated 1,200 to 1,300 North Americans will have made aliyah by the end of July, he said.

In addition to free education initiatives, Landsberg is touting other programs that promote aliyah, such as Hebrew language study for credit at a kibbutz ulpan; internship programs in a variety of professions; and volunteering for Magen David Adom.

For Jews to make aliyah when Israel is experiencing difficult times is "the best Zionist answer we have," said Landsberg.

And if people decide they don't want to stay in Israel? "We'll just have another devoted activist later on," he said. "What are we losing?"

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Thoughtful reactions needed

From the editor's desk

Last month, *The CJN* carried an article under the headline "Sociologist questions Jewish population study." In it, York University sociologist Prof. Leo Davids raised certain questions regarding the conclusions reached by UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC) about the Jewish population of Canada from the reported data of the 2001 federal census.

The article understandably generated some resentment within the UIAFC because of certain statements that appeared to question the motives of UIAFC officials in arriving at their conclusions.

But as Prof. Davids himself emphasized in a letter to the editor (*CJN*, July 31), his statements were never intended to disparage the "excellent work by the federations" nor was he engaging in "any UIA or federation bashing."

His only purpose in publicly airing his concerns was, as he said, to explore the "scientific-philosophical problem of who shall be counted into the community on the basis of Canadian census data."

Prof. Davids would surely say his disagreement with the UIAFC was one that our ancient sages would have characterized as "*le shaim shamayim*," namely, for the sake of heaven, that is, for the sake of striving for truth.

But overlooked in their difference of opinion is the fact that interpretative, methodological and other differences of opinion are commonplace in relation to population surveys.

Calvin Goldscheider, a professor of sociology at Brown University and himself a critic of the design and organization of the National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01 released last year in the United States, offered the following perspective about all demographic studies.

Writing in the *Forward* last October, Goldscheider said: "There are and will be critics of this study, and properly so. Community studies should generate thoughtful reactions…

"The researchers undoubtedly are aware of the limitations of the study, probably as much as the outsiders who will identify the flaws. But let us not be distracted by the detractors: This study will be mined for insights about the Jewish community [in the United States] for the next decade. What is important is that the study be used for more than simply justifying and rationalizing existing Jewish communal policies."

Goldscheider says the numbers should not be ignored. But he virtually pleads with the reader and with Jewish communal leaders not to focus solely on those numbers.

"As a demographer, I want to reinforce that estimates of the total number of Jews [in the United States] are the least important part of the study's message. We shall miss the value of the study if we become fixated over the number of Jews counted this way or that way."

What, then, is the real value of such population studies? Goldscheider articulates what he believes it to be.

"Mostly we should be learning about the challenges that the Jewish community will face because of the aging population, changes in the roles of men and women, changes in Jewish education and emerging Jewish cultural alternatives to religion among Jews who are secular…

"We should not be derailed by those who are seeking [and finding] the limitations of research. All social science research is limited. Nor should we be distracted by those who only see evidence of demographic decline and erosion, who cannot take "yes" for an answer. Cautiously, and with due appreciation, we should use the results of the enormous effort to understand ourselves and meet the challenges of a voluntary community that has experienced transformations."

I venture to say there would be no difference of opinion between Prof. Davids and the UIAFC on that.

* * *

On July 3 in this space, I wrote about Jennifer and Adrienne Gould, two sisters from Ottawa, accomplished members of the Stratford Festival of Canada company of players.

They are both featured in the festival's production of *Gigi*; Jennifer plays the lead role.

Last week, I saw another Stratford play, in which Jennifer plays one of the lead roles: *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

I could hardly believe it was the same person whom I saw in *Gigi* transform herself from a young, innocent, churlish waif to a more experienced, maturing debutante.

In *Hunchback*, Gould plays the captivating, raven-haired, gypsy girl La Esmeralda. There is certainly nothing jaunty about her performance or about the play.

Adapted by Rick Whelan from the novel of the same name by the celebrated French author Victor Hugo, the play depicts the misery of life on the streets of 15th-century Paris, a city where cruelty and ignorance run in preying pairs through the night.

The play explores broad, universal themes that affect the entirety of the human condition: poverty, bigotry, hypocrisy, cowardice, courage, beauty and love. But it is dark, with terrifying scenes and harsh, visually, jarring messages.

From the very first moment she enters the stage, Gould is mesmerizing. She holds our attention with her every movement. The role calls forth a heartbreaking range of emotions from a character who is demonized, abused, brutalized, spurned and tortured.

It is an entertaining, moving and compellingly strong production.

—MBD

SeeJN

HONOURING A SOCIETIES FAMILY: The family of the late Philip Skovronek, a former president of the Chenstochover Aid Society, was recently honoured at the UJA Federation Societies Division Campaign 2004 launch. Skovronek's wife Esther and daughters, Cheryl Skovronek, Harriet Tuvel and Marilyn Goldhar, recently made a generous capital gift to the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto, in honour of Skovronek, who died in Feburary 2003. Seen, from left, are: UJA Federation Societies co-chair Michael Rosenberg, Cheryl Skovronek, Esther Skovronek, Tuvel, Goldhar and society co-chair Morris Flicht. UJA Federation Campaign 2004 will be officially launched Aug. 20 at the Royal York Hotel with keynote speaker Malcolm Hoenlein on The Rocky Road Map to Peace and the Israeli singing group, Yachad. For tickets, call 416-631-5700.

Toronto lawyer works for peace in the Mideast

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Commercial litigation lawyer Stuart Chelin is a volunteer with a difference.

Chelin, a partner in the Toronto law firm of Solomon Rothbart Goodman, is currently on a sabbatical in Israel, working for the Peres Center for Peace in Tel Aviv on a pro bono basis.

Peres Centre aims to raise socio-economic standards, foster democracy

Founded in 1996 by Shimon Peres, Israel's former prime minister and now interim leader of the Labour party, the centre is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and reinforcing peace in the Middle East.

The centre, which is headed by Uri Savir, the former director general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, achieves its objectives through a wide range of co-operative programs and projects.

The ultimate objective of the centre, whose primary focus is Israel's conflict with the Palestinians, is to create a "new Middle East" by raising socio-economic standards and fostering democracy.

"In layman's terms, the concept is simple, yet effective," said Chelin, who has been at the centre since mid-June and plans to leave in the middle of August.

"Get the people involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict to work together in order to foster goodwill and understanding in a micro manner. If you change or help enough people, one by one, hopefully peace will come, or there will be a more fertile ground for peace."

Peace is made by governments, of course. "But it is the people, living side by side, who put peace into effect," observed Chelin, who studied economics at the University of Western Ontario and earned a law degree at McGill University.

Chelin, 37, has no specific job title or function at the centre but he is involved with several fund-raising proposals.

"I am assisting with developing a plan to raise the profile of the centre in Canada, as well as dealing with some administrative and legal matters touching on Canadian activities in this region."

In this connection, he is also trying to stage an indoor soccer game in Toronto pitting a club composed of Israeli and Palestinian players against a local team consisting of politicians, actors and athletes.

Chelin, who describes his politics as right of centre in Israeli terms, said he became a vounteer because a viable and lasting peace is manifestly in Israel's interest.

"A continual effort must be made toward that objective, or it will never happen," he warned.

Stuart Chelin

He is impressed by the range of the centre's eclectic projects.

"There are agricultural programs whereby crop yields are maximized, new seeds or strains of wheat are developed and water management is taught and improved, all in an effort to ensure a sustainable level of food for the Palestinian community."

In addition, there are drama workshops and a sports program. In the past, there was a computer training program.

The centre's medical progams, through which Israeli ophthalmologists and obstetricians treat Palestinian patients, have also been useful.

Asked whether the centre's goal of a "new Middle East" is still achievable after the outbreak of the intifadah, Chelin said, "I continue to believe in that vision for two reasons. One is an overall faith in human beings. Second, and perhaps more important and certainly more utilitarian, is that giving up on that vision means giving up on hope for the future. How can anyone ever give up on the hope of peace and security for Israel?"

Nonetheless, he admits he has been plagued by moments of doubt.

"There is an element in Palestinian society which vows never to accept Israel. How long it will take to root out that element, or to push it to the extreme margins, I can't say.

"Lasting peace is possible, but it may take a number of generations or re-education and other peace-building efforts until the necessary elements for a lasting peace are in place."

The centre's greatest problem is a lack of funds.

"We can sit in a room for an hour and devise dozens of worthwhile projects and programs," said Chelin. "But without money to carry them out, they remain nothing more than mere ideas. "

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Thornhill couple adapts to new home in Israel

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

When the Zettels stepped off the jumbo jet at Ben-Gurion airport last month, Israeli soldiers quickly flocked toward the family to relieve them of their heavy luggage.

"I felt a tremendous sense of relief. We got off the plane and realized we'd done it," said Suzi Zettel on the phone from her new home in Ramat Beit Shemesh, an English-speaking community about halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Harry and Suzi Zettel left a comfortable life in Thornhill to realize their dream of making aliyah with their five children, who range in age from three months to 11 years.

They are seven of nearly 1,000 North American Jews to immigrate to Israel this summer through Nefesh B'Nefesh, an organization that gives grants based on financial need to Jews who wouldn't otherwise make aliyah.

The organization also has social workers, psychologists and headhunters who take care of more logistical matters such as enrolling children in school and finding employment. To ease the stress of starting a new life in a new country, olim are matched with "buddy" families in the same neighbourhood, who have already established themselves.

Twelve North American families greeted the Zettels upon their arrival in Ramat Beit Shemesh, which Suzi said is "much more beautiful than I remembered."

Harry said he was pleased to see a welcome home note on his front door. Their neighbours provided mattresses, bedding, and other amenities while the family waited for the shipment of their belongings to arrive.

"Everyone who's here has done this. They know what we need because they've been through it," said Suzi,

While Suzi and Harry had seen photos of their new apartment on the Internet, they didn't get a good sense of what it would actually be like. While smaller than they had imagined, Suzi said their new home is "exactly what we need. It suits us."

Rabbi Yehoshua Fass, the co-founder of Nefesh B'Nefesh, said one of the biggest concerns is how children will integrate into Israeli society.

"I think it's a bigger shock to the parents than it is for the children," he said.

Suzi and Harry say their children are adjusting well to Israeli life. They have no qualms about allowing them to play outside on their own – especially on Shabbat when there are no cars on the road.

"There's more freedom here for them," said Harry.

Rabbi Fass said another way that Nefesh B'Nefesh helps new olim integrate is by providing students with Hebrew crash courses 25 hours a week for the first four months so they can catch up with their Israeli classmates.

Not everything has gone smoothly. The Zettels ran into some problems with their oldest daughter, Daniella's schooling.

The Zettel family

Although they had enrolled her in class long before moving to Israel, they arrived to find that there was no place for her at the neighbourhood school. While disappointed and discouraged, Harry and Suzi said they are in the process of working out the mishap.

"This is the only thing that's bogged us down," said Suzi.

The new olim have also had to deal with the more banal bureaucratic aspects of immigrating to a new country. The Zettels have already set up bank accounts, applied for health insurance, and got their Israeli drivers licenses.

"[The government workers] bent over backwards to help us," said Suzi.

Because of the grant from Nefesh B'Nefesh, Harry will be able to settle his family into their new home before finding a new job.

"I've worked for the past 18 years. We've never starved. I'm sure I'll find something. It may not be the ideal job at first but like anyone, we'll find our way," said Harry who worked as a trustee in bankruptcy in Canada.

Suzi said one of the least important things she worried about before immigrating was terrorism.

"I think people are preoccupied with the safety. People tell me, 'If you want a list of something to worry about it, that doesn't even come on it,'" she said.

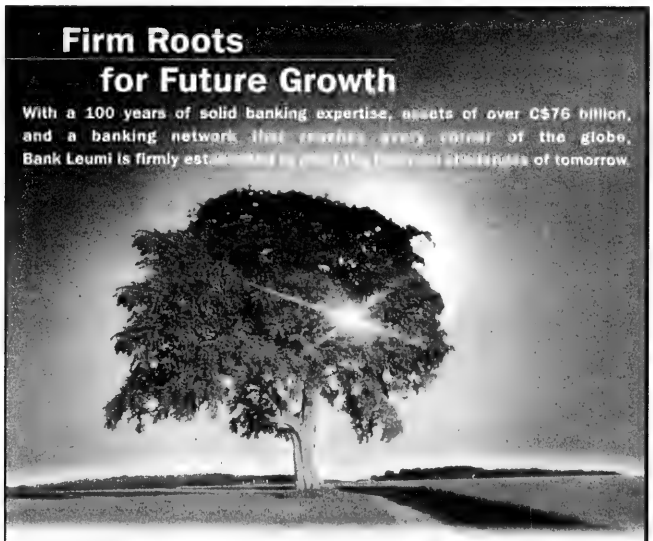
Rabbi Fass said there is a "tremendous" waiting list of North Americans wanting to make aliyah though the organization this summer.

He said in these difficult times many Diaspora Jews want to strengthen the State of Israel by moving there.

"Standing on the sidelines, it's very difficult to feel closely connected with Israel," he said.

It was a difficult decision to make, but now that the Zettels have made aliyah, they're taking it one challenge at a time.

"The fact is, the hardest is over. We're here. We've done it. Now we've got to get on with it," said Suzi.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Local presidents committed to organizations

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

It's easy to find something in common among the new presidents of three local women's service organizations.

They all joined as a way to make new friends, and they all stayed because they became passionate about the organizations' work.

Judy Zelikovitz

When Judy Zelikovitz, president of Toronto Hadassah WIZO, moved from Toronto to Sudbury – where she lived until 1997– she was given a free membership to the organization as a way of welcoming her to the community.

"Within a small Jewish community, it is important to be involved and active. Whereas in Toronto you can be Jewish by osmosis, in a small town you have to create an identity," says Zelikovitz, whose two-year term began last month.

"We are blessed here with new chapters forming all the time and with having a membership of about 3,000 women. The challenge, however, is that everyone is busy and they have to make an extra effort to remain involved."

The strength of the organization is in its grassroots members, she says. "They understand that conditions in Israel are grave and that there are over half a million children living below the poverty line.

"When we discuss bleak realities, people are willing to give their time to help."

Members can gain new leadership skills through a new Hadassah-WIZO program that will teach women the necessary skills to take on increasingly responsible roles within the organization, she says. "I am proud that the organization has shown faith in my own leadership skills."

During her term, she would like to see membership expand and donations increase, and to that end she asks that friends of Hadassah remember the organization with a gift in their estate. Money goes to support the organization's many projects in Israel, including daycare centres, technological high schools and services for women and children.

Marcie Weinman

A major fundraiser is the annual Hadassah Bazaar, set this year for Oct. 29 at the Canadian National Exhibition's Better Living Centre. "As soon as one bazaar is done, we start planning for the next," she says.

Marcie Weinman, president, National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, is a lawyer who joined the organization about nine years ago during a year off work.

"I organized a panel about menopause, and then I got involved on the executive. I haven't looked back."

She considers her two-year term as president a full-time job, she says.

"I oversee all of council's activities and determine the direction we want the organization to take. We see what needs there are in the community and we try to meet them."

Among the projects she has planned are Jewish genetic awareness education, a program for women coming out of shelters, and programs about mental health issues.

In an attempt to broaden its membership, Weinman says, the organization has started a group for 15- and 16-year-old girls. "We would like them to get involved in council and discover the importance of community service work. Although older members are invaluable, we can always use a young voice."

Rhona Ash

Not only are these teens helping out, she says, they are gaining tremendous skills they can take into the business world.

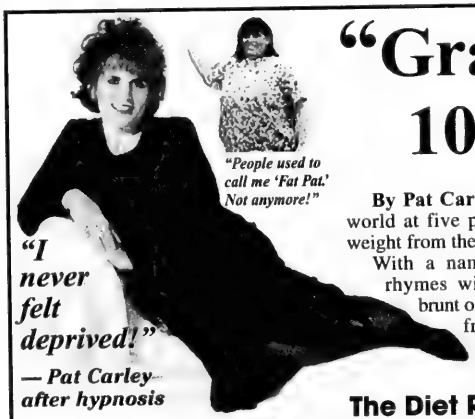
Rhona Ash, president of Jewish Women International Toronto Council, says the goal of her one-year term is to energize the organization by bringing in innovative programs and events.

Ash, the assistant to the principal of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), realizes the time constraints women are under and says there are ways to remain involved if they find it difficult to come out on a regular basis.

"They can help knit for our Mountain of Mittens project, collect socks to be distributed to the homeless, or sell tickets to various events. I want to make it easy for women to join, and let them know that anything they have to offer is valuable."

Along with her three vice-presidents, Ash says she plans to attend individual chapter programs to meet members and let them know the executive is committed to the organization.

"Grandmother reveals secret to 105 lb. weight loss success"



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Ending terror not on PA's agenda

Personal relations between U.S. President George W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon are warm and collegial. That was evident last week in Washington as the two leaders met to discuss the American-initiated road map for peace between Israel and the Palestine Authority (PA). But there are disquieting signs of renewed trouble ahead for Israel for which the positive personal relationship between the two men will be no breakwater.

Evidence suggests that Israel will soon be engulfed by new waves of violence and terror.

Israel's Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz met with PA Minister for Security Affairs Mohammed Dahlan last week to try to reach agreement on enhanced mutual security arrangements. The meeting ended without agreement, but with a promise to meet again.

According to reports in *Ha'aretz*, "Mofaz demanded that the PA take action against the terrorist infrastructure" as required under the road map agreement that PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas signed not two months ago.

Some media reports suggested that Mofaz called on Dahlan to stop production of Qassem surface missiles whose range was being extended to enable them to reach oil installations in Ashkelon. Mofaz reportedly also asked Dahlan to stop the arms smuggling from Egypt through tunnels in Rafah that had been stepped up since the signing of the ceasefire.

Dahlan refused Mofaz' requests.

Indeed he refused to commit to fulfilling any of his government's promises to disarm the terrorist organizations. What's worse, he disavowed it.

"The terror infrastructure is an Israeli concept that is unacceptable to us," Dahlan told Israeli reporters. "We will not arrest activists and we will not confront them as long as the ceasefire is intact."

Dahlan thereby effectively admitted that the so-called ceasefire is merely tactical, a reorganizational respite for the terrorist forces he is either incapable of or unwilling to confront. His admission followed by a week a similar declaration by Abbas that "cracking down on Hamas, Jihad and the Palestinian organizations was not an option at all."

Why do western governments and the media not call the PA leadership to account for their blatant duplicity? Why do western governments only berate and chide Israel about the fence or the release of Palestinian prisoners?

Why do they constantly allow the PA leadership to set the road map agenda when the road map obviously means nothing to them?

Mofaz and Dahlan met the day after IDF soldier Oleg Shaichat was buried. He had been kidnapped and murdered a week before. It is painfully obvious that the PA has an agenda, but ending terror and attaining true peace with Israel appears not to be on it.

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Correcting the record

Many thanks for your kind words and complimentary remarks on my work in your article, "The courage *not* to play ball" ("According to reports," *CJN*, May 8).

In the spirit of accurate journalism, I'd like to set the record straight about a couple of things. First of all, to my great shame, I don't speak Arabic at all, in contrast to what is stated in the article. As Moscow bureau chief, I do speak fluent Russian, but that did me little good in Baghdad!

Which brings me to my second point. I relied very heavily on my Iraqi producer, Majed Kadim, for much of the information I was able to broadcast about the situation in Iraq. Yes, I was followed closely and the restrictions made telling the story difficult. But Majed took the real risks to get the story out by not censoring what he heard or knew. I was aware of personal danger, but the worst I thought could happen was I would be kicked out of the country and CTV might not be allowed another reporter there. But Majed spent months in jail for assisting journalists in the past, and certainly jeopardized his life to give me a glimpse of what was really going on. He even told me he was writing reports on what we were doing for the secret police, but that he was only mentioning what restaurants we ate at!

I could tell by the way the authorities treated me that Majed was not revealing any of the forbidden things we spoke about or anything I said in my reports. It was a conspiracy to protect each other while trying to get the story told, and both of us wanted that more than anything.

At the time, I was not ever able to mention Majed's name on the air or even on the phone, at his request. But now, I am glad it can be spoken. CTV's coverage of Iraq owes everything to him, and he is the unsung hero.

Ellen Pinchuk
Reporter, CTV News
Toronto

* * *

Liberals' masquerade

Your July 17 article "12 Liberal MPs, senators urge shift in Mideast policy" highlights a geo-political masquerade planned across Canada by the Liberal party and its caucus to attract voters in ridings with a large Jewish population.

It is ironic that for several years, the Liberals never disapproved in Parliament of the United Nations anti-Israel resolutions. They never complained to Canadian cabinet ministers but accepted derogatory insults spewed at the State of Israel in various international conferences.

At other times, the well-learned and well-informed Canadian representatives chose to abstain from voting on anti-Israel resolutions rather than displease Canadian Arab voters and supporters. The politicians mentioned in the article have acted in a manner that is opposite to fair play. They never openly expressed their personal views and concerns to the media.

Now in expectation of possibly losing their seats in the next federal election, this group is eagerly suggesting new solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian problem from a Canadian perspective. They are intent on safeguarding their position.

Albert L. Stal
Toronto

* * *

Political opportunism

Regarding your report on the 12 Liberal MPs and senators pushing for a more favourable Canadian policy toward Israel, at the risk of being accused of cynicism, I would like to note that these MPs represent areas with large Jewish populations and that the next federal election is not that far away ("12 Liberal MPs, senators urge shift in Mideast policy," *CJN*, July 17). I would be somewhat more encouraged if the group included the prime minister, the deputy prime minister, the minister of foreign affairs, or for that matter, a single cabinet minister. For that matter, why not a general policy statement for the entire Liberal caucus? I am afraid the only conclusion to be drawn is that we are witnessing group political opportunism.

Bert Raphael
Chair, Canadian Lawyers and Jurists for World Jewry
Toronto

* * *

Same-sex marriages not traditional

Contrary to Adrienne Rosen's assertion (*CJN*, Letters to the Editor, July 10), there are absoutely no credible responsa permitting same-sex marriage. Not one. There couldn't be, because there are no sources in traditional Judaism to support such a position.

The prohibitions against both male and female homosexuality are explicit and are listed in the three major codes of Jewish law: Rambam, the Tur and the Shulchan Aruch (Even Ha'ezer, 20 and 24).

In the commentaries on the relevant biblical and talmudic passages upon which the Jewish law rulings are based, there are indeed references to the same-sex marriage behaviours of the nation-tribes surrounding the developing Jewish nation. But the comments are always scornful, delivered in a tone of ridicule and highly negative.

The one specific talmudic reference to same-sex marriage (Chullin 92) indicates that the early pagans observed only three of the most minimally normative behaviours expected of "civilized" human society – and disallowing same-sex marriages was one of those three.

For those who are looking for a more recent, "liberal" viewpoint, the one talmudic scholar of note produced by the Reform movement, the late Solomon Freehoff, was asked such a question and did write a responsum, and in its sources and outcome, his conclusions were exactly the same as those produced by the most haredi of authorities.

Rosen can bring her partner to the most haredi shul on the planet to pray – as long as they don't propagandize. The religious guidelines of tzniut – modesty – prevent anyone from being nosy and asking them about their private sexual practices. But she cannot negate 1,000 years of traditional responsa with trite pop sociology.

Joseph Berger
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Israel's appeasement habits

By SALLY F. ZERKER

What is it about us Jews that we have leaders who are ever so quick to appease their enemies? That's what I think Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is doing with unwarranted unilateral concessions to the Palestinians, in the context of the so-called road map peace plan, just as the late Yitzhak Rabin did with the Oslo accords.

Appeasement was and is dangerous. I thought the 1938 Munich conference and British prime minister Neville Chamberlain taught us for all time the perils of appeasement. But apparently not for our Jewish leaders.

Undoubtedly, that self-same menace was in action when Rabin, who never even asked the Palestinians to live up to their end of the Oslo agreements, consistently found excuses for their murderous acts of terror, and insisted that no matter what evil they perpetrated on the Israeli and Jewish people, their acts would not halt the "peace process." Now, Sharon is doing much the same, saying that terror doesn't end in a moment, letting the Palestinians regroup through a *hudna*, a supposed ceasefire that Muslim tradition teaches as a measure for deceiving enemies and strengthening themselves for the next round of war. Worse, he is actually releasing terrorists in response to the *hudna* when that is not even part of the road map.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has openly declared that he has no intention of disarming and dismantling Palestinian terrorist organizations, even though he signed the road map with this essential provision. Yet despite this condemnable dismissal, the Israeli cabinet has conceded to the release of hundreds of proven terrorists.

> 'Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas has openly declared that he has no intention of disarming and dismantling Palestinian terrorist organizations'

The question is, why? Why did Rabin and his leftist colleagues do what no other nation has ever done in history – that is, arm its enemies? I used to attribute this madness to the self-deception that was inseparable from leftist ideology. But I can no longer assign blame to leftist illusions, since I now see similar submissions made by the rightists under Sharon. So, what is the source of this Jewish sickness? Why is it that Israeli leaders still get weak in the knees when outside authorities come to court them?

When I asked this question of Rabbi J. Benjamin Friedberg, rabbi emeritus of Beth Tzedec Synagogue in Toronto, he suggested that such acquiescent behaviour is due to an inept quality of Jewish national leaders, that they still have the spirit of *shtetl Yiddin*. By that I take it, he means they are abnormally fearful of perceived external power, a fear that although it was realistic and justifiable in pre-statehood conditions, is exaggerated and unwarranted given Israel's current state power. The corollary of that understanding is that Israeli leaders have failed to appreciate what is appropriate exercise of state power and what is not. *Shtetl Yiddin* were indeed powerless, and their strategy of survival involved succumbing to those in powerful positions, but the current Israeli reality is far from that powerlessness.

I don't disagree with this view, but I have another way of interpreting this appalling Jewish phenomenon. Some years ago, I wrote an article in the *Middle East Focus* in which I took an academic's approach on the nature of Israeli leadership. The point I made then, following from the analytical method of the late, great Canadian scholar, Harold Innis, was that Jews had learned enormously successful techniques for survival without the foundation of a geographical base – what Innis called "time-biased characteristics." However, just coming out of 2,000 years of Jewish exile, they lacked a "space-biased balance" – that is, they lacked the essential understanding of the true nature of state power and its uses.

I wrote the article just after Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. At the time, I had some hope, if not assured confidence, that actual, on-the-ground experience of statehood, through the exercises of diplomacy, through assessments of its own military strength in addition to that of its enemies, through the correct evaluation of the deep-rootedness of Palestinian terrorism, would allow this much-needed space-bias balance to evolve and strengthen. Now I can see that my hopes were unfounded. Appeasement is the symptom of powerlessness, of Rabbi Friedberg's *shtetl Yiddin*, not of a political reality.

Of course, some would argue Israel is actually not a free agent to act in its own best interests, but rather is limited by its position as a client state of the United States. Hence, Israeli leaders have no choice but to bend to the will of their "master." Those who hold to this point of view are in fact asserting a condition of powerlessness for Israel not unlike that of the days of the *shtetl Yiddin*. I am not naive about Israel's dependency on the United States, but I still believe that Israel has a great deal more flexibility to act in accordance with its own interests than we can observe from the performed record of its leaders.

As an example, let's look at the demand the Palestinians recently made, and to which the Sharon government conceded, to release Palestinian prisoners. Sharon could have presented several strong arguments to counter this demand by U.S. President George W. Bush instead of conceding. He could have argued, firstly, that this demand is not part of the terms of the road map but is a unilateral demand, upon which continuation of the *hudna*, which is temporary and strategic for Palestinian benefit, is based.

At the White House last month, President George W. Bush received Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and then three days later, Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. The president was seeking to advance his guests along the "road map" to peace. [RNS/Reuters photos]

Secondly, he could have argued that the Palestinians refuse to live up to the essential term of the road map, that is, the dismantling of the terrorist infrastructure. And his third and most persuasive argument could have been that adding strength to Palestinian terrorist operations is against the interests of the United States.

Appeasement is making concessions, and sacrificing your principles as a result, in order to soothe or satisfy others' appetite or prejudice. If you look at the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict, it is obvious that the Palestinian appetite and prejudice have not been placated by even the most desperate yielding on the part of Israel.

Let's look back and examine the record. Palestinian appetite was not satiated by the United Nations partition plan in 1947, or by the handover of "every inch" of land that Sadat demanded, or by the recognition of the Palestinian Liberation Organization by Rabin, or by the importation and arming of thousands of Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat's thugs from Tunis, or by the Oslo agreements' open access for Palestinians, or by former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's withdrawal from Hebron and the transfer of power over Hebron to the PA, or by the financial aid that Israel has made available to Arafat, or by whatever else you can conjure up from recent history.

No good has come to Israel from all these risky undertakings. In fact, the contrary is true. The Palestinians are still training their young to kill and hate Jews, they persist in publishing maps of the land west of the Jordan River with no mention of Israel – maps that tell the tale of their true ambitions – and instead of their terrorist operations being dismantled, there is every expectation they will be allowed to recoup from recent Israeli military measures that did indeed wound them.

Most tragically, the number of terror victims in Israel, young and old, has been enhanced by these repeated concessions, particularly from the beginning of the Oslo appeasement until now. Nothing Sharon has said or done subsequent to the road map contrivance gives me comfort that he appreciates the dire consequences of such acts. This habit of appeasement by the leaders of Israel has inflicted immense harm on the country and its people in the past – on its security, its economy, its diplomacy – and it can do nothing but continue to exact a huge cost in the future.

Sally Zerker is an economist and professor emeritus at York University.

Opinions

Memories, Oshy and the Chevrah

I can well recall my departure from Johannesburg 25 years ago. There was, of course, the restless anticipation of just wanting to get to Canada – to find a place to live, to start working and to begin adjusting to the many changes that I knew I would face in the weeks and months that lay ahead.

Lawrence Hart in Hamilton

But aside from the excitement, I also remember the pervasive sense of ambivalence that seemed always to accompany my decision to emigrate. While there were many reasons for such vacillation, the most difficult had to do with family, or more particularly, separation from family.

For there was always the realization that my parents could not, and would not, leave South Africa. There was also the realization that as they grew older, their health would begin to fail and there would undoubtedly come a time when they might not recover. Sadly, that time has come and gone for both my mother and my father – and all of their siblings.

My story is hardly unique; it is the story told by many thousands of South Africans of my generation, scatterlings from a once extraordinary Jewish community who are now living in Canada, the United States, Britain, Australia and Israel. It is the story of a population of expatriates who have been deeply and collectively concerned about the community they left behind.

And with good reason. In the early 1970s, there were an estimated 120,000 Jews in South Africa. This number has fallen to around 80,000. So it is not too surprising that, with an inevitably shrinking (and less affluent) donor base, welfare agencies that were once generously supported are now finding it increasingly difficult to sustain themselves.

The Johannesburg Chevrah Kadisha is one of the more recognized charitable organizations, and it plays an essential part in preserving the fabric of Jewish life in that distant land. Though often perceived as only a burial society, the chevrah has, over the years, taken on a much broader role, attending to the aged and the infirm, providing crisis intervention services, engaging in remedial education and rehabilitation, and offering social assistance and employment counselling for those in need.

I recently attended a fundraiser in Toronto sponsored by the newly formed Canadian Friends of the South African Chevrah Kadisha (CAFSACK) and featuring the Sydenham Men's Choir from Johannesburg and its lead singer (and renowned chazzan), Oshy Tugendhaft.

Promoted as "a Jewish musical extravaganza depicting moments of Jewish history in music," the concert turned out to be much more than that. It tugged at the heart strings and brought back floods of memories. More importantly, it once again reminded me that, although our roots may be far away, it is our responsibility always to ensure that they not be forgotten or neglected.

Making the connection

Life in Israel before the advent of electronic mail and the Internet was a lot more sheltered and less interesting. Today, it's hard to imagine living in Israel without easy, near-instant access to the outside world via cyberspace.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Like for some two million other Israelis, going online has become an intrinsic part of my daily routine. The reason is simple. It greatly enlarges my sphere of knowledge and communication, on both the personal and professional levels. Equally important, it also makes me feel less removed from the rest of the planet, helping offset Israel's isolation in the Middle East.

Every morning before breakfast, I crank up the computer, log on and let my fingers loose on the keyboard connecting me to a world far beyond the confines of my little workroom in southern Jerusalem. Within seconds, my screen comes alive with a parade of words and images from across town and around the globe.

Invariably, the first catch of the day is a mix of sobering headlines from the *Ha'aretz* or the *Jerusalem Post* Web sites and personal letters from friends far away. Due to the huge time difference between Israel and North America, my early morning e-mail is mostly from people for whom it was the evening when they pressed the "send" button.

My day is now well underway. Before it is over, I will check my e-mail many times. This has become a compulsive habit for me. I use e-mail as tool not just for work but for maintaining personal bonds. Without it, I would feel adrift. Since I first got an account in 1998, it has increased considerably my contact with people, especially with those abroad. Receiving fresh, immediate correspondence from people I know – albeit cold, typewritten text – makes me feel more connected, more grounded. The fact that I never know what I will receive next further enhances the medium – and the message.

Sometimes it's at the saddest moments that I receive the most messages. Within hours, sometimes minutes, of a major terrorist attack in Jerusalem, friends, relatives and former colleagues abroad write me to express their concern and solidarity and to make sure my family and I are OK.

E-mail and the Internet have also helped me stay better informed about Israel, ironically often through material sent to me by people living in other countries. Friends frequently forward me articles, columns, press releases and other information relating to the Middle East. In addition, I receive various foreign-based, Israel-related newsletters through e-mail, ranging from those of www.honestreporting.com to the Britain Israel Communication and Research Center, that contain news I might not otherwise read.

As with most technological innovations, even the most welcome ones, e-mail also has its flipside. The ease with which messages can be transmitted can be a curse when you're on the receiving end of so much material. The sheer volume, including the interesting stuff, is often daunting. On most days, the overload can be a tough challenge for even the most open-minded speed-reader. Inevitably, many worthwhile items I receive don't get the attention they deserve. Likewise, there are surely times something I send out gets buried unread in the flood of other e-mail.

The main annoyance and scourge for e-mail users is spam, the unsolicited come-ons from advertisers offering mostly useless, tasteless and often pornographic products. Spam is the electronic equivalent of junk mail in your letterbox, only sleazier. More infuriating, most spam arrives in the guise of genuine e-mail with little hint of its true origin or commercial pitch.

One of the thrills of e-mail is to receive letters from long-lost friends or colleagues who have tracked you down thanks to the Internet. It's happened to me several times and I've also done the same in reverse. To reconnect with people after years, sometimes decades, can be a powerful experience, one even more intense for me given that I'm so physically removed from my past lives in Canada and France.

It's now five years since Internet first entered my home. Although it's become a daily staple, I still sometimes sit transfixed at my computer, mesmerized by the apparent magic of it all. I shudder to think what it would be like without it, and that includes the e-mail *CJN* readers send me in reaction to my columns.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Israel's 'fence' – the best hope for peace

According to public opinion polls, more than 70 per cent of Israelis consistently support completion of the "fence" to separate the Palestinian population in the West Bank regions of Judea and Samaria from Israeli territory.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Although the majority also support the road map and the latest attempt to end Palestinian violence through negotiation, Israelis have learned to be realistic. The past three years of terror have taught us that without fundamental and widespread changes in Palestinian attitudes, the current ceasefire will end in another round of violence, perhaps even more deadly than Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's post-Oslo terror campaign.

Taking these factors into consideration, and realizing that the status quo is unstable, Israelis recognize that physical separation – in other words, a border – provides the most realistic option for reducing the vulnerability to attack. Israelis have learned that pledges of peace, when they are heard, are ephemeral, but the construction of a fence has a very visible and immediate impact.

On this basis, construction of the separation barrier, with electronic sensors, concrete walls and patrol roads, began in June 2002 following escalating terror attacks. The northern portion, 128 kilometres long, and extending to Kfar Saba and around the Palestinian city of Qalkilya, has already been completed, as well as portions surrounding Jerusalem.

As the barrier goes up across the "seam line" between the two populations, the sense of increased security is immediate. Army statistics demonstrate a sharp decline in infiltration and terror attacks where the barrier has been completed, and as in the case of Lebanon, around Gaza and along the long border with Jordan, a security fence and intensive IDF monitoring of movements on the other side are highly effective measures in keeping out terrorists. The construction of a barrier to keep out Palestinian bombers is clearly Israel's best defence against another and more deadly round of violence.

Support for immediate separation is also propelled by recognition of the demographic threat to the Jewish and democratic nature of Israeli society. As Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has acknowledged, the majority population in a single political entity between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River will soon be Palestinian, and the Jewish population would become a minority in another Arab and Islamic state, thereby reversing the accomplishments of the Zionist movement and the re-establishment of Jewish self-determination. If the efforts to negotiate a two-state solution are again blocked by the Palestinians (precisely to trap Israel in this scenario), the alternative is separation through unilateral action and creation of a de facto border.

Taking these issues into account, the Palestinian campaign (conducted through the United States and the United Nations) is unlikely to stop construction.

However, in Israel, the debate on the route for the third stage, covering the line between the middle of the country and the northern outskirts of Jerusalem, is continuing. The supporters of a "minimalist" approach want to keep the fence close to the "Green Line" and to Ehud Barak's proposed map at the Camp David summit three years ago. This route would include the consensus settlements along the "Green Line" (not a pre-1967 border, as is often erroneously claimed), as well as the Etzion Bloc south of Jerusalem and perhaps Ariel, while many isolated settlements further to the east would be excluded.

In contrast, the "maximalists" advocate a route that is at least twice as long, in order to incorporate many of these isolated settlements. But the maximalist fence would also incorporate 110,000 Palestinians, (20 times more than the minimalist alternative) and would aggravate the demographic threat to the Jewish state, rather than the reverse. This would also add to the friction with the U.S. government, but, in contrast, the exclusion of many settlements could trigger demonstrations and violent confrontations against the policies of the Sharon government.

Thus, the decision on the route of the middle section of the separation fence will be difficult to make, and it will leave some people upset, but the alternative – delaying construction and leaving Israel vulnerable to terror – is far worse. Israelis recognize that completion of a barrier between the two populations is vitally necessary for our security and survival as a Jewish state.

The Kirshner File

Refugees found a safe haven in Trinidad

As one Jewish refugee poetically put it, Trinidad was "a shtetl beneath the palms." During the 1930s, this boot-shaped, sun-drenched Caribbean island, 11 kilometres north of Venezuela, became a safe haven for hundreds of European Jews fleeing persecution and poverty. They came from all corners of the continent, notably Poland, Romania, Germany and Italy.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

They were drawn to Trinidad & Tobago, as it is formally known, for a single compelling reason. Aside from Shanghai, China, this British colony, which attained independence in 1962, was one of the few places where a visa or a sponsor were not required. All that was needed was a refundable deposit of 50 pounds sterling, the equivalent of $250 (US)

This obscure footnote in history was documented in a privately printed booklet, *Our Calypso Shtetl*, published in 1998. It was brought to my attention by Suzan Hagstrom, an American journalist who knows Zeno Strasberg, a Toronto resident who was born and raised in Trinidad.

A Canadian-trained radiologist who hails from the southern town of San Fernando, Strasberg put me in touch with two other former Trinidadians: Lorna Yufe and Freda Ackelsberg. Yufe, from Ostrowiec, Poland, arrived in Port of Spain – the capital of Trinidad – with her mother and sister in 1936, having been sent for by her father, Henry Bricks, who had landed in Trinidad a year earlier. In 1983, she and her late husband, Manuel (Monia), who was originally from Nova Selitz, Bessarabia, came to Toronto. Ackelsberg, a mutual friend, lived in Trinidad from 1946 until 1983.

"We had a good life in Trinidad," said Yufe, who is 78. "We didn't acquire great wealth, but everyone was comfortable." Strasberg, 62, agreed. "We had an idyllic existence in Trinidad, and as time went on, things got better."

Yufe, whose sister Thora resides in Montreal, owes her idyl in Trinidad to her father, whom she described as an adventurous "wandering Jew." Eager to improve his family's prospects, he went to Colombia to seek his fortune. "I think he sold sacred pictures," she said. Colombia, however, disappointed Bricks, and he returned to Poland, only to set off for Honduras some years later. "He didn't like Honduras. It was very primitive." Finally, Bricks found a measure of contentment in Port of Spain, where he opened a clothing store on Frederick Street, the main shopping thoroughfare.

According to Arthur Siegel, the author of the introductory essay in *Our Calypso Shtetl*, the Jewish refugees in Trinidad – a Spanish domain sighted by Christopher Columbus in 1498 and claimed by Britain in 1797 – were merchants, garment and furniture manufacturers as well as doctors, lawyers and dentists. "We were a close-knit, vibrant community," said Yufe, speaking in a soft, lilting Trinidadian accent.

A converted house served as a synagogue, and in the absence of a rabbi, the men in the congregation conducted High Holy Day services. There was a Blue White soccer team, and a drama club staged plays, including *King Lear*, in Yiddish.

At its peak, Trinidad was home to approximately 600 Jews. Its Jewish population would have been considerably higher had the British governor not closed the gates to more Jewish refugees in January 1939. As a result, several ships from Germany carrying Jewish passengers were denied entry. During World War II, Jews from Germany, Austria and Italy were classified as "enemy aliens" and had to report daily to a police station.

Though she was far removed from the killing fields of Nazi-occupied Europe, Yufe heard incredible rumours about the wholesale slaughter of Jews. "We didn't exactly know what was happening, but we knew it wasn't good." After the Holocaust, she learned that her family, on both sides, had been murdered in Treblinka.

Curiously enough, Jews were often mistaken for Syrian Arabs, a thread in Trinidad's multicultural mosaic of British, African and East Indian citizens. "We got along with everyone, and we attended each other's weddings," said Yufe, referring in particular to the Trinidadians of Syrian origin.

Strasberg's biological father, Harry Rajfer of Staszow, Poland, who died when Strasberg was only two years old, immigrated to Trinidad in 1938 to join his brother, Eric. Concerned about the rising tide of anti-Semitism in Poland and in neighbouring Germany, Eric reached Port of Spain just ahead of Harry. Four years after Harry's death in 1942, Strasberg's mother, Wita, married Wolf Strasberg, a refugee from Bessarabia.

Strasberg remembers the war-time ration cards, but that was the extent of their hardship. "We had a pretty good life. Compared to Europe, we were very fortunate."

Anti-Semitism did not generally intrude into their lives, but Strasberg was exposed to a dose of anti-Jewish animus when he attended St. Mary's College, a Catholic institution with Hindu and Muslim students.

The community was Zionist-oriented. When Israel declared statehood in 1948, Strasberg and like-minded Jews paraded through the streets of Port of Spain in exultation. Later, a Jewish real estate developer with Israeli roots named three new streets – Theodor Herzl Street, Professor Chaim Weizman Avenue and Golda Meir Gardens – after Zionist luminaries.

Ackelsberg, 78, was born in Cieszyn, Poland. In 1942, Cieszyn's 4,000 Jews, including Ackelsberg and her parents, were rounded up by the Germans and removed to another location. She never saw her mother or father again.

During the next three years, Ackelsberg was sent to six different labour camps in Germany. In 1946, she joined an aunt in Ecuador, where she met her husband, William. Born in Stryj, Poland, he immigrated to Trinidad in 1938, and worked in construction. "At first, everything in Trinidad was strange," she recalled. "The people, the language. It took a while to get used to Trinidad. But it was our home."

For the majority of Jews, she explained, Trinidad was a "springboard" to perhaps a better, more intensely Jewish life abroad. "Parents programmed their children to leave Trinidad," said Strasberg. "They saw it as a steppingstone to America."

An Italian Jewish doctor and a local Chinese family encouraged Strasberg to study science and medicine at McGill University in Montreal. He left Port of Spain in 1957, never to return as a permanent resident. Strasberg's first wife, Paula Berger, was a Montrealer, and they had three children. In 1971, Strasberg moved to Hamilton, and in 1978, he established himself in Toronto.

The Trinidadian three, from left: Freda Ackelsberg, Zeno Strasberg and Lorna Yufe.

"I never considered going back to Trinidad," said Strasberg, who maintains his connection with the island by regularly visiting his fathers' graves and by partaking of such Trinidadian culinary staples such as roti, callaloo, channah and coconut water.

Yufe, having sent her children Robert, Libby and Helen to Canadian schools, settled in Toronto after her husband took ill. Discombobulated by black power riots, her parents left Trinidad in 1970, settling in Florida. Ackelsberg and her late husband immigrated to Canada to join their daughter, Leah.

Only a handful of Jews, most in interfaith marriages, remain in Trinidad today. The rest have scattered to Canada, the United States, Venezuela, Israel, Britain and Australia.

This "lovely tropical oasis," as one Jewish resident described it in *Our Calypso Shtetl*, has turned a page in its history.

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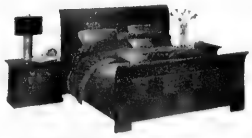
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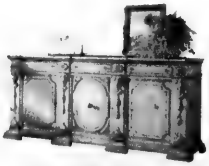
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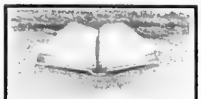
Tisha b'Av: a reminder of where we met God

By RABBI MARK FRIEDMAN

The famed Argentine writer and essayist, Jorge Luis Borges, wrote a story titled *Funes el memorioso* (Funes the Memorious). It is the tale of an Argentine man, Ireneo Funes, who, as a result of a fall from a horse at the age of 19, found that he henceforth could forget absolutely nothing.



Rabbinic Reflections

He says in the story, "I have more memories in myself alone than all men have had since the world was a world."

Borges describes Funes' prodigious power of recall in these words: "We, in a glance, perceive three wine glasses on the table; Funes saw all the shoots, clusters and grapes of the vine… In effect, Funes remembered not only every leaf on every tree of every wood, but every one of the times he had perceived or imagined it. He determined to reduce all of his experiences to… recollections. which he would later define numerically. Two considerations dissuaded him: the thought that the task was interminable and the thought that it was useless."

It seems to me that it is possible to identify this character, Funes, with the Jewish people. After all, we are a people absorbed with memories and remembering. Our festivals and holy days all involve recalling our past and re-enacting those events and moments that formed and shaped us as a religious nation. Four times a year we recite the Yizkor prayers, memorializing family members no longer among the living and calling to mind those who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Judaism and the Jewish people.

Yet, I wonder if this identification is truly valid. Funes remembers every detail, every piece of information he has ever encountered and is understandably overwhelmed by it. He possesses no means of sifting through the memories to separate the insignificant detail from the recurring and powerful theme. How is such an individual comparable to us as Jews and to our memories?

This question is particularly apt as we commemorate the fast day of Tisha b'Av and recall the destruction of the temples in Jerusalem and all the suffering and vulnerability of the Jewish people in exile.

Why do Jews still fast today for an event that happened nearly 26 centuries ago? Why do we fast for a desolate and disgraced Jerusalem when that city is now in our hands and has been rebuilt and revived?

There are those among our people who, in light of the rebirth of our homeland in the State of Israel, object to this fast and to the period of semi-mourning that accompanies it. They feel, it appears, that observing Tisha b'Av today reflects the kind of memory Funes possessed: everything is remembered without the sifting of altered time and altered circumstances. Those recollections that, in this view, appear to be useless or inapplicable should be discarded and forgotten, and memory needs to be selective if we are to avoid the fate of Funes.

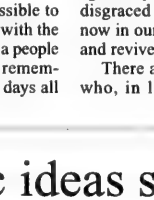
I respectfully differ with this point of view. We need not, like Funes, be "prisoners of memory," but it is an integral part of the Jewish mindset to cherish the glory and feel the pain of our past as if the events we recall happened to us, not only to our remote ancestors. This is the great power of the experience of the Passover seder. Many people today tend to be impatient with history, eager to forget something once it has passed. Jews, though, embrace history, even those aspects of it that are painful or embarrassing.

We should continue to observe the fast of Tisha b'Av as it serves as a reminder that history is, after all, where we met God and saw His purposes brought to fruition.

Rabbi Friedman is a hospital chaplain affiliated with the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors in Montreal.

Prophetic ideas still relevant in our time

***The Prophets*, by Norman Podhoretz, The Free Press, $47.50, October 2002.**



Books
Bernard Baskin

They entered history dramatically and unexpectedly – and radically changed Jewish thought and expectations. The 15 literary prophets of the Hebrew Scriptures, beginning with Amos and ending with Malachai, flourished during the 300 year period between the mid-eighth and mid-fifth centuries BCE.

This time span was of crucial importance. It included the rise of three great empires, Assyria, Babylonia and Persia, as well as pivotal events in the life of the nation – the destruction of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria (722 BCE), the destruction of the Southern Kingdom and the Temple by the Babylonians (586 BCE), the Babylonian Exile and the early years of the Return to Zion with the rebuilding of Jerusalem and the Temple.

The prophets came from many classes of society, including the aristocracy (Isaiah), the priesthood (Jeremiah and Ezekiel) and farming (Amos). They preached on the issues of the day and were fearless in the reproofs they administered to kings and priests, the rich and the powerful, the hostile masses. As a result, they were often persecuted and subjected to great hardships.

Despite the designation "prophet," these men were not fortune tellers or predictors of the future. Indeed, when it came to historical predictions other than general warnings that infidelity to God would lead to national catastrophe, they were often wrong. In their day, by their own testimony, they were often failures. Some of them were disregarded, some were laughed at, and some provoked popular resentment or official ire to the point of persecution and martyrdom. They were so far ahead of their listeners that they found only rare individuals who understood, appreciated and supported them.

Prophetic teaching covers many aspects of the Jewish ethic. It contains a rebuke to the sinner as well as the message of God's love, a burning nationalism and also a universalism and messianism, the threat of punishment as well as the promise of redemption. Above all is an insistence on the centrality of the one God. In general, all the prophets preached amidst idolatry, pagan immorality and social corruption. While each prophet spoke in his own style and with his own emphasis, to a significant extent the prophets displayed a marked unanimity in outlook.

Podhoretz, who served as editor of *Commentary* for more than 30 years and is well known as author and literary critic, is also a long-time student of the Hebrew Bible. In *The Prophets*, he has approached an old subject with new insights and emphases using a modern sensibility and awareness. He insists the classical prophets did not invent monotheism or carry it to a higher level than it had reached among their ancestors, that they did not elevate morality over ritual and that they did not constitute a party of the "spirit" in opposition to a rigidly legalistic, priestly "establishment." Above all, Podhoretz insists the prophets inveighed against self-deification, the delusion that human beings could become godly.

The precious and enduring legacy of the prophets – from moral grandeur to exalted poetry – is explored by the author with knowledge and emotion, as well as with telling reference to the problems of our own time.

שיאר ענינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

תקופה משונה. כביכול שקט, אבל כל יום נחרגים או נפצעים ישראלים ממעשי טרור. עבודת מחקר מקיפה שנעשתה בידי פלשתינאים מראה שרוב הפלשתינאים מעדיפים פיצוי כספי על פני חזרה לַגְּבָּיִם של ארבעים ושמונה בשליטה ישראלית. פרסום התוצאות גרם למהומות וסיכן את חיי החוקרים- עוד עדות לסיכויים לדמוקראטיה פלשתינאית. לַעניַן עצמו-עצם זה שאחרי חמישים וחמש שנה רוב הפלשתינאים מעוניינים לחיות ולא להיות לוחמי חופש-יש כאן סיכוי מסויים. אבל שישאר בינינו.

"10 עצות שימושיות ליורד הסרי:"

כך כותב שמעון זר אביב בספרו החדש "אמריקה בכחול לבן":

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2. אל תסתיר את ארץ מוצאך אבל אמץ את מנהגי מקום מגוריך החדש.

3. השתדל להמנע מלאמר: אני לא כמו הישראלים האחרים.

4. פעל לפי התניון האישי ולא לפי הנימום של אחרים.

5. אל תפקיד את כספך בידי "מומחים".

6. אל תנוח על זרי הדפנה של עברך. הבט לעבר העתיד.

7. השתדל להיות מעורה בחיי הקהילה.

8. המשך לדבר, לקרוא, לכתוב, לחלום ולאהוב בעברית.

9. בקר בארץ לפחות פעם בשנה.

10. תמיד זכור מאין באת ולאן אתה אמור לחזור ביום מן הימים."

את הספר ניתן למצוא בחנויות הישראליות. אני ראיתי אותו בסנאפה. עוד פרטים על הספר- בתכנית הרדיו חישראלית, בימי ראשון בבוקר.

ידידי אוניברסיטת תל אביב -13 באוגוסט

בשלוש עשרה באוגוסט יתקיים אירוע מיוחד לציון הקשר האמיץ שבין טורונטו לאוניברסיטת תל אביב. מרכז האירוע הוא ציון מעמק דוקטור כבוד של האוניברסיטה למרטי גולדברג, האיש שהביא את האוניברסיטה הגדולה בישראל לטורונטו. לציון האירוע המיוחד הזה יתארח וידבר בערב פרופ. איתמר רבינוביץ', נשיא האוניברסיטה, מי שהיה שגריר ישראל באו"ם. אורחת כבוד מיוחדת תהיה רונה רמון, אלמנתו של האסטרונאוט הישראלי אילן רמון ז"ל. הקשר האמיץ של משפחת רמון עם מרטי וסוזן גולדברג הביא אתם לטורונטו, והביא את מרטי וסוזן לחיות מוזמנים לשילוח, ולשבת להמתין בלב שבור לשובו. באירוע הזה תצויין תכנית שיתוף הפעולה המדעי בין אוניברסיטת תל אביב לבין בית החולים לילדים של טורונטו. כל הכנסות הערב יוקדשו לתכנית זו, שמיועדת לממן מחקר משותף והכשרת רופאים ישראלים. אני מבטיח פרטים נוספים בטור הבא.

זה חולך להיות ללא ספק ערב בלתי נשכח, שהיה חבל להחמיצו. לכל יידידי האוניברסיטה, לבוגריה שחיים פה ולכל הישראלים-להבטחת מקומות כיתבו

ל-pearl@cftau.ca

גרוס מוקן- הפלא השביעי

אם כבר היתם בלאס וגאס עשר פעמים ובניו יורק חמש עשרה פעמים, ואתם מתגעגעים לקצת נוף מדהים ולמשהו באמת שונה- אז הינה אחד מפלאי הטבע מחכה לכם מעבר לפינה. בצד המערבי של ניו יאורק, בפארק גרוס מוקן מחכים לכם נופים מדהימים, אנשים מקסימים ומחירים מצחיקים. שמענו שם מוסיקה אירית ויהודית-משהו משהו, וטעמנו מאכלי ים במחיר של שנות הששים. כדי להגיע לשם צריך לטוס להֶלִיפֶקס ומשם לדיר לַייק. אבל שישאר בינינו.

Jewish Life

Meaningful bar and bat mitzvahs

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

You probably don't have to think too hard to recall a garish over-the-top bar or bat mitzvah celebration that you've attended. But if that type of party is not for you and you want advice from b'nai mitzvah who have used the occasion to grow spiritually and even help others, you'll find it on the World Wide Web.

But first, the excess. If you really want to get an eyeful, check out the article "Bash Mitzvahs!" from New York Magazine **[http://www.newyorkmetro.com/nymetro/urban/family/features/2343/]**. Written in 1998 during the stock market boom, it catalogues quarter-million-dollar, multimedia, themed extravaganzas that were held at such venues as the Radio City Music Hall, Ellis Island and the Tavern on the Green. Were you thinking of doing something different and booking Natalie Cole for your simchah? You'll have to be more original than that. Natalie has already done a bar mitzvah on the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid. Her fee: $150,000 for 30 minutes.

At the other end of the spectrum, many sites emphasize that this coming of age is a perfect time to remember others. Alexandra Alper collected close to 900 toiletries from neighbours, dentists and supermarkets that she donated to a shelter for women. You can read Alexandra's and other b'nai mitzvah stories at Social Action.com **[http://www.socialaction.com/barmitsva.html]**.

One of the best pages with ideas for bar or bat mitzvah kids is on the Ziv Tzedakah Fund Web site. Instead of telling kids how to make their celebrations meaningful, it starts by asking them to think about their talents and interests, what would they want to change in the world, whom they know to help get the job done, and finally asks them, "Why not?"

The site then gives examples of previous successful bar or bat mitzvah projects, a healthy reading list and great suggestions for what to do with party centerpieces when the party is over. (If you have traditional flower arrangements, break them up and deliver them to hospitals or nursing homes. If you have a sports-themed party, use a variety of sports equipment as centerpieces and then donate them to a local shelter where kids may not have their own equipment.) **[http://www.ziv.org/BarBat.htm]**

The author of the Mitzvah99 Web site says when he celebrated his bar mitzvah in March 1999, he tried to have both a fun and meaningful time. He doesn't tell us is his name. However, he has put together a very helpful site with suggestions for mitzvot you can do before, during and after your celebration. Congratula-tions, whoever you are! **[http://members.aol.com/mitzvah99/mypage/]**

Here is another intriguing way to mark a bar or bat mitzvah. The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous provides monthly financial support for more than 1,700 surviving Righteous Gentiles – people who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The foundation's bar/bat mitzvah program matches a young person with a Christian rescuer **[http://www.jfr.org/programs/bbprogram.html]**.

Another popular way to celebrate a bar or bat mitzvah is through a family visit to Israel. The *Jerusalem Post* reports that before the year 2000, more than 2,000 pre-teens – 94 per cent of them from the United States or Canada – came to Israel to celebrate their special day. Travel planners are quite sophisticated and offer extended through the dried riverbeds of the Negev desert **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?V4B823B63]**. But the most popular spots for the actual ceremony remain quite traditional: Jerusalem and Masada. You can follow along a picture album of one bar mitzvah boy's trip and lovely shots of his ceremony at the Kotel **[http://www.chez.com/purplemike/jeudi1.htm]**.

Emuna Braverman was in the throes of preparing her son's bar mitzvah ("attractive but not ostentatious, joyful but not wild, the food delicious but not extravagant") when she wrote about what she hopes her son will take away from the experience **[http://www.aish.com/family/heart/My_Sons_Bar_Mitzvah.asp]**: "Of course the bar mitzvah boy must give charity from his gifts… But more important than these grand gestures are the daily acts of caring and honor and respect for others… It's being patient in line, it's being respectful to teachers, it's sharing with sisters (yes, even sisters!) that truly make the man."

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

Judaism relevant in the modern world

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Although there was a time when Jews were confined to ghettos, that was never the case for Judaism itself. Imbued with both a particular and a universal message, Judaism has always proved itself a unique cultural critic, able to offer a sharp perspective on passing events.

As of this writing, star basketball player Kobe Bryant has been charged with felony sexual assault. Bryant's fame and his marriage and recent fatherhood have lent his confessed adultery the yellowed air of tattling and scandal. Whether his sins extend beyond the moral is for the courts to decide.

The tawdriness of the situation expands when one considers the almost predictable invasion of privacy of the alleged victim, whose name, address and photograph have already shown up on some Web sites. Does the Torah have anything to say on such matters and are they important issues in a Jewish studies classroom? I would argue that the answer is an emphatic yes to both questions.

It is not Bryant or his accuser that is of central concern to Jewish education, but the ramifications of a cultural obsession with celebrity and the public's perverse disappointment in realizing that athletes or movie stars are not paragons of virtue. Cases like these end up garnering more ink than they deserve – obviously an ironic statement given the context of this column – precisely because of our penchant for initially elevating such figures all out of proportion because they happen to be able to put a ball through a hoop or a puck in a net.

But such incidents can provide valuable contexts for the classroom. They allow us to perceive what we value, and what inexorably emerges is the disease called gossip that so dominates western life.

Deriving from an Anglo-Saxon compound meaning "godfather," gossip evolved in the Middle Ages to describe something roughly akin to close friend. How does this relate to our present day usage? Possibly our gossiping implies familiarity or intimacy with a subject, as if we were talking about people we know and things close to us. Strangers on TV screens now become dinner table acquaintances, and we fill up our own inner boredom with the illusory images and fragments of other lives.

The Torah's laws on gossip and the need to maintain confidentiality are detailed and all-encompassing. They are one of the ethical centres of Judaism and are unrelenting in their condemnation of any betrayal of confidence or trampling of the boundaries of privacy. There are no excuses available for making other people's activities the core of our conversations, whether to denigrate them or even to overly praise them (the better to not breed envy and hence a reflexive derision in our listeners).

With so much talk in modernity of religion's supposed irrelevance, and its having been trumped by technology and "liberations" of every type, it only takes a brief glance at a newspaper and the subsequent cultural frenzy at the latest passing sensationalism to recognize the wisdom of Judaism. In the words of former U.S. president John Adams, "the Hebrews have done more to civilize men than any other nation," an idea whose time is always now.

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JVS Entrepreneur of the Year runs niche singles sites

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The man who founded ChristianCafe.com and its spinoff, JewishCafe.com – now the third-highest traffic Jewish singles site on the Internet, according to Alexa.com, a third-party ranking service – was honoured as JVS Toronto's Entrepreneur of the Year at its first annual Strictly Business luncheon early last month.

Sam Moorcroft, a 37-year-old MBA, was downsized five years ago from a software company, six months after moving here from Vancouver and starting a new job as a project manager. Searching for employment on the Internet – and unattached at the time – he found himself straying to Web sites for Christian singles, looking to meet women with a similar background to his own.

After about two months, he suggested to his brother Philip – who along with 18 other people had been downsized from the same company – that they start an online business together.

"Finally a friend of ours said, 'You're always complaining that these sites aren't as good as you could do. Why don't you do a better job?' " recalled Sam Moorcroft in his comfortable office in Markham.

To get started, he enrolled in the Self-Employment Assistance (SEA) program at JVS Toronto, after reading about it in a newspaper article.

The program, which is supported by Human Resources Development Canada and supervised by Social Enterprise Development Innovations, teaches entrepreneurial skills and matches participants with a business adviser. Participants also receive extended employment insurance benefits.

Philip Moorcroft went to work as a financial analyst, and became Sam's silent partner, funding the new entreprise.

From its early days when Moorcroft worked solo in his rented basement apartment, the company has grown to a $3- million dollar business, with 13 employees working in a recently redecorated 2,000-square-foot office. Since 2001, its annual revenues have doubled, a modest increase compared to its 1,100 per cent growth rate in its first two years.

Moorcroft is long gone from the basement apartment and now owns his own home on a 10-acre property north of Toronto. In 2002, RealCafes.com, the parent company, was named Canada's tenth-hottest start-up company by *Profit* Magazine.

When he was getting started, Moorcroft set out to create a warm, cozy "esthetic." He liked the idea of a virtual cafe. "Where do you meet for the first time in the real world?" he mused. "Women want to feel safe, and men don't want to spring for a big dinner."

Within a year of starting, Moorcroft was covering his costs, but along the way he ran up $100,000 in debt and ended up taking contract work in the summer to fund the business. Failure was never an option, he said.

Buoyed by his success in the Christian singles market – ChristianCafe marked its first client marriage three months after it began – Moorcroft decided it was time to think about other markets. A brief foray into the generic singles market failed, but served as a learning experience, he said.

Last year he hired Aliza Schneid, 25 – who had majored in Jewish studies and economics at the University of Toronto, where she was active in Hillel – to run JewishCafe.com.

According to Moorcroft, Schneid "eats, breathes and sleeps" her work.

"Bringing Jewish singles together is something I believe in," she said.

Fourteen months into its existence, the Jewish site has 10,000 to 15,000 active clients at any given time, with 100 to 150 new sign-ups on a good day, said Moorcroft. The Christian site has about 60,000 clients, with about 500 new ones a day, he said. Membership costs $24.95 (US) a month or $99 a year, following 14 days of free access for JewishCafe (seven days for its Christian counterpart). Most clients are American, with about 2,000 Canadians and 5,000 Israelis on the Jewish site.

Starting an online business takes a lot of research, a lot of money, and good customer service, said Moorcroft.

Timing is also a factor. One of the biggest boosts to his business, he believes, was the release of the 1998 movie *You've Got Mail*, a tale of online romance.

Moorcroft is now thinking about expanding into the East Indian singles market. This year, however, the company is financing Philip's consulting firm. Both companies are co-owned by the two brothers.

Sam Moorcroft, seated, and Aliza Schneid are the faces behind JewishCafe.com. [Frances Kraft photo]

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Judge rejects Zundel's defence

The judge presiding over Ernst Zundel's detention review hearing last week said he did not believe Zundel's claim that he has no control over his controversial Web site.

"I don't really believe what you say," said Justice Pierre Blais during the Holocaust denier's testimony last Tuesday, the *National Post* reported.

Zundel claimed his wife Ingrid Rimland, whom he described as "a very forceful lady," maintains full control of the Zundelsite from her home in Tennessee.

Zundel said he doesn't even see the material on the site, as he is computer illiterate.

Donald MacIntosh, the lead federal lawyer representing the government, said he finds it hard to believe that Zundel, a self-described egotist, would allow someone else to run the site, which contains a lot of anti-Semitic material.

"Given that you claim to be a gift to this world and have a tremendous ego, you would be consulted on a regular basis as to the materials that appear on the Zundelsite," MacIntosh told Zundel.

In an effort to link Zundel to the site, MacIntosh pointed out that he had paid his wife $3,000 a month to work for him, Canadian Press reported.

Zundel replied that the work had nothing to do with the Web site, which was created five years before the couple were married.

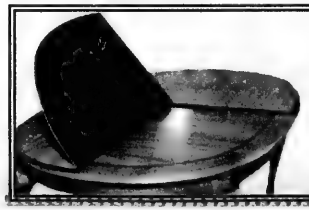
In 2000, the Canadian Human Rights Commission ruled that anti-Semitic material must be taken off of the Zundelsite. Zundel fled to the United States shortly afterward.

Zundel has been detained here since February, when he was deported from the United States to Canada for overstaying his visitor's Visa.

Upon his arrival, Canadian immigration officials issued a security certificate deeming Zundel a threat to national security.

The Federal Court is reviewing the certificate. If the judge rules it is reasonable, Zundel will be thrown out of the country.

The Canadian government plans to deport Zundel to his native Germany, where he faces charges of inciting hatred.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Ryerson course to examine Jews in film and TV

By TAMMY STONE
Special to The CJN

Have you ever wondered why the Jews who created Hollywood left Judaism out of their universalized, cinematic worldview? Or why TV producers bother making explicit the religion of sitcom characters such as Jerry Seinfeld, *Friends'* Monica and Ross,

Judaism often ignored

and countless others, when Judaism does not at all inform their TV existences?

These are some of the issues that will be addressed in a new continuing education course being offered at Ryerson University this fall. Conceived by distinguished film writer and programmer Shlomo Schwartzberg, "The Image of the Jew in Film and Television: Realities and Fantasies" will survey

J ·y Seinfeld

over a century of the relationship between Jews and their representation in the arts.

"I'll examine the portrayals, stereotypes, both positive and negative, and perceptions that Jews have been subjected to, from the early days of Hollywood and the beginning days of television up to the present day," says Schwartzberg, who adds that it's designed for anyone interested in how Jews have been portrayed on the big and small screens.

The course will focus on Jews both behind the scenes and in front of the camera, mostly in the United States but with selected emphasis on Canada and England where applicable.

Schwartzberg says classes will get underway with a discussion of the early immigrant Hollywood moguls, who, concerned about how Jews would be viewed and depicted, decided to take control of the industry themselves. The result was "a de-emphasis and even outright denial of what it means to be Jewish," says Schwartzberg.

Film and television have evolved and become more diversified over the decades, and so have ideas about visually represented Jewishness.

"Today things are much more complicated in terms of the depiction of Jews by Jewish writers and directors and actors."

This is where the idea for the course came in.

Schwartzberg's abundant enthusiasm for the issues that will form the basis of his classes reflect the insight of someone who has long contemplated the many intricacies of the subject.

"Cinematically, there are so many Jewish portrayals emerging on screen but other American Jewish realities – the search for spiritual meaning in life, the complex American Jewish relationship to Israel – are completely absent in Hollywood," he observes.

For Schwartzberg, teaching is very much a logical next step in a career largely defined

Courteney Cox Arquette
as Monica on *Friends*

by a passion for film and the arts. For nearly two decades, he has worked as an arts and entertainment reporter, film critic and Canadian film correspondent for publications ranging from the *North York Mirror*, *California's Box Office* magazine and Toronto's *Festival* magazine, to the English trade publication *Moving Pictures* and the English language Israeli newsmagazine, *The Jerusalem Report*.

When he was 17, he became what he calls a "fanatic", when films by such masters as German filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder (*The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*) and Robert Altman (*Nashville*) played at Montreal's repertory cinemas. Hollywood films, of course, were also a mainstay.

"In those days we lined up to get into the opening night premiere of the latest James Bond adventure. But I also remember reading an article in a Jewish publication that asked the question, analyzing the old cop show *Starsky and Hutch*, as to why there were relatively few Jewish depictions on the tube, even though the actors were often Jewish themselves," says Schwartzberg.

Thoughts like those stayed with him as his career got underway, and he was delighted when he had the opportunity to speak with Brian Damude, head of the school of Image Arts at Ryerson University, to pitch his idea for the course.

Highlights of films and television shows that will be examined include 1927's *The Jazz Singer*, *The Goldbergs* and *Seinfeld*, *Diner* and *Slums of Beverly Hills*, *Marjorie Morningstar* and *Kissing Jessica Stein*, as well as *The Pawnbroker* and *The Sopranos*.

While teaching is, as he puts it, "a natural outgrowth of my interest in film and Jewish artistic representation," Schwartzberg has also, in the past few years, been giving hour-long lectures on the subject to synagogue groups and Hadassah chapters. He has also been giving informative and probing talks about the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, for which he has been programming a cross-section of international Jewish films for eight years.

Schwartzberg considers this course as an expansion of the work he's already been doing. "I'm like a stand up comic who's been honing his act before taking it to the big comedy club: Ryerson."

***

To register for the course call 416-979-5035. The course number is CDMP803 and it runs for 13 weeks from 1- 4 pm, Sundays, Sept. 14 – Dec. 14 (no class on Rosh Hashanah Sept. 28) at Ryerson University. Cost of the course is $399. For more information, e-mail shlomoschwartzberg@yahoo.ca

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Coast to Coast

Asper belittles road map to peace; calls on Israel to withdraw from it

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Canadian media magnate Israel Asper has belittled the internationally sponsored road map peace plan as a "replay" of the ill-fated Oslo process, and urged Israel to withdraw from it.

In a speech last week to mark the 63rd anniversary of the death of Zionist Revisionist leader Vladimir (Ze'ev) Jabotinsky, a man he called a great leader, Asper said that "all people of goodwill" hope the road map will succeed.

But Asper, the Winnipeg-based chair of CanWest Global Communications and publisher of the *National Post*, cast aspersions on it.

"One is tempted to conclude that the road map is a snare and a delusion, just as was Oslo," he said before a full house at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto synagogue. "If that is correct, then the war will continue until there is a clear victor and a vanquished."

Asper, who spoke under the auspices of Herut-Likud and B'nai Brith Canada, expressed doubt as to whether the three-part road map, which calls for a two-state solution and security guarantees for Israel, will advance past its first phase.

He said Israel is entitled " to call a halt to its obligations" under the road map because of Palestinian non-compliance.

The Palestinian Authority, he argued, has neither brought an end to anti-Israel incitement nor tried to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism.

He said the PA is strong enough to wipe out groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad, but Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, whom he described as "a known Holocaust denier," refuses to do that and has ruled it out even as a possibility.

"That is why the road map has become a farce in phase 1. It appears that the Palestinians want a peace process, but not peace. This is nothing but a replay of the ill-conceived Oslo process."

Commenting on Oslo, Asper observed, "Israel delivered to the Arabs everything that it promised, but the Arabs did not keep a single one of the commitments they had made. Terrorism continued [and] the incitement to violence and hatred continued in the Palestinian schools, mosques, media and political rhetoric."

Asper had harsh words for the Israeli leaders who signed what he dismissed as the "Oslo fiasco/disaster."

"The Palestinian Authority, under the hallucinogenic naivete of Israel's then leaders, was permitted to arm 30,000 Palestinians with Israeli ordnance in order to force Palestinian terrorists to keep the peace."

And at the 2000 Camp David summit, he said, Israel's prime minister, Ehud Barak, "made an egregious offer, giving the Palestinians almost everything they outrageously demanded."

Asper claimed that the *hudna*, the current ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians, is worthless.

"The terrorism continues daily, with token abatement only. The *hudna* is being used to give [Palestinian] fighters a summer vacation while they rest, rearm, recruit and recover from the devastating blows that have been inflicted on them by Israel."

Citing an Israeli intelligence report, Asper said the Palestinians are currently building 1,000 Qassem rockets with materials smuggled through tunnels from Egypt to the Gaza Strip.

"Since the alleged ceasefire was declared," he added, "there have been 85 rocket attacks from Gaza alone."

And Israel has blocked 12 suicide bombings attempts.

Suggesting that a new Palestinian state will be a "terrorist state," Asper came out against the formation of such an entity.

He said the Palestinians must fulfil several conditions before they attain statehood.

"There [must be] a complete policy change in the Palestinian and Arab world's attitude both toward Jews and Israel, as well as to the United States. There is regrettably no evidence of that."

If a Palestinian state should arise, it should be "a protectorate" of Israel, "with Israeli control over the education system, foreign affairs, immigration [and] defence."

Israel Asper

And such a state cannot be permitted to enter into mutual defence treaties with other countries, he noted.

Asper called the current Palestinian demand for a mass prisoner release and a stoppage of construction of Israel's security fence along the West Bank misleading.

"The road map is about none of these. In fact, none of these matters are even part of the road map. They are merely red herrings dragged across the picture by the Palestinians to try to distract the world from the fact they they are not carrying out their commitments."

In a brief survey of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Asper said the dispute is not really about final borders, settlements, refugees or Jerusalem.

"This 100-year war is about the right of the Jewish nation to have a sovereign state, which is a Jewish state, within the boundaries of the biblical and ancestral homeland of its forebears."

He claimed that the fundamental goal of the "Arab leadership" is to destroy Israel and kill or expel all Jews.

"This is not an assumption that I postulate. It is taken from the mouths of all the principal leaders of the Arab world, down through the ages, including right up to and including much of the present leadership."

The Palestinian strategy is clear, he said. "It is to fight for and take everything and anything they can get." Once they have achieved these objectives, they will demand yet more, until they destroy Israel and expunge the Jews from historic Palestine. "And they don't care how many generations it will take."

Asper said his pessimism about the future of the road map stems in part from the fact that Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat still wields power.

"The road map is premised on regime change in the governance of the Palestinians. That simply has not happened. Arafat, the master terrorist, still runs the show."

He acknowledged that Israel, in the interests of preserving its relationship with the United States, has no alternative but to pay lip service to the road map, "to continue playing the game until President [George W.] Bush finally realizes that he has been snookered."

In closing, Asper demanded a complete review of Canada's Mideast policy, saying that its United Nations voting record on Israel is "unacceptable."

In addition, he said, Canada should not grant a broadcasting licence to the Al-Jazeera cable television station, should ensure that Jewish refugees driven out of the Arab world will be fairly compensated, and should demand that Israel be treated "as a full-fledged member of the United Nations."

Coast to Coast

Key road map condition ignored by media

In the period leading up to Ariel Sharon's July 28 meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush, important media outlets have focused on a Palestinian demand that is not part of the road map peace plan, ignoring an essential condition that is.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The Palestinian demand for a massive release of prisoners held by Israel is contained in the Palestinian *hudna* (ceasefire agreement) to which Israel is not a party. Some reporters and commentators don't seem to realize that there is no such stipulation in the road map leading to the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. Meanwhile, an essential condition of the road map, that Palestinian terrorists groups be disarmed and disbanded, has been all but forgotten.

On July 20, BBC News announced that "Israel sees the prisoner release as a goodwill gesture designed to strengthen the position of the Palestinian prime minister, known as Abu Mazen, rather than an obligation under the internationally backed peace plan – the road map."

This, of course, is not a matter of what Israel thinks but rather what is, or is not, actually in the road map. For many years, the BBC has proven itself hostile toward Israel. It earned an official Israeli cold-shoulder for a grossly one-sided documentary on Israeli nuclear policy titled *Israel's Secret Weapon*, which was broadcast in March, and it recently ran afoul of its own government over the David Kelly affair, in which it used a United Nations arms inspector as a source for a story that accused the British government of altering intelligence reports to justify the war in Iraq. (It is believed Kelly killed himself after being interrogated by the government over the story.)

Now the BBC has violated elemental journalist ethics by failing to get a basic fact straight. One cannot help but suspect the error was not simply the result of inattention or laziness.

If the BBC were confined solely to Britain that would be one thing. However, its World Service is widely viewed on CBC's Newsworld and is also seen, according to *Toronto Star* columnist Richard Gwyn, by approximately four million Americans daily (*Toronto Star*, July 23).

Even the usually reliable Mike Hornbrook of CBC Radio faltered when he reported (World Report, July 25) without clarification that "Abbas made clear that it's time for Israel to start fulfilling its obligations under the so-called road map to peace. He's demanding the Israelis release significant number of Palestinian prisoners."

There have been some noticeable exceptions to this trend. Greg Myre of the *New York Times* reported on July 27 that "the peace plan does not specifically require Israel to release any of the roughly 6,000 Palestinian prisoners it is holding. Mr. Abbas [the Palestinian prime minister], however, has made it a priority."

And the *Economist* wrote in its July 26 edition: "A stormy meeting between Mahmoud Abbas and Ariel Sharon on July 20… was over Israel's failure to release a decent number of Palestinian prisoners. Though their release is not a specific demand of the road map, it is crucial to confidence-building – and to enabling the Palestinian prime minister to keep his unruly factions to the three-month ceasefire they reluctantly agreed to on June 29th."

Nonetheless, in the same issue, the *Economist* (which, in a classic British understatement, called the BBC's conduct "less than impeccable") made the less-than-impeccable observation that the 5,000 or so Palestinians held by Israel are "political prisoners." The words "terrorists" and "murderers" are nowhere to be found.

The media would serve the interest of accuracy by turning attention to the central demand of the road map. As Yoel Marcus wrote in *Ha'aretz* July 29, "The disbanding of the terrorist organizations is the first operational clause of the road map and a prerequisite for its continuation."

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

THE PLAY'S THE THING: More than 800 people turned out at the Isabel Bader Theatre to watch USDS and Act One Productions' recent performances of *Guys & Dolls*, featuring parents of students at each of the three campuses. The production, directed by Alex Moses, raised $10,000 to support the Above & Beyond Excellence Fund, and proceeds will specifically benefit the arts in education program at USDS.

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Coast to Coast

Klarsfeld has fought to bring Nazis to justice

By ELIAS LEVY
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Over the last two years, anti-Semitism has been increasing in France. A Judeophobia that was formerly suppressed is now out in the open. And it is sometimes violent.

Serge Klarsfeld, historian, well-known lawyer, and president of the Association des Fils et des Filles des Déportés juifs de France, is a pre-eminent member of the Jewish community of France. A militant, Klarsfeld, with his wife Beatte, has dedicated his life to bringing to justice the worst Nazi criminals and their accomplices.

Klarsfeld recently spoke to *The Canadian Jewish News* about the difficult, tense circumstances under which the Jews of France are currently living.

Canadian Jewish News: *Since the beginning of the second intifadah in the fall of 2000, anti-Semitism has been increasing at an alarming rate in France. One hideous form that Judeophobia has taken is the denunciation by pro-Palestinian students of teaching about the Holocaust in the secondary schools. Are we witnessing a trivialization of the Shoah in France today?*

Serge Klarsfeld: I don't think there is a systematic effort in France to trivialize the Shoah. It is true that there have recently been some incidents in secondary schools on the outskirts of Paris where Arab pro-Palestinian students from North Africa were offended when the topic of the genocide of Jews during World War II was raised in class. But I believe that these were fairly isolated incidents. The Association des Fils et Filles des Déportés juifs de France last year showed a major exhibition in the train stations of France depicting French Jewish children who were deported and killed in the Nazi death camps. In a year of exhibition, there was only one anti-Semitic incident.

In February, I took 140 young, non-Jewish Lyon high school students to Auschwitz. The Shoah is not being trivialized in any way in French society. But it is true that this pernicious phenomenon is raging among some minority fringe elements in the North African French Muslim community, who are violently anti-Israel.

CJN: *Does this violent Judeophobia have a destructive effect on French society?*

Klarsfeld: Yes. The virulent anti-Zionism of the French Muslims, communists and leftists has, in the long run, had a pernicious effect, especially on the media. Many French and European journalists have been affected by this Israel phobia. It is very difficult to combat the phenomenon. Every time someone accuses critics of Israel of being bogged down in anti-Semitism, they respond that they are not anti-Jewish, but merely anti-Zionist. At one time, they burned Jews because of their religion and no one wanted any more Jews in European society. Now, they revile and kill Jews because they are citizens of a Jewish state.

It is obvious that we are facing a kind of illness, one that is incomprehensible, but explicable. There are about 15 million Jews in the world, one billion Muslims and 1.5 billion Christians. The Jews, with a state, a religion and a Jewish culture are now, in a sense, equal to the two other huge blocs. But these blocs have never liked minorities. They act like the big kids in the school playground. They beat up the little ones.

CJN: *The French and the Europeans are increasingly pro-Palestinian and critical of Israel. Does this harsh reality bother you?*

Klarsfeld: You have to realize that after having known the horrible slaughter of World War II, the French, like the Germans and other Europeans, have known peace for 55 years. These people now enjoy a socio-economic prosperity that Europe has not known for centuries. These nations want to continue to profit from all this. The Mideastern conflict exasperates them because they have the impression that they are in danger of losing everything they have gained in the last few decades. They are therefore ready to sacrifice the State of Israel, just as during the last great war, when many nations were also ready to sacrifice the Jews because it was the obsession of the Nazis. Now it is not only the Nazis but the Arabs who want to sacrifice Israel. It is no longer, as it was in the '30s and '40s, the place of Jews in European societies that is being questioned. To-day, it is the existence of a sovereign Jewish state that is bothering many Europeans.

CJN: *In France, even in political and diplomatic circles, the idea that the State of Israel might one day disappear is being mentioned openly.*

Klarsfeld: That is not the official position of the French government, but it is true that one can sense an annoyance in France because the Jewish state will not bow down, and it is allied with the United States. There are many in France, particularly in the diplomatic circles of the government, who have great difficulty in understanding and admitting that Israel is a tiny state that could be compared to a ghetto. In fact, if a Saddam Hussein or a Muammar Khadafi dropped a bomb on Tel Aviv, it would virtually destroy Israel. Huge threats are currently weighing down the Jewish state.

Many Europeans certainly wish Israel would disappear from the map of the Middle East. In their eyes, the existence of a Jewish state is one factor in war. They believe that if Israel disappeared, even if the Israelis themselves did not disappear, it would not be a terrible loss for humanity because it would enable the Muslim and Christian worlds to live together more easily. This false analysis is a huge error. But it is in keeping with their relationship. We will see what the future has in store for Israel and the Jewish people.

The Jewish community of France does its best to help Israel politically. The Conseil Représentatif des Institutions juives de France – the official representative of French Judaism – and its president, Roger Cuckierman, do not hesitate to stand firm in their defence of Israel's rights and interests. They are often severely criticized for this. But above all, we must not bend. On the contrary, we must continue to show solidarity with the state and the people of Israel.

CJN: *Is there a crisis between the Jewish community in France and the powers that be?*

Klarsfeld: Yes. Today there is a lack of confidence, a kind of divorce between many members of the Jewish community and the people in power. Those who are most upset and critical of the French government are the Sephardim of North African origin. They have great difficulty in accepting the situation because when they lived in North Africa, the Arabs also considered them second-class citizens.

This article appeared in full in French in the Montreal edition of C.JN, April 10. Translation by Carolin Halpern.

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Speedy recipes for stressed-out mommies, daddies

By DANIEL WOLGELERENTER
CJN Staff

It's a familiar weeknight scenario for many modern households.

As one of two working spouses, you defy speed traps as you race from work to pick up kids at day-care or after-school programs, only to arrive home at 5:30 or later with one or more cranky youngsters who want food – NOW!

Unfortunately, the nanny you couldn't afford – or perhaps were too uncomfortable to hire – doesn't have dinner waiting at home, and your supply of frozen ready-made or pre-cooked delicacies has long since been exhausted.

Forget those gourmet meals you and your spouse used to make before you had children, when you thought of yourselves as sophisticated foodies. You need to put something your kids like to eat on the table within 30 minutes of arrival or cannibalism will become an all-too-real possibility. (That, or a nervous breakdown for the grown-up in the picture.)

What's a harried mommy or daddy to do?

At our place, to prevent mealtimes from becoming too crazy, and to make sure our boys, ages five and two, don't fill up on pre-dinner "tide me over so I don't throw a tantrum" snacks, my wife and I often prepare the next day's supper after the kids are asleep.

But because we don't want to spend every evening doing chores until midnight – and you can't leave all the laundry for Sunday – working moms and dads like us need some kid-tested favourites we can throw together in half an hour or less.

The following are some workhorse standbys that can be made amid the daily chaos – and definitely don't require a diploma from Le Cordon Bleu.

CHILI BEAN TACOS

Thank God for this one. Its vegetarian combination of beans and cheese provides a complete protein, similar to meat or fish, which supplies all the essential amino acids for muscles, bones, teeth and other growing body parts. Our five-year-old eats at least two whenever we have them, and even the two-year-old is beginning to come around, now that he can actually chew the crunchy shells. And not only are they tasty, kids can help put together the ingredients just before they eat them – a big selling point with "all by myself" toddlers or kindergartners. Another cool thing about this recipe is that the amount of tomatoes and spices can be easily modified to suit your kids' tastes.

We need some kid-tested favourites we can throw together in half an hour or less

14 oz. can of red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
2 large tomatoes or half a 28 oz. can of tomatoes, chopped
8-10 taco shells
4 romaine lettuce leaves, shredded
1 tbsp. ground cumin
1 tbsp. chili powder or chili sauce
grated cheddar cheese

Place kidney beans, tomatoes, cumin and chili sauce or powder in a sauce pan and cook over medium heat until heated through or until a bit sludgy (whichever way you prefer taco filling). Place shells on a cookie sheet and heat at 350 for five minutes, or microwave four shells for 30 seconds on high (keep in mind that microwave power levels vary). Fill the shells with the bean mixture, top with cheese and lettuce – or, better yet, let the kids do it – and watch as they're eaten by the hungry hordes. Serves four.

SOLE FINGERS

This winning recipe is both incredibly straightforward and extremely tasty. It's a slightly modified version of a recipe in *Better Food For Kids*, a cookbook put out by Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children and written by two of its dieticians, Joanna Saab and Dana Kalnins. It's full of easy recipes for kids, as well as nutrition tips for parents who might be worried their picky eaters aren't getting enough essential nutrients. This sole recipe is more popular at our house than commercially prepared breaded fish, and without the unhealthy trans fats in the form of hydrogenated oils and shortenings. Serve it with rice or potato and any dip you like.

½ cup bread crumbs
¼ cup grated parmesan cheese
14 oz. frozen sole fillets, thawed and cut into strips
3 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. butter or margarine

In a bowl, combine bread crumbs and parmesan and mix well. Dredge fish strips in crumbs to coat well and transfer to a plate. In a skillet, heat half the oil and half the butter over medium heat. In batches, adding more oil and butter/margarine to each, add fish and cook for five minutes on one side. Turn over and cook for two more minutes or until browned. Serves four.

CURLY NOODLE DINNER

Working mom Joanna Stavksy, wife of *CJN* staffer Michael Stavsky, modified this recipe from one in Evelyn Raab's cookbook, *Clueless in the Kitchen: A Cookbook for Teens*. (Hey, you take what you can from where you can!) Total prep and cook time is about 15 minutes, she says, provided you remember to take the ground meat out of the freezer the night before.

"It's so fast and easy, you hardly need to think about it," Stavsky says. "I started using it shortly after Michael and I got married, largely because I was too lazy to make anything complicated, but now, with a 2½-year-old underfoot after work, speed is essential."

She says her little guy Yitzy loves this recipe "because, like all kids, I think, he's a big noodle fan. His favourite part is slurping up the noodles as loudly as possible. He is a fairly picky eater, and we occasionally have to resort to cream cheese sandwiches when he turns up his nose at what we're having for dinner, but he really enjoys this meal in spite of it having sauce on it and tomatoes – gasp, a vegetable – in it.

"The original recipe contained a can of corn niblets, which I omit because Yitzy would insist I pick them all out."

1 lb. ground chicken, ground beef or ground turkey (whatever you've got – it works equally well with all three)
2 packages ramen-type noodles
1 28 oz. can of diced tomatoes
⅓ can (see above) of water
(1 can corn niblets, if desired)

Put the two blocks of noodles in a see-through sealable plastic bag and squeeze the air out. Leave a tiny corner open. Give bag to a reliable toddler or preschooler and let him or her bang on it to break up the noodles. He or she can do this job while you move on to step two. (Just watch to make sure the noodles aren't crushed to dust.)

In a large dutch oven (or a skillet, but a big pot minimizes the splatter), cook the ground meat until done. Drain off fat. Pour all the seasoning from one soup packet, and half of the second, onto the meat. Pour in the entire can of tomatoes, juice included, then fill can about ⅓ of the way with water and add that as well. Stir and bring to a boil. Add noodles and stir to submerge. Reduce heat to low, cover the pot and cook for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Serves three to four.

TUNA CASSEROLE

This version of the time-tested classic takes a bit longer than 30 minutes (more like 45), but Lisa Gonsalves, policy adviser to both the chair and the chief administrative officer of York Region, says her kids Mason, 4, and Austin, 6, love it.

"It's quick, requires very few ingredients and above all is very nutritious," says Gonsalves, whose husband Nigel is director of marketing and operations for a firm that distributes vegetable oil to restaurants.

"After I had kids, I soon realized it was very difficult to work full time and still have enough time to prepare fresh meals every day and be able to take the kids to activities," she says.

"When I was a kid, my family often ate casseroles, and tuna casserole was a regular. Frankly, I didn't have a clue how to make it, so my mother gave me this recipe and it has proven to be a hit. Austin and Mason love pasta and are also fond of tuna, so the combination is just right."

1½ cup dry macaroni
1 can tuna
1 can (10 oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup
1 can mushrooms (optional)
½ medium onion, minced
⅓ cup of milk
grated parmesan cheese, cheddar cheese or whatever

Cook and drain macaroni. Heat soup with milk, onion and a dash of salt and pepper. Mix macaroni with soup mixture. Add mushrooms. Drain and break up tuna and mix together. Pour into a greased casserole dish. Sprinkle generously with grated parmesan, cheddar cheese, parsley flakes, cracker or bread crumbs – whatever. Bake at 350 for 25 to 30 minutes uncovered.

Note: You can also add frozen vegetables (peas are great) or chopped green pepper for some colour.

Hint: Macaroni can be cooked in the microwave – it's a lot faster and less messy. Just put it in a glass bowl with about 1¾ cups of water and cook on high for about 9 or 10 minutes, stirring every 3 minutes or so.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Aug. 11 is deadline for Aug. 21 issue and Monday, Aug. 18 is deadline for Aug 28. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, Aug. 10

HEALING SERVICE

Experience hope, comfort, faith and support at a healing service led by **Ken Rabow**, musician, composer and arranger, 3-4 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th floor. Wheelchair accessible, no fee. Call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

Tuesday, Aug. 12

GOLF TOURNAMENT

BBYO and Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad are holding their ninth annual golf tournament at Glenway Golf & Country Club, 1 p.m. $250 per golfer includes lunch, dinner, raffle, prizes, silent auction. Portion of proceeds will go to the Colorectal Cancer Foundation in memory of BBYO alumnus **Steve Glickman**. Call BBYO, 416-398-2004.

MEMORIAL EVENING

Yiddish Culture Council of Toronto, in conjunction with the Committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation and Beth Tzedec Synagogue, is marking the 51st anniversary of the murder of Soviet Jewish poets and intellectuals with a memorial evening, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec. No charge. Call Committee for Yiddish, 416-635-2883, ext. 155.

Other News

CRAFT & GIFT SHOW

Vendors wanted for craft and gift show, Monday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Bayview Shopping Centre. Sponsored by Clubs Beersheba and Aviva, Na'amat Toronto. Call 416-636-5425 (day) or 905-881-8161 (evenings).

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

Toronto Israel Experience Centre adult volunteer mission to Israel for people from 30 to 50+, Dec. 21-Jan. 4. Cost $1,999 per person, double occupancy. Acceptance based on personal interview and medical report. Participants must have made a contribution to the 2004 UJA campaign. Call **Shelly Rotman**, 416-635-2883, ext. 137 or e-mail srotman@ujafed.org.

HEBREW SCHOOL

Ateret Shalom Hebrew School offers junior kindergarten to Grade 7 and bar/bat mitzvah program. Classes once or twice weekly at York Hill Elementary School. **Joseph Klinger**, principal; **Sadie Domb**, administrator. Call 905-886-1457.

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood is holding Israeli folk dancing with **Shoshana Frank**, Wednesdays beginning Sept. 17. Beginners 7:30 p.m., intermediate 8:15 p.m. $5 per class. Call office 416-633-3838 or **Linda Gotlieb** at 416-636-5122 in evenings.

OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

Thinking of having a garage sale? National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, is holding an outdoor flea market Aug. 31, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Tables $30. Call 416-633-5100, visit www.ncjwc-ts.org or e-mail info@ncjwc-ts.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Jewish Centre for Learning and Living in Thornhill, Bathurst Street and Rutherford Road, second floor, is accepting applications for Hebrew Sunday School, beginning Sept. 7. Call 905-762-0566.

ADULT EDUCATION

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation Institute of Hebrew and Judaic Studies presents classes

Continued on page 23

Gelcer remembered as a master storyteller

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Alec Gelcer, who died recently at age 66 after a seven-month battle with brain cancer, wanted to be remembered for the stories he told.

Obituary

Known to many in storytelling circles in the Jewish and non-Jewish community, Gelcer hosted storytelling programs at Congregation Habonim and the Riverdale Jewish Community Centre.

He was also a featured speaker at the 1001 Storytelling Nights, a weekly gathering of storytellers and listeners, and along with Eli Rubinstein, co-wrote a storytelling column for *The Canadian Jewish News* several years ago.

Gelcer was a frequent guest on the CBC, as well as in the United States and his native South Africa. His most recent radio appearance was for a special BBC broadcast from the Statue of Liberty in New York.

He was also a guest speaker at a number of UJA Federation and United Israel Appeal programs.

Rubenstein, who calls Gelcer his friend, teacher and mentor, said that on the first night of Shavuot, "Alec insisted on attending the storytelling program at Habonim, despite the advance stage of his illness.

"That night, Alec told a number of stories lying on a cot. Despite his weakness, he was his usual eloquent and profound self, and all who were present witnessed an act of incredible courage and dedication."

Shirley, his wife of about 20 years, said she is amazed at the number of people who have been affected by his stories.

"People, some who only knew him through his storytelling, told me at the shivah that his stories have changed their lives. [Alec] was a graduate of psychology and had worked as a therapist, but storytelling was his passion.

"He told stories throughout his life, but he never thought of it professionally until about 15 years ago," she said.

Simcha Jacobovici, founder and former president of the Riverdale Shul, which Gelcer attended regularly, said Gelcer often organized storytelling for children at the shul.

"Alec was one of those rare people who stood out in a room. The highlight of coming to shul for me and my family on Shabbat was the *drashot* Alec used to give.

"They grew deeper over the years as he became more immersed in Judaism. He dignified our shul by his presence... He was always looking to do the right thing; he was always searching for the truth, and if you could demonstrate that something was true, he would listen carefully," Jacobovici said.

Alec and Shirley Gelcer

Echoing a chassidic story, his son Jim said at the funeral that "we will continue to tell Alec's stories, and in that, find some comfort and redemption."

In addition to his wife and son Jim, Gelcer leaves his son Alon, his daughter-in-law Lori, his stepchildren Lovell and David Kibel, his sisters Dorothy Gutter and Rosalyn Gelcer, his brother-in-law Pinchas Gutter and his grandchildren Jacob, Kai, Mira, Lila and Emma.

What's New

Continued from page 22

for beginners and more advanced learners with **Hana Werner**. Classes begin Sept. 15 for 26 sessions. $36 members, $50 non-members. Call office, 416-633-5500.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Concerned Kids is starting an eight-week training course on Aug. 25 to enable volunteers to educate young people about drug awareness, HIV/Aids, substance abuse and violence through puppeteering. Programs begin in GTA schools in November. For more information, call **Livia**, 416-636-1656 or visit www.theconcernedkids.com.

FALL HEBREW CLASSES

Registration is now open for the fall session Hebrew language and Bible classes at the Keren Hatarbut Institute, 788 Marlee Ave. Classes are offered for adults, teenagers and pre-teens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions. For registration and information, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

AUDITIONS

Medina Theatre Ensemble is holding a public audition on Aug. 27 for its Holocaust Education Week production, *The Aching Heart of Samuel Kleinerman*. Auditions are for males 10-15 years old, 20-30 years old and 40-60 years old; for females 20-35 years old and 40-60 years old. By appointment only. Resumé and recent photo required. Call **Barbara** 416-486-6626 from Aug. 8-27.

COUPLES BOWLING

Jewish Couples Bowling Club is looking for bowlers every second Sunday starting September. Experience not necessary. Call **Michel** 416-520-1433 or **Harold** 905-882-0585.

VOLUNTEER VISITORS

Circle of Care will be offering a new 30 hour training session for the volunteer visiting hospice and Jewish hospice program, Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings beginning Oct. 23. Topics include care for the caregiver, emotional and spiritual support, and comfort and hope. Experts in the field as well as clients and current volunteers will offer insight into palliative care. Volunteers must make a minimum one-year commitment. Call **Gayle Zack** 416-635-2860, ext. 413.

WELLNESS PROGRAM

If you're a senior living with osteoporosis, register for the fall session of POWER, a seven-week wellness program beginning Oct. 20 that covers exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from a physician is required. Registration $70. Call Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care 416-785-2500, ext. 2588.

FOR SENIORS

LZA Seniors' Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom, Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information, call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Eitan Glaser of Jewish National Fund is giving a lecture Aug. 14 .

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday in August; cruise and casino, Aug. 14; Casino Niagara, Aug. 28 Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Lifelong Learning Institute with **Hugh Innis**, Tuesdays from 10-11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. Call **Barbara**, ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Aug. 12 is a picnic at Earl Bales Park. For more information, call **Anna**, ext. 110.

Kosher Meals on Meals now delivered, fresh or frozen, $6.50 per meal. Call **Daniel** 416-225-2112, ext. 114.

Low vision interest group, Tuesday, Aug. 8, 1:15-2:15 p.m. in the music room. Call ext. 126.

If you are a senior 55+ looking after a loved one at home, help is available at no cost. Attentive volunteers will visit 1-3 hours per week to give you a break. No physical care provided. Call **Paula Mintzberg** ext. 118.

NA'AMAT CO-PRESIDENTS: Club Beersheba, Na'amat Toronto recently installed its new executive. Co-presidents are (left) Helen Bienstock and Judy Ross. [Mollie Rothman photo]

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211.

Free swimming in August, 12 noon-5 p.m. for lane and recreational swimming.

JCC is launching Lifesaving Society's 2003 Water Smart Contest called Who's Your Buddy. It includes an art contest for kids seven and under and a writing contest for eight to 14-year-olds. Prizes awarded in each category.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. Call 416-636-1880 or visit www.bjcc.ca.

A second toddler room for children 18 months to 2½ is opening in September, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Spaces available for Tic Tac Two, nursery, junior and senior kindergarten. Call 416-636-1880 ext. 351/248.

Chai Dancers is celebrating its 25th anniversary on Aug. 27 at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Former dancers call **Teme**, ext. 364.

Koffler School of Music is holding auditions for the Nashir Children's Choir (formerly Koffler Renanim) with **Allan Friedman** and **Debra Aronson**. To book an audition or for more information, call ext. 228.

Registration open for fall classes in saxophone and percussion, private piano, flute, recorder, violin and guitar. Classes in adult band, adult sing-a-long and Royal Conservatory group classes, Suzuki piano, violin and cello. Call ext. 228.

Koffler School of Visual Arts is now offering photography and calligraphy. Call ext. 269.

DISABLED VETERANS: Aid to Disabled Veterans, Beit Halochem Canada recently hosted its annual visit of 10 Israeli disabled veterans. [Steven Epstein, Big Dipper Communications photo]

NEW EXECUTIVE: Toronto Hadassah-WIZO's executive for 2003-2005 is, from left, Beverley Crackower, immediate past president; Lenore Ivers, vice-president; Judy Zelikovitz, president; Lisa Colt, recording secretary; Judy Wineberg, treasurer and financial secretary; Janice Haydu, corresponding secretary.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 14

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Couple speaks out at World Infertility Month

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

We have all heard the supposed reasons for a couple not being able to get pregnant: it's the woman's fault, it's all in your head or, relax and don't worry about it.

And how about the old saying that if you take fertility drugs, you will definitely have multiple births.

These are all myths.

A fact sheet issued in June for World Infertility Month by the Infertility Awareness Association of Canada said that female factors account for about 45 per cent of infertility cases, male for about 40 per cent, (these figures include situations where each of the pair bears some responsibility) and the rest are simply unexplained.

What does have a bearing on fertility is the quality of the egg, which often is associated with increasing age. Al Yuzpe, co-director of the Genesis Fertility Centre in Vancouver, and chair of the in-vitro fertilization directors committee of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, said at a press conference that "the chance of conception begins to decrease between ages 30 and 35."

By age 40, he said, a woman's chance of conception is less than half of what it was at age 30. The chances of miscarriage and genetic abnormalities also increase as a woman ages.

Obviously, then, delaying childbearing to establish a career and become more financially stable will affect how quickly – or how easily – a woman becomes pregnant.

Many treatments are now available for those having difficulty conceiving: drug-induced ovulation, which can be used by such drugs as Clomid; superovulation, in which drugs cause the production of many eggs; intrauterine insemination, where sperm is deposited directly into the uterus at the time of ovulation; donor insemination, where sperm from a donor rather than from the husband is used; in-vitro fertilization, where the egg is fertilized outside the woman's body and then replaced into the uterus; and the most radical method, intracytoplasmic sperm injection, in which the sperm is actually injected directly into a mature egg, and then deposited into the woman's uterus.

What is it like for a couple to want to have a baby, something that is supposed to come so naturally, but can't?

Rabbi Matthew Kaufman, 35, spiritual leader of the Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation, and his wife Sara Urowitz Kaufman, 34, know because they have gone through it.

The couple, who were the spokespeople for World Infertility Month, had a successful outcome through intracytoplasmic sperm injection. Their son Abraham, now six months old, is their pride and joy.

They and Abraham appeared on several television stations, as well as in the *North York Mirror* and *The CJN*, and at press conferences. "People even stopped us in the grocery store," said Urowitz Kaufman.

The couple met in Philadelphia, where Kaufman was studying for the rabbinate, and Urowitz Kaufman was working. (She is now a graduate student working toward her PhD in health policy at the University of Toronto). They married in 1998, and moved to Toronto, Urowitz Kaufman's hometown.

At the end of 1999, the couple decided to try to have a baby. ("The first year, we weren't trying to get pregnant, but we weren't trying not to, either," said Rabbi Kaufman.)

But to their dismay, nothing happened. "What was supposed to be the most natural thing in the world, wasn't," said Urowitz Kaufman.

Upset, and realizing that the younger you are, the better your chances of having a successful pregnancy, they decided to take action, and go to a fertility clinic, where they came under the care of obstetrician gynecologist Carl Laskin.

After an exhaustive set of physical, psychological and emotional tests and interviews, Laskin determined that the best technique for them would be inter-uterine insemination. Urowitz Kaufman described the anguish of five unsuccessful attempts over a 10 month period, involving daily blood tests, ultrasounds and checks of hormonal levels.

"It becomes a way of life," Urowitz Kaufman said. "It can take a toll on the individual and on the couple." Fortunately, she said, "I was in a loving and supportive marriage, and I had a supportive doctor.

"He told me it's like running a marathon, not a sprint, and to be patient."

It turned out that even with the drugs, she was releasing at the most three eggs, too low a number to ensure success.

Finally, the doctor decided to try the most radical method, intracytoplasmic sperm injection. The first try worked.

"I was healthy and miserable – just like you are supposed to be when you are pregnant," said Urowitz Kaufman.

The Kaufmans said they shared their experience with their family, which allowed them to get much-needed support. When the Orgenon drug company, the sponsor of World Fertility Month, and the Infertility Awareness Association of Canada came looking for articulate and open people to be spokespeople, the Kaufmans, who were recommended by their fertility clinic, agreed.

"As a rabbi, I saw it as an opportunity to let people know more about me, and that the synagogue is a place to talk about what is, after all, a very stressful experience," Rabbi Kaufman said.

He has a message for couples going through the experience: be realistic, but know that it is important to maintain patience, hope and faith that an infertility treatment will work.

"The love you feel for your baby is immeasurable," he said.

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Israel to bring Jews to the Galilee

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israel is launching a drive to settle Jews in a region with a large Arab population – but its plans are not for the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

For the first time in the history of the World Zionist Organization, the group is planning to build communities inside the Green Line, the boundary that divides Israel proper from the West Bank. The goal is to build 30 new communities in the Negev and Galilee.

Both regions have large numbers of Arabs. The agency aims to bolster the Jewish population in the Galilee and Negev by 10 per cent within the next five years, part of ongoing efforts to fortify Israel's Jewish majority.

"For the first time, the WZO returns to the Green Line. This is a significant political statement," said Shai Hermesh, treasurer for the Jewish Agency for Israel. "If we do not change the entire settlement scene within five to 10 years, we will lose the battle."

As the WZO's partner organization, the Jewish Agency is the driving force behind the plan, which was adopted last October to relieve a sense of isolation among Jewish residents in parts of the Galilee.

A special task force, headed by the incoming chair of the board of the United Jewish Communities, Robert Goldberg, is charged with working out details of the new drive.

The new operation will be the largest such effort since the establishment of a chain of Jewish outposts throughout the Galilee 25 years ago. At the time, the Galilee was almost exclusively Arab.

This time, the drive will also include the Negev, with special emphasis on single-family farms that will encompass large plots of land. The aim is to offset the rapid growth of the area's Bedouin population. Three new Negev towns – Gvaot-Bar, near the Gaza Strip; Merhav-Am, in the central Negev; and Tzukim, in the Arava – have already been established.

Some Arab leaders, such as Knesset member Azmi Bishara, are denouncing the new plan as an indirect way to promote the transfer of Arabs out of Israel, Jewish Agency officials said.

The agency has not concealed its aim of tipping the demographic scale in favour of Zionists – not only Jews, but also Druze and Circassian communities in northern Israel. But it says its mandate is to serve the Jewish people.

"The Jewish Agency is the government of the Jewish people," said Hermesh, who served as mayor of a regional council in the Negev for 15 years before taking the Jewish Agency post about a year ago.

The new drive in the Galilee will focus on strengthening the districts of Carmel, Upper Nazareth, Ma'alot, Migdal Ha'emek and Afula, where Arabs constitute 78 per cent of the population. In the Negev, the drive will focus on the "arc," which begins in the northwestern Negev, the seamline with the Gaza Strip, and runs to the Hebron region.

Hermesh said the drive is the only way to ensure Israel remains a Jewish state.

The Jewish Agency is expected to spend $80 million in the project's first two years, and officials hope Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will make good on his promise to match $5 for every Agency dollar. The project is part of Partnership 2000, a Jewish Agency program that links Diaspora Jewish communities with Israeli communities.

Environmentalists oppose the new project, which will also focus on building the necessary infrastructure for new towns and paving new roads in the western Negev. They argue that massive construction projects in the region will cause irreparable damage to the environment. They also fear a drive would weaken existing towns, spur increased use of private cars and require large investments in infrastructure, waste water and energy.

According to the Ministry of Environment, a crowded country like Israel simply cannot afford dispersed communities like those called for in the Jewish Agency's plans.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel also objects to the plan.

"Whatever open space is left in Israel, they try to put new settlements in," said Yohanan Darom, director of the society's northern branch office.

Darom said there was no justification for the establishment of new towns while many of those that already exist are suffering from social and economic difficulties.

Hermesh disagreed. "The 'greens' must decide whether they prefer a Jewish majority with the problems of single-family farms, or no such farms with an Arab majority," he said.

Sharon: Israel insists on fulfillment of every road map obligation

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said last Thursday that Israel's biggest mistake in the past has been its restraint in responding to violations of previous agreements with the Palestinians.

"Past experience teaches us that once a diplomatic agreement has been reached, the greatest mistake is to ignore seemingly minor violations in its implementation," he said at a graduation ceremony at the National Security College, near Tel Aviv.

As examples, he cited Europe's willingness to overlook Nazi Germany's violations of agreements prior to World War II, as well as Israel's own experiences.

"For the past three years, we have paid a heavy price for Israel's restraint over the daily violations of the Oslo accords," he said.

"We paid for the fact that terrorist organizations were not disarmed, that illegal weapons were not collected, that the intolerable incitement against Israel in the educational system and the media never stopped."

Sharon said implementation of the first phase of the U.S.-backed road map to Middle East peace, including a "total cessation of violence," is beginning, but warned that Israel "will insist on the fulfilment of every obligation included in the road map. We will do this because only insisting that agreements be honoured will bring the longed-for peace."

He said the subsequent phases could not start until all the elements of previous stages are implemented, rejecting a Palestinian demand for a time line for carrying out the plan.

Later the same day, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat called for an emergency meeting of the Quartet of international mediators who drafted the road map – the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations – to discuss "the escalation in Israeli action."

Arafat was speaking at a meeting of the senior leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the PA, including Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas and several ministers.

Before the meeting, Arafat's aide, Nabil Abu Rudeineh said they "would examine the Israeli escalation expressed through the lack of release of [Palestinian] prisoners, the continuation of the settlements, the refusal to withdraw from residential areas, and the construction of the wall," referring to the fence Israel is building to separate itself from the West Bank.

Important Notice to Holocaust Survivors and Their Heirs

If you are a Holocaust survivor or the heir of a Holocaust victim, you may have a legitimate unpaid Holocaust era life, education or dowry claim.

You can file a claim through a Claims Resolution Process set up by the **International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC).** The Commission consists of representatives of United States insurance regulators, five European insurance companies and their subsidiaries, the State of Israel, worldwide Jewish and Holocaust survivor organizations and European regulators as Observers.

ICHEIC has managed an extensive research effort to identify potential policyholders. In total, 450,000 names have been published representing more than 500,000 insurance policies. The list will be updated with new names in the coming weeks. However, these lists are unlikely to include all the names of Holocaust victims who had insurance policies during the relevant period. People should not be discouraged from filing claims simply because their name or the names of family members do not appear on any published lists. Anyone who believes he or she has a valid life, education or dowry policy is encouraged to present the claim to ICHEIC.

The opportunity exists for you to receive payment if you submit a claim before **September 30, 2003.**

The Claims Resolution Process is a free service that provides individuals with a central source for information on, investigation into, and payment of these outstanding policies.

If you or someone you know may be eligible visit the website:

www.icheic.org
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Israel & the Jewish World

Canadian groups back Claims Conference

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canadian representatives joined the 57-member board of directors of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the Claims Conference) in a unanimous vote to retain the status quo in the distribution of money raised from the sale of Jewish-owned properties in what was once East Germany.

Eighty per cent of the funds will go to Holocaust survivors and to agencies that provide them with social services, while the remaining 20 per cent will continue to be allocated for Holocaust-education programs.

Canada cast both of its votes in favour of retaining the current allocation, said Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress. Congress cast its one vote for the resolution while Michael Rosenberg, president of the Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada, cast Canada's second vote in favour of the resolution.

The decision to support the 80/20 distribution was something of a reversal for the Canadian survivors association, which had resolved prior to the board meeting to push for a 90/10 split. Rosenberg said he changed his mind after hearing the position of the Claims Conference and its assurance that it would lobby the German government for larger pensions for indigent Jews.

Rosenberg said survivors groups were divided on the issue, with the Gathering of American Holocaust Survivors, the second-largest survivors organization behind the one in Israel, pushing for 100 per cent allocation to survivors. Other international survivors associations favoured varying formulas.

"After lengthy discussions, pro and con, the vote was held to retain the status quo," he said.

The U.S. group was reflecting the views of survivor communities, particularly the ones in Florida, where many are living below the poverty line and who believe any funds coming from Germany would best be used to alleviate their plight.

Canada found itself on the same side of the issue as survivors groups from Ukraine and Russia, which also called for spending on Jewish and Holocaust education.

"Yes they need the assistance, but they want money for Jewish education" which they lacked for many years under Communism, Rosenberg said.

In other developments, the Claims Conference, which distributes funds from a number of restitution programs, announced pensions of 63,000 survivors in 61 countries would increase by 5.6 per cent this year, with payments beginning in the next quarter and retroactive to Jan. 1, 2003. The increases will total an extra $11 million (all figures US) per year.

Claims Conference officials say 75 per cent of allocations from all settlements, including those from Germany, Austria and Switzerland, have gone to help survivors, and that 80 per cent of the East German funds go to benefit survivors.

Of the $578 million allocation by the conference since 1995, nearly $86 million has gone for educational projects such as support for the research database at Israel's Yad Vashem museum, legal aid to help survivors in the reparations process and youth trips to Holocaust sites in Europe and Israel.

Last year, Rabbi Israel Singer, the Claims Conference president, angered some survivors groups when he wrote that more funds should be earmarked "for the future needs of the Jewish people," including day school education.

That prompted some survivors groups to step up their lobbying efforts for a greater share of the restitution funds.

American survivors organizations have pushed to revise the 80/20 policy on the distribution of the Goodwill Fund, which was established in the mid 1990s to distribute compensation funds from the sale of unclaimed Jewish property in what was once East Germany. So far, $450 million has flowed through the Claims Conference and a total of $1 billion is expected to be raised once all unclaimed Jewish properties are sold.

Other funds administered by the Claims Conference include the Swiss Bank settlement to assist needy Jewish victims of Nazism, the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, for social services benefiting Jewish Nazi victims, an Austrian bank settlement, an Austrian government fund and the Mauerbach sale of unclaimed Jewish-owned art.

With files from JTA.

'Ilan started something unique'

Continued from page 1

"We need to deal with more than the terrorism. There are a lot of good things happening and we must focus on that as well. Ilan started something unique in the world and I am bound to continue it," said Ramon, who had just returned from a month in Israel.

She credits her children, Assaf 15½, Tal, 13, who celebrated his bar mitzvah in April, David, 10, and Noa, 6, with helping her deal with the tragedy.

"Actually, we are helping each other heal," she said from her kitchen, while urging her children to finish their lunch of soup and sandwiches.

"We are trying to see the joy in life; we need to enjoy what we have. That is what Ilan would have wanted for us more than anything else.

"It's a tough change, and it's hard to adjust to a new way of living, but we do. We have no choice."

As an Israeli, she has witnessed a lot of pain and suffering in the past few years, she said, "but that does not make this tragedy any easier to accept.

"We never get used to pain or loss. It is like losing your arm; it doesn't matter if you lost your leg before that. You mourn your arm just as much."

They cannot ignore the pain, and they have not gotten used to it, she said, "but we have learned to live with it. Ilan would be proud of us.

"We cry and we are sad, but at the same time we are happy. We try to keep a routine, and most of all, we try to laugh. Together, we are dealing with our trauma."

Ilan gave her the tools to deal with his death, she said. "For years, I lived with a person who always saw the glass half full. Even if there was only a little drink left, he would always make the best of it.

"We are living in the darkest of times, but we are making the best of it and we are working on our happiness. It is a different life, but it is a good life."

Israel is their home, she said, "but in the meantime we need to stay put. The family of Columbia has been a tremendous support to us, and it is important for us to remain for a while.

"We do plan on going home sometime soon. The kids see themselves as Israelis, and that is where we belong."

Ramon will be in Toronto on Aug. 13 when Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University honours its former president Marty Goldberg for his efforts on behalf of the university, as well as the Jewish community of Toronto and the State of Israel.

"There has always been a place in my heart for Toronto because of the people that live there. The Goldberg family is very special to us, and it is important for me to be there when he is honoured," said Ramon who will be the guest speaker at the event.

She plans to deliver a message of hope and optimism. "The main thing is to raise healthy, happy and educated children."

Montrealer named to Supreme Court

Continued from page 1

Fish taught advanced criminal law at McGill, and lectured at the Universities of Montreal and Ottawa.

Well-respected by his colleagues, he is known for the literary quality and the prodigious quantity of his judgments, his courteous demeanor in court and his sage, profound grasp of the law.

In 2000, he was a member of a Quebec Court of Appeal tribunal that ordered a Superior Court judge taken off a case because he had made improper remarks while hearing a case involving an Orthodox Jewish couple in St. Jerome court. Zipora and Moshe Amzallag complained that Justice Roland Durand had made "uncalled-for, religious-specific remarks," which they found offensive.

Durand was later reprimanded by the Canadian Judicial Council.

Full coverage of the appointment will appear next week.

French synagogue ransacked, death slogan on wall

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd

PARIS — A synagogue in a Paris suburb was ransacked last week in what French Jewish leaders said was the first such anti-Semitic attack in France since the end of the Iraq war.

Prayer books were thrown on the floor, the Torah scrolls were opened and cash was stolen after the break-in last Friday night at Ohr Menahem Synagogue, its administrator Jean-Claude Myara said.

Written on an outside wall was "*juif=mort*" (Jew=death).

"This is a violation of our integrity. We feel like we've been raped," said Myara.

Ohr Menahem also serves as a community centre in the northern Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, an area heavily populated by North African immigrants, and worshippers fear the incident could be followed by more attacks, Myara said.

"Our fear is that this could happen again," he said. "We worry this was just a first visit."

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July 28

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon began a three day visit to Washington, D.C. with a meeting with U.S. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice.

July 29

• Israel announced it was re-establishing full diplomatic ties with Austria. Israel had withdrawn its ambassador from Vienna in 2000 after far- right Freedom party leader Jorg Haider joined the Austrian coalition government.

• Israel is asking for the extradition of former Argentine military officials allegedly involved in the kidnapping of Argentine Jews during the country's 1976-1983 dictatorship.

July 30

• Israeli police suspended visits by Jews and Christians to the Temple Mount. The decision came because of rising Palestinian anger over the visits, leading to fears of violence.

• Europe is showing "growing understanding" of Israel's position regarding the Palestinians, says Israel's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations. Arye Mekel made the statement after European diplomats spoke out against efforts by Arab spokesmen to exempt violence against Israel in the definition of "terrorism."

July 31

• By a vote of 53 to 25, with one abstention, the Knesset approved the second and third readings of a bill to prevent Palestinians who marry Israeli citizens from receiving citizenship or permanent residency status.

Aug. 1

• Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein criticized Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's son Gilad for his refusal to cooperate with police in the investigation of a case involving his purchase of a Greek island, known as the "Greek island" affair.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Israel's policy of targeted killings is a two-edged sword

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

Israel has all but frozen the targeted killings of Palestinian militants so that the current ceasefire can be maintained.

The truce, which took effect on June 29 after a particularly vicious tit-for-tat round of Israeli and Palestinian attacks, has led to a drastic reduction in the incidence of violence, the bane of the peace process.

If the ceasefire holds, Israel and the Palestinian Authority may yet succeed in implementing the preliminary steps of the road map, the peace plan conceived by the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations.

In deference to the road map, Israel officially suspended its policy of assassinating key Palestinian leaders. But "ticking bombs" – Palestinians planning or trying to carry out acts of terrorism – are still fair game, as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has warned.

Targeted killings, a policy of last resort that has drawn much international criticism, became common-place during the present Palestinian uprising.

But in fact, they predate the intifadah by several decades.

During the mid-1950s, Israeli mail bombs disposed of senior Egyptian intelligence officials who had helped plan guerrilla raids from the Gaza Strip.

Less than a decade later, Israeli mail bombs maimed German scientists who had developed missiles for Egypt.

In 1971, an Israeli general named Ariel Sharon conducted a series of successful anti-guerrilla operations against Palestinian cells in Gaza.

After the slaughter of 11 Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich summer Olympics, the Mossad systematically hunted down the Black September terrorists behind the massacre.

In April 1973, an Israeli commando squad led by Ehud Barak, a future prime minister, landed in Beirut and wiped out three senior leaders of the Fatah movement.

An Israeli force commanded by Israel's current chief of staff, Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, killed the PLO's second-in-command, Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), in Tunis, Tunisia, in 1988.

In 1992, Israeli helicopters in southern Lebanon fired missiles at the car of Abbas Musawi, the leader of Hezbollah, killing him and his family.

Israel assassinated Fathi Shikaki, the head of Islamic Jihad, in Malta in 1995. And in a botched operation in 1997 in Amman, the Mossad tried to kill Khaled Meshal of Hamas' political bureau.

The first Palestinian to be killed in the second intifadah was Fatah activist Hussein Abayat. He was struck by a missile in November 2000 while driving his car near Bethlehem. Since then, Israel has killed more than 100 Palestinian militants.

But hapless bystanders have also been killed. Gen. Dan Halutz, the commander of the Israeli Air Force, said recently that innocent civilians have been killed 30 per cent of the time.

From a purely operational point of view, targeted killings are somewhat effective. They knock out important personnel, they keep would-be bombers on the run and they impede the effectiveness of organizations reliant on a few pivotal individuals.

Yet, as American scholar Steven David has stated, no compelling evidence exists that targeted killings reduce the terrorist threat to Israel's national security or deter dedicated suicide bombers.

Furthermore, Israeli pinpoint assassinations trigger further Arab animosity and provoke almost instant retaliation.

The death of Yiyeh (The Engineer) Ayyash by a booby-trapped cell phone in January 1996 unleashed a wave of bombings that claimed the lives of 60 Israelis in a matter of days and ruined Shimon Peres' chance of defeating Benjamin Netanyahu in that year's election.

The 2001 killing of Mustafa Zibri, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, led to the assassination of the first Israeli cabinet minister, Rehavam Ze'evi. The killing of Fatah leader Raed Karmi in January 2002 shattered a brief lull in the fighting and caused still more Israeli deaths. Similarly, the attempted assassination of Hamas co-founder Abdel Aziz Rantisi this past June precipitated a suicide bombing that killed 17 bus passengers in Jerusalem.

Targeted killings, therefore, are a two-edged sword.

Belgium revises controversial war crimes law

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

BRUSSELS — The lower house of Parliament approved a bill July 29 revisiting Belgium's controversial war crimes law, clearing the first hurdle in removing provisions under which complaints were filed against U.S. President George W. Bush and other world leaders.

The 150-member Chamber of Representatives approved the measure by a vote of 89-3, with 34 abstentions. The vote paved the way for quick adoption by the Senate late last week and a signature by King Albert II, who must sign all bills into law under the Belgian constitution.

Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt agreed last month to replace the law with one limited to cases involving Belgian citizens or residents as victims or suspects. It also ensures the full immunity of all world leaders and other government officials who visit Belgium.

Under the controversial law, Belgian courts were given powers to try war crimes cases regardless of where the alleged offenses occurred or the nationality of those involved. But it became an embarrassment to the government after complaints were filed against U.S., British and Israeli leaders.

"We are a small country, we cannot act as an international judge in these cases," said Liberal-Democrat Stef Goris, who introduced the bill during the debate. Cases filed this spring against U.S. and British officials in connection with the Iraq war led to the Bush administration threatening to move North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) headquarters out of Belgium unless the law was scrapped.

"There was American pressure, but there were also other pressure or friendly warnings from France and Germany suggesting that if Brussels was to be home to international organizations or meetings, that this law could be problematic," socialist Dirk Van der Maelen, deputy head of the parliament's foreign affairs committee said.

Brussels, which is headquarters to the European Union and the NATO alliance, receives thousands of diplomats, ministers and leaders a year, to attend various meetings, summits or conferences. Cases against Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and U.S. Iraq war commander Gen. Tommy Franks have already been rejected by Belgian authorities, using earlier amendments to the old law.

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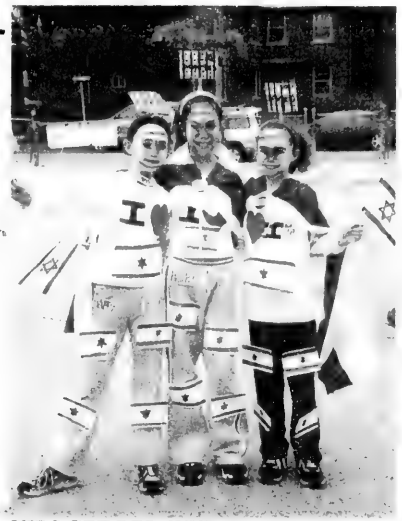
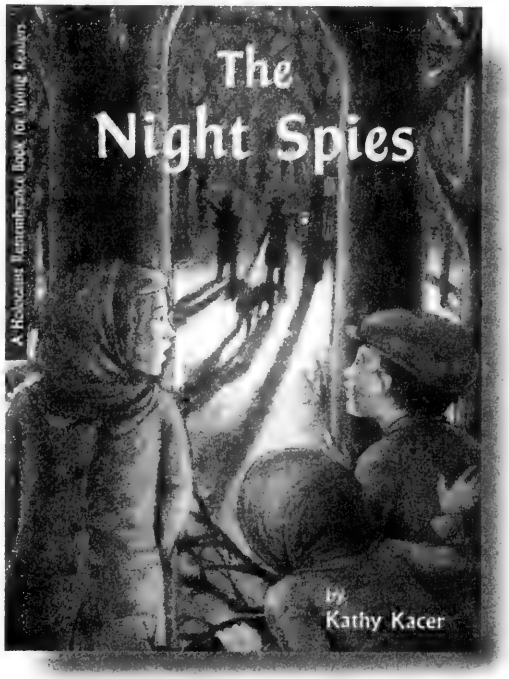
CJ Kids



KIDS GET RED, WHITE AND BLUE: Blue and white flags and red hearts adorn Sarah Kohn, Hannah Simpson and Kyra Liss on Israel's 55th birthday in May this year.

The Night Spies

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter



How would you feel if you had to stay in a tiny room all day and most of the night? If you were dependent for food on the kindness of people you hardly knew? Or if you were afraid evil people would find you and maybe kill you?

Sounds pretty horrible, doesn't it? But that's what happened to Gabi, her mother and her cousin Max in Kathy Kacer's new book *The Night Spies* (Second Story Press, 2003).

It was during World War II. To hide them from the Nazis, a neighbour, Joseph, took Gabi, her mother and Max from their home to a small farming community, where they were welcomed by the town priest, who believed that helping them was "the least that decent people can do when the rest of the world seems to have gone mad."

The family was taken to the small farmstead of the Kos family. Mr. Kos had worked for Gabi's father, who had been very kind to him and his family. Mr. Kos had arranged a small hiding place in the hayloft of the barn, which was attached to the house. Gabi's family had to stay there most of the time, except when they came into the kitchen at night to eat.

At first it was exciting, but soon the children, especially Max, who was only 11, got very frustrated with staying inside all the time. They got on each other's nerves, and begged to be allowed to at least go for a walk.

Finally, Max couldn't stand it anymore, and, persuading Gabi to go with him, snuck out of the barn at night and went into the nearby woods. After this happened several times, they met a group of partisans, men and women who organized themselves into small groups, armed themselves and fought the Nazis.

The children, helped by the Kos' granddaughter Eva, were able to help them by bringing them information about a road the Nazis were building, and later about enemy soldiers who came to the town. They also brought them clothes and food.

They even got to take part in a partisan attack on the Nazi soldiers guarding the prisoners building the road.

The Kos family was very brave to hide the family, since if they had been caught, they would certainly have been killed. Mrs. Kos was especially terrified, and had as little as possible to do with them.

Like her other books, *The Secrets of Gabi's Dresser* and *Clara's War*, *The Night Spies* is based on the story of Kacer's mother, who was the Gabi in this book and in *Gabi's Dresser*. Even though the family in fact were hidden in several different places, rather than just one, *The Night Spies* shows the experience of the many Jews who managed to survive the war, thanks to the kindness and courage of Christian families.

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STAND TALL AND WAVE THE FLAG:

An "I love NY" T-shirt stands out amidst Israeli flags waved by Grade 2 Leo Baeck Day School students in celebration of their recent introduction to Torah study. Their parents and grandparents looked on as the students told the story of Bereshit through song, dance and visual art. The school gave each child a copy of the book *The Gates of the Season*, about the Jewish holidays.

CJ Kids

KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

Ouch!

adapted from the Gemara Bava Metzia 85a

***Rabbi Yehuda the Prince**, also known simply as Rebbi, edited the collection of Jewish law and commentary known as the **Mishnah**. He lived in Israel circa 200 CE.*

***"Oh no!** They're coming for me! They took my mother and my sister and now they want me!"* The terrified calf frantically ran back and forth in his pen. "Here comes the lady who wants to eat me! *Here comes the butcher with his big sharp knife! He's opening the gate!"*

The butcher unlatched the gate of the pen, and it swung open. There was only one thing to do. The desperate calf dashed between the legs of the surprised butcher and fled into the busy marketplace, with the butcher in hot pursuit.

"He's chasing me! And he's faster than I am! There must be somewhere I can hide! He's getting closer! Somebody save me! That rabbi over there, maybe he'll save me. Rabbi, Rabbi, save my life! Don't let them kill me!"

Rabbi Yehuda the Prince looked down at the cowering calf. "You were created to be eaten," he said coldly. Don't try to hide from your destiny." He stood by and watched as the butcher scooped up the struggling calf and brought it back to the slaughtering block.

Rabbi Yehuda turned back to the student accompanying him. "Anyway, as I was saying, it's obvious that the blessing on the matzah is only going to — **Owww!**"

"Master, is everything all right?"

"Yes, yes. The blessing will only exempt the — **OUCH!**"

"Master!"

"My tooth! Owwww! Oh, it hurts!" I don't understand. It **OUCH!** felt fine a moment ago. It'll probably go away soon as fast as it — **OOOH!** came."

But it didn't. The painful toothache persisted for 13 years, despite Rabbi Yehuda's desperate attempts to stop it. Nothing he tried helped. Until...

*****

It was late afternoon in Rabbi Yehuda's palace, and the servant girl was sweeping the banquet hall. She noticed some baby mice huddled in the corner, and went to sweep them into the dust heap along with the rest of the garbage.

"Oh no! Here comes the big evil monster! And in her paw, she wields the vicious brush of death! This is the end!" The baby mice closed their eyes in dread.

"Miriam."

The servant girl stopped. Her master was calling her. "Don't kill those — **OW!** — poor mice. Their mother will be pained by their death. Instead, just..."

Rabbi Yehuda the Prince stopped short in surprise. The toothache that had plagued him for 13 years was gone.

COLOUR BY NUMBER

1. green
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5. purple
6. orange

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Business Profile

Bankruptcy trustee Cyril Sapiro deals with the human side of debt

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

There are more than 800 bankruptcy trustees in Canada, and Cyril Sapiro, a Torontonian trained as a chartered accountant, is one of them.

Sapiro has his work cut out for him. Last year, some 78,000 Canadians declared personal bankruptcy.

Under the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, they were required to settle their tangled affairs with a trustee, an officer of the court who deals with the human wreckage of out-of-control debt.

"We're dealing with people who are very distraught and embarrassed," said Sapiro, who compares himself to a social worker. "These people have screwed up big time. They realize they have not lived within their means. They're suddenly doused by a cold shower of financial reality."

The sole principal of Cyril Sapiro & Co. Ltd., he treats debtors – who are given every opportunity to stave off bankruptcy – with sensitivity, care and good humour.

"Bankruptcy, for many, is a life cycle event, almost like a financial death," explained Sapiro, who has been a trustee for the past 26 years.

"Debtors come to us when the debt burden is too much to bear. If we do our work professionally, the creditors get something, the debtor is released from debt and the trustee gets paid."

Bankruptcies are affected by a number of factors: the business cycle, access to easy credit, a volatile stock market, heavy student loan debt and the failure of the self-employed to file income tax returns and pay taxes promptly.

Canadians fall into the abyss of debt, or, worse still, bankruptcy, for a number of reasons.

They use credit cards out of necessity rather than convenience.

They constantly borrow money.

They can only pay the interest and services charges, rather than the principal, of a loan.

When Sapiro senses that a debtor may break down in tears, he attempts to deflate the tension with a few well-practised tricks of the trade.

Sapiro, who may be likened to a standup comedian, may produce a laminated *New Yorker* cartoon about the ageless travails of bankruptcy.

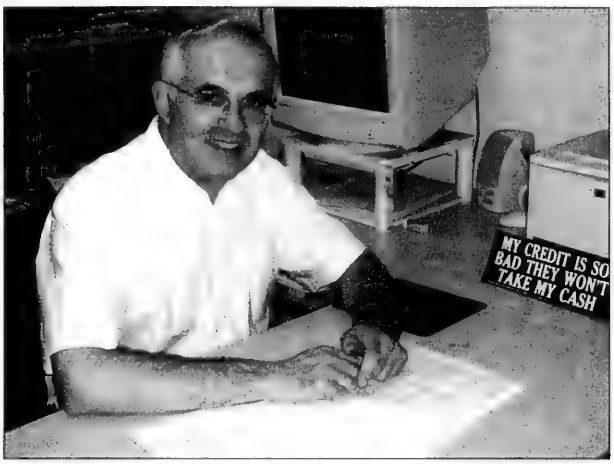
He may offer "bankruptcy candies" (Life Savers) or cookies.

And if a debtor is unemployed, he will activate his tape deck and play *Get a Job*, a song recorded by The Silhouettes, one of his favourite rock bands.

If all else fails, Sapiro proffers an outsized box of Kleenex.

These strategems pay off. "If we're effective in reducing stress and confusion, the debtor more likely has a better chance of rehabilitation as a financially responsible person," he said.

When debtors visit Sapiro's office, they get to see his private bankruptcy museum, a repository of hundreds of humourous buttons, bumper stickers, T-shirts, gag credit cards, crying towels and coffee mugs, all symbolic of trouble, debt and taxes.



Cyril Sapiro

The museum serves a theraputic purpose. "It brings a smile to a sad face and reduces the emotional pain of coming to see me in the first place."

There is no such thing as a typical debtor, noted Sapiro, who extracts his fees from the assets of estates he administers.

Debtors display a wide range of emotions. "Some are calm and others are emotional basket cases," Sapiro said.

"They're just like you and me, except that they owe money. We see some sad cases as a result of illness, job losses, business failure and the inevitable financial stress that causes family breakups. On the other hand, we get funny stories as well."

In a typical month, Sapiro sees 20 to 40 debtors at his office at 161 Eglinton Avenue East, "from those who have been very wealthy to welfare cases, from PhDs to illiterates."

Not all debtors will officially go bankrupt. "Some won't have to and others will put off making a decision until a law suit or garnishee [a court-authorized payment of debt] forces them to take action."

And debtors and bankrupts are not limited to this or that nationality. "The ethnic mix covers the normal spectrum of Toronto and includes some Jews."

Bankrupts are obliged to turn over their assets, aside from personal effects, clothing, furniture and a modest car, to a trustee.

In addition, they must surrender credit cards (often the source of their financial self-destruction), provide income tax information, disclose family income and living expenses and pay part of their surplus income to creditors.

Typically, debtors can choose from a variety of options to settle a claim.

"Sometimes, the solution is to do nothing, when even the angriest creditors can't garnishee the pensions or welfare payments of a destitute person.

"Occasionally, an informal settlement can be negotiated. If not, then the alternatives are to offer the creditors a formal proposal or simply to consider bankruptcy."

Sapiro does not dispense legal advice, "but if a person needs such advice, we refer them to a specialist," he said.

Sapiro's field is riven with misconceptions, from the notion that bankrupts stand to lose everything to the idea that their plight will be brutally exposed by a newspaper advertisement.

First-time debtors filing bankruptcy are entitled to an automatic discharge after nine months, providing there is no opposition.

Within about a year of a discharge, a bankrupt can open a savings account, apply for a department store credit card or take out a small loan.

"Most people go bankrupt only once in a lifetime," he observed. "In second or third bankruptcies, however, the nine month discharge does not apply and the bankruptcy court may impose conditions in granting a discharge."

Sapiro, who was born in Edmonton in 1939, is the son of a Romanian immigrant who was a grocery store owner and a vending machine distributor and of a homemaker who was born and raised in the Saskatchewan Jewish farming colony of Lipton.

He studied at a Talmud Torah in Edmonton and earned degrees at the University of Alberta and the University of Chicago.

While qualifying to be a chartered accountant, he taught accounting and income tax courses at York University.

He became a trustee because he had tired of the accounting profession. "I found insolvency work more interesting and less stressful than that of a regular CA practitioner," he said.

Indeed, the work of a trustee can be quite rewarding. "Our staff gets hugs, thank you cards and boxes of chocolate from people we've helped," he said.

Sapiro must be doing something right.

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Creative Ideas in Financial Planning

Michelle Goldstein Zaldin
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Actress/writer tackles aging with a sense of humour

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Botox, ex-husbands and weight gain are things most women would rather keep to themselves.

But in her one-woman-show, *Sixty With More Lies About My Weight*, Susan Freedman shares all her stories about her life as a 60-something.

Sharply dressed and donning fiery red lipstick, Freedman, a slender woman with cropped silver hair, speaks frankly to her audience about everything from her memory loss to her family's quirks and foibles.

Sixty, a follow-up to her first performance, *Fifty-Seven and Still Lying About My Weight*, is making its rounds at Fringe Festivals across Canada. It recently wrapped up runs in Toronto and Winnipeg, and will be in Edmonton Aug. 14-24.

When Freedman sat down to write *Fifty-Seven*, she says, she wanted to give older women something to relate to.

"Many of the [Fringe] shows were [about] the angst of late 20- and 30-somethings. I'd seen a lot about relationships and finding yourself and I thought, 'How about writing something for 50-somethings? We too have things to say,'" says Freedman.

Most of the people who come to see Freedman's show are women her age, she says. Frequently, they'll approach her after a performance and confess to having had Botox treatments or recount their adventures babysitting their grandchildren.

"We are so much more alike than we are different from one another," she says.

But what's the difference between being 57 and being 60?

"I don't feel very different. I feel a bit more experienced," she says. "The writing was much easier because I knew what worked. I'm a bit smarter from having done it."

In *Fifty-Seven*, Freedman incorporated stories from her past, including her childhood in Winnipeg and two failed marriages.

Of *Sixty*, she says, "Now I'm really talking about being where I am."

Freedman has loved theatre since she was a child. She trained in theatre schools in Edmonton and Calgary, and then spent 16 years working for CBC Radio as a producer, director and manager until her job was cut in 1991. After studying for a few years at another theatre school in London, England, Freedman came back to Canada and got involved in the marketing end of Vancouver's Fringe Festival. Several years later, she decided to write her own play.

Because plays are picked by lottery, rather than quality at Fringe Festivals, Freedman said, "You see some exquisitely fabulous ones and you see some that are really, really bad. And the really bad ones, rare though they are, gave me the courage to think that maybe I could write a Fringe show."

Susan Freedman still lies about her weight.

Freedman is now on the road with her third husband and stage manager Bill Galloway, whom she frequently pokes fun at onstage.

While Bill can find his way to any destination on Earth, locating items around the house remains an impossibility, Freedman says. Her words in the play are: "If it doesn't jump out and hit him in the face, he declares it lost."

About men in general, she says, "If God hadn't attached it, overpopulation wouldn't be a problem."

Freedman's in-laws, grandchildren and friends also find their way into her performance. She says she consulted each person before the show and everyone was a good sport about it.

A slide show accompanies Freedman's monologue. Goofy family photos and scribbled magic-marker drawings pop up on a small screen as she talks.

"I'm going to be up there alone. God, they've gotta have something else to look at. What am I going to do? Put on funny hats?" she says.

The photos, she says, remind the audience that her life is not very unusual.

"They really could be anybody's pictures," she says.

The occasional musical interlude also adds a playful flavour to her performance. Each time a campy song comes on – dance numbers seem to pop out of nowhere – Freedman reaches into a bag, throws on a hot pink feather boa and enormous sunglasses and struts around the stage.

The whole idea, she says, is to have fun. "You're not going to get through life having much of a good time without a sense of humour."

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

YIDDISH CULTURE COUNCIL OF TORONTO REMEMBERS MURDERED SOVIET POETS

The Yiddish Culture Council, the Committee for Yiddish and Beth Tzedec Synagogue mark the 51st anniversary of the murder of Soviet Jewish poets and intellectuals with an evening of poetry and music.

The Night of the Silenced Poets, chaired by **David Abramowitz**, features examples of the works of some of the martyred artists, as well as some poetic tributes. Israeli guest artists are **Eti Kovenska**, star of the Yiddish and Hebrew stage and screen, and pianist **Lev Kogan**.

The free program is presented in English and Yiddish. Beth Tzedec Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St., Tuesday, Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Rock of Ages: The Toronto-based Jewish rock group **Shirayim** is gearing up to play a big, end-of-summer concert at Clinton's Tavern in early September, with *The Down Under Project* and *Bais Groove* scheduled as opening acts.

A former bar mitzvah band, **Shirayim** has gained a larger fan base by playing original musical compositions with lyrics from Torah, Tehillim and other Jewish texts. The band has played at Hart House, Clinton's and several other downtown venues in the past year.

"We are trying to do something very unique in this city by creating an atmosphere where all kinds of Jewish people can come together, feel comfortable and enjoy great Jewish rock music," said lead guitarist **Yoni Goldstein**, who adds that Shirayim has a few tentative play dates for next year in the United States.

* * *

Audition Call: Markham Little Theatre is holding auditions for roles in *The Last Resort*, a musical by **Leslie Arden** and **Norm Foster**, set for a November run. Candidates are asked to prepare 12 to 16 bars of an upbeat Broadway song, and to bring voice-appropriate music. Script readings may also be included.

Cedar Grove Community Centre, 7667 14th Ave. (east of Reesor Road) Aug. 13 and 17, 7:30 p.m. Katheryn DeLory, 416-440-0592.

* * *

Names in the News

• Toronto playwright **Adam Pettle** was recently profiled in the *Jewish Chronicle* of London, England, where his family drama, *Sunday Father*, opened last month. The paper gave three stars (out of five) to the production and said that Pettle "writes with wit and a sharp eye about the lifelong effect of broken marriages on children."

• **Stewart** and **Lynda Resnick**, arts patrons and owners of the California-based **Franklin Mint**, have won a four-year legal battle for the right to use the image of the late **Princess Diana** on its products. The firm, which is worth an estimated $730 million US, has countersued the Princess Diana Memorial Fund for millions of dollars in damages, which it intends to donate to charity.

• Pop diva **Madonna** has contributed a considerable sum towards construction of an $8-million centre for the study of kabbalah in the west end of London.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The 13th edition of the fFIDA International Dance festival presents the work of more than 100 choreographers from eight countries in various Toronto venues, Aug. 5 to 17. 416-410-4291 or www.ffida.org.

• **The Mirvishes** present the hit comedy *2 Pianos, 4 Hands (2P4H)*, created and performed by **Ted Dykstra** and **Richard Greenblatt**. Elgin Theatre, Sept. 18 to Oct. 5. $25-$65. TicketKing, 416-872-1212. www.mirvish.com.

• *Light Out of Darkness*, a second CD by spiritual healer **Miriam**, presents a series of uplifting kabbalistic songs and chants in Hebrew, English and Aramaic. Miriam is a registered nurse who operates a spiritual healing practice in Los Angeles. Sampling of songs at www.miriamscyberwell.com

Encyclopedic approach to exorcism

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

One day about 10 years ago, a teenaged Russian immigrant to Israel witnessed a fatal traffic accident through her window. The tragedy occurred on a Friday afternoon. The next day, the 17-year-old witness, Menuhah, showed her sister where it had occurred.

There was still blood on the road and Menuhah, being almost as superstitious as she was religious, didn't want to point at it with her fingers. Instead she used her foot, and her foot inadvertently touched the blood. From that moment on, Menuhah believed herself possessed of the spirit of the dead girl, whose name, she learned from a radio report, had been Miri.

Menuhah began experiencing stomach pains, confusion and headaches, which she related to having stepped on Miri's blood. Soon her life took another bizarre twist: she fell in love with a soldier whom she met in the cemetery on Jerusalem's Mount Herzl. Such a liaison being forbidden among the Orthodox, Menuhah's parents attempted to segregate her.

When her troubles persisted for three months, Menuhah's parents arranged to take her to Rabbi Daniel, a kabbalist of Moroccan background known in certain circles for conducting aliyot or ascents into the spirit world for the purpose of exorcising dybbuks or spirits.

Rabbi Daniel and his wife were quick to confirm that there was a spirit inhabiting Menuhah, that it belonged to Miri, and that the dead girl had forced Menuhah to fall in love with a soldier because she had also loved a soldier.

This contemporary account of the exorcism of a dybbuk is one of several such episodes reported in the Israeli news media in recent decades, and one of many to occur throughout Jewish history.

What makes it extremely rare is that the exorcist happened to be a woman: it was the rebbetzin who, in the end, coaxed the spirit of the dead girl to leave Menuhah's body.

What also distinguishes this episode is the level of its documentation. Tamar Alexander, a professor of Hebrew literature from Ben-Gurion University, observed it closely and recorded the first-person stories of three participants – Menuhah, her father and the rebbetzin.

Alexander's fascinating scholarly analysis constitutes one of a dozen essays in *Spirit Possession in Judaism: Cases and Contexts from the Middle Ages to the Present*. Edited by Matt Goldish, the 476-page book was published recently by Wayne State University Press as part of its Raphael Patai series in Jewish folklore and anthropology.

Anyone familiar with Patai's works will see the same high level of intellectual scope and depth mirrored here.

Spirit Possession in Judaism offers a wide-ranging, encyclopedic approach that includes a discussion by Jonathan Seidel of possession and exorcism in the texts of the Cairo Geniza, a treatment by Lawrence Fine and J. H. Chajes of spirit possession in 16th-century Safed, a discussion by Goldish of Nathan of Gaza's early prophecies, a recounting by Roni Weinstein of the mystical career of 17th-century Italian Rabbi Moses Racuto and an analysis by Yoram Bilu of possession illnesses in three Jewish milieus.

Joseph Dan's masterful introduction pays tribute to the work of scholar Gershon Scholem, while the cover art pays homage to the 1937 film *The Dybbuk*, based on S. Anski's famous play, which brought the dybbuk legend to Jewish popular awareness. Texts of various Judaic works involving spirit possessions are presented in 10 appendices.

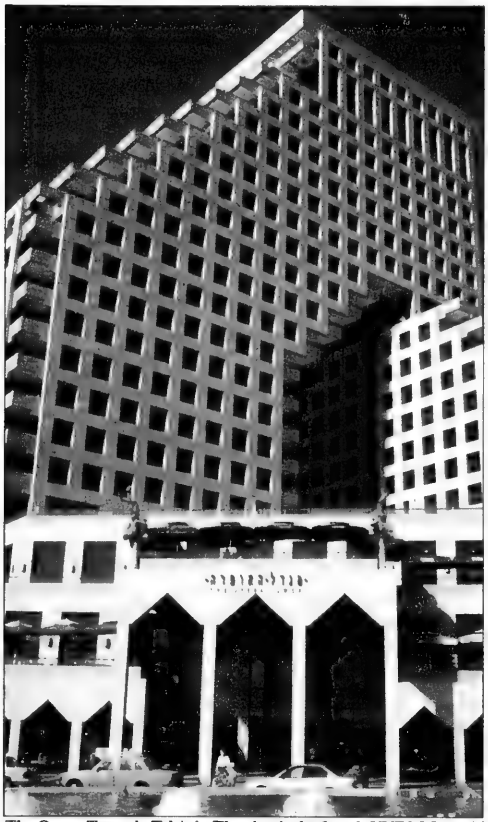
The authors approach the subject through many doors – religion, mysticism, literature, anthropology, psychology, history, folklore – leaving the reader to recall the Shakespearean observation, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." But then again, the Jews have understood that ever since Abraham.

Travel Talk

By Bill Gladstone

TEL AVIV DESIGNATED WORLD HERITAGE SITE

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has designated Tel Aviv a world heritage site because of its "White City" architecture. The thriving Israeli city is one of 24 new sites that the world body recently added to its list of 754 such locations recognized for their "outstanding universal value."



The Opera Tower in Tel Aviv. The city is the fourth UNESCO world heritage site in Israel. [IGTO photo]

What makes this designation almost unprecedented is that Tel Aviv is one of very few 20th-century sites to win UNESCO's approval. Almost every other designated site is "either a natural wonder or hundreds or thousands of years old," said Rami Levi, Israel's tourism ambassador to North and South America.

Founded as a garden suburb of the ancient Mediterranean port of Jaffa in 1909, Tel Aviv quickly bloomed into the commercial, entertainment and cultural capital of Israel. While Jerusalem is Israel's capital city, Tel Aviv has become the focus of Israel's largest urban conglomeration, home to almost three million people.

Tel Aviv is also home to more Bauhaus or International Style architecture than any city in the world.

During the 1920s and 1930s, as German-Jewish architects at the heart of the Bauhaus movement left Germany for what was then Palestine, Tel Aviv — literally overnight — adopted their style as a route to defining the character of the new Jewish city burgeoning on the Mediterranean.

By the mid-1930s it was the only city on earth being built entirely in the International Style defined by simple concrete curves, boxy shapes, small windows set in large walls, glass-brick towers and sweeping terraces all washed with white.

Viewed from the air, Tel Aviv appeared as a vision of startling white, hence the appellation "White City."

If many of Tel Aviv's Bauhaus buildings are a delight for visitors, they are sometimes a nightmare for owners. Sixty, 80 and 90 years after they were built, many are in disrepair.

With the aid of generous municipal subsidies, hundreds of the buildings have been restored into notable apartment buildings, offices, private houses, restaurants and hotels. One of the loveliest restorations saw the former Esther movie theater in Dizengoff Circle transformed into the boutique Cinema Hotel, which still retains the sweeping staircases, tall windows and curving balconies of its former identity.

Tel Aviv is the fourth UNESCO world heritage site in Israel, after the Old Cities of Jerusalem and Akko, and Masada.

***

Tourism Increase: It's turning out to be a sunny summer for Israel's tourism industry as the number of visitors continues to rise.

According to latest statistics, Israel welcomed 89,000 tourists in June — a 44 per cent increase over the same period in 2002. The joyful June results follow a 36 per cent increase in May and a 16 per cent increase in April. The number of nights in which tourists stayed at Israeli hotels rose significantly as well.

The turnaround is leaving Israel's Tourism Minister Benny Elon and other ministry officials cautiously optimistic. Elon sees the trend continuing, with 1.2 million tourists arriving in Israel by the end of 2003.

"It looks like we've turned the corner," said Dani Shahal, Israel's consul for tourism in Canada. "As talk of peace and steps toward peace in the Middle East continue, Canadians are more willing to visit Israel."

Israel Notes

• Faced with a decrease of eight metres in the water level over the past decade, Israel and Jordan are talking about a canal to connect the Gulf of Aqaba with the Dead Sea. Besides bringing water to the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth, the project could also generate hydro-electricity. The Dead Sea region is one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, and has become a therapeutic centre for visitors suffering from skin disorders or respiratory ailments.

• Hundreds of Jewish singles between the ages of 21 and 36 from around the globe are preparing to visit Tel Aviv later this month for a week-long singles event. Participants of Summer Love 2003 will tour Israel's historic, religious and cultural sites by day, and visit the world-class restaurants, clubs and beaches of Tel Aviv-Jaffa by evening and night. The event runs August 25 to Sept. 1.

For information on travel to Israel, phone 1-888-77-Israel or visit www.goisrael.com or www.ibelieveinisrael.com.

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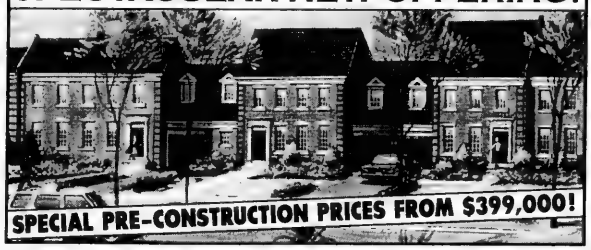

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330 OBITUARIES

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KRUMHOLZ, Ervin – on July 23, 2003, late of 32 Clarissa Dr.
PASTIEROVIC, Katarina – on July 22, 2003, late of 44 Riverview Dr.
MATLIN, Eleanor – on July 23, 2003.
VEKSLER, Emil – on July 24, 2003, late of 76 Cordoba Dr.
KUZNETSOV, Semion – on July 24, 2003.
BARBALAT, Shoshana – on July 25, 2003.
COHEN, Bessie – on July 25, 2003, late of 1955 Steeles Ave. E.
REITMAN, Imrich – on July 27, 2003, late of 65 Skaymark Dr.
PRESS, Gittel – on July 26, 2003, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave.
RIFKIN, Denys – on July 26, 2003.
GEIMAN, Chaim – on July 26, 2003, late of 365 Beverlyglen Blvd.
SALAMON, Berta – on July 27, 2003, late of 581 Davis Dr.
BERCOVITCH, Patricia Helen – on July 5, 2003, late of 65 Knox Rd. E.
GOLD, Mark D. – on July 7, 2003.
LEVINE, William – on July 8, 2003.
COLOMBY, Pearl – on July 8, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

WITTES, Adele Malka – on July 9, 2003, late of 95 Paisley Blvd. W.
BISGOULD, Mildred – on July 9, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
MEZEI, Dorothy – on July 10, 2003, late of 130 Neptune Dr.
DAICHIK, Mihail – on July 11, 2003, late of 23 Lorraine Dr.
GRINGLER, Michelle – on July 11, 2003, late of Ottawa.
WALDER, Ilona – on July 12, 2003.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

BARRIS, Rita – on July 12, 2003, late of 718 Sheppard Ave. W.
HACKER, Ely – on July 12, 2003, late of 205 Hilda Ave.
BROWN, Joy – on July 12, 2003.
KRONCHTEIN, Lev – on July 13, 2003, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
LEWIN, Viola – on July 14, 2003.
GINSBERG, Helen – on July 14, 2003.
COHEN, Isa – on July 15, 2003, late of 10 Senlac Rd.
BIELER, Annie – on July 15, 2003, late of 4266 Bathurst St.
ONROT, Belle – on July 16, 2003, late of 268 Ridley Blvd.
GOLTSMAN, Eli – on July 16, 2003.
KOPAYGORODSKY, Meyer – on July 17, 2003.
OIVADIS, Gitia – on July 17, 2003.
BACK, Emma – on July 18, 2003, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
ROZENBLIT, Charna – on July 18, 2003.
BRUDNER, Arthur Oiser – on July 18, 2003.
TAFFET, Leon – on July 18, 2003.
LEINWALD, Abraham – on July 20, 2003, late of 1131 Steeles Ave. W.
CAPUA, Regina – on July 20, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
CRANSTONE, Henry – on July 20, 2003, late of 6200 Bathurst St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

STOLLAR, Jack – on July 1, 2003, late of 47 Misty Cres.
VINE, Stanley – on July 1, 2003, late of 21 Hearthstone Cres.
MONAS, Norman – on July 4, 2003, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
ANGEL, Hannah – on July 5, 2003, late of 530 Highcliff Hts.
PELLOW, Richard – on July 4, 2003, late of 133 Torresdale Ave.
YELLIN, Carole – on July 5, 2003, late of 135 Walmer Rd.
WAYLEN, Sammy – on July 7, 2003, late of 25 Yorkville Ave., #3.
DUBINS, Gilda – on July 7, 2003, late of 4383 Bathurst St., #140.
HELLER, Charles – on July 7, 2003, late of 8 Silverwood Ave.
BLACK, Ava – on July 8, 2003, late of 2010 Islington Ave.
STEIN, Samuel – on July 10, 2003, late of 65 Alcorn Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Arts & Travel

Being part of half a million people

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

I'm not a great Rolling Stones fan, nor an AC/DC fan, nor a Rush fan. I went to the Stones concert for Toronto for the experience, not the music. I went because I wanted to see what half a million people looked like, and because my friend's concert buddy wasn't available.

From the street, Downsview Park doesn't look very big. Inside was another story. It took two hours to get from Downsview station to the far side of the stage where my friends were sitting.

When Moses parted the Red Sea, I imagine it as having been cool, blue water that rose up to form a dry walkway. The concert also had a red sea, but it was red with sunburned bodies, wet with sweat and thick with the smell of sunscreen and smoke from cigarettes and marijuana.

When the sea of writhing, partially naked bodies eventually parted, it revealed a path strewn with empty plastic water bottles caked in dirt. If you didn't put your foot down solidly with each step, the crowds would sweep you away.

Walking was an obstacle course, a fight between looking forward to see where you were going and looking down to see what, or who, you were stepping on. At first I tried not to step on the blankets that were spread out like a giant patchwork quilt, but quickly changed my mind after dozens of feet marched past me as I sat on the ground. Then I was afraid to lie down on our dirty blanket in case someone stepped on my shins and cracked them.

Some people apparently felt sorry for stepping all over us. "Can I cross over your area?" asked one bald, beer-bellied man. "I've lost my wife and I think she went that way."

Most cellphones didn't work, but during the brief intermissions between bands when everyone sat down, some people wildly waved their cellphones at the sky, trying to get reception.

The growing crowd roared with half a million lungs as the Stones took to the stage. Mick Jagger, the wrinkly highlight of the evening, stomped around in a purplish jacket and bellowed into the mike. From where I was perched on someone else's shoulders, all I could see was a brightly coloured pinprick running across the stage. All around me was an endless sea of heads.

People periodically broke out into the birthday song for Jagger, who recently turned 60. Around us, several people were smoking up and the air took on a bluish hue.

The mad dash for the exits began even before the Stones finished playing. Minutes after their set ended, fireworks exploded in the distance. A diversionary tactic, we speculated, as we picked twigs and dead grass off our blankets.

As we trudged out of the park, the only sound was of empty water bottles crumpling under thousands of shoes. "So that's why they didn't allow glass bottles," said a friend as the sea of humanity rolled out of the park, along the streets and towards the subway.

330 OBITUARIES

COOPER, Rochelle – on July 11, 2003, late of 25 Dellbank Rd.
GRANT, Esther – on July 10, 2003, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
KATES, Marjorie – on July 11, 2003, late of 12 York Ridge Rd.
GELCER, Elijah – on July 13, 2003, late of 17 MacLean Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

BARANYI, Judit – on June 29, 2003, late of 640 Lauder Ave., #805.
SAFFER, Trevor – on July 14, 2003, late of 34 Carscadden Dr.
JACOBS, Theresa – on July 15, 2003, late of 200 Bassett Rd.

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late **MARILYNE BRICKMAN** will take place Sunday, Aug. 10, 10:30 a.m., Bathurst Lawn Cemetery, Adath Shalom Section.

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

HENRY FEDER ז"ל

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Sunday, August 17th, 1:00 p.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst St. S. of Steeles
Zaglembier Society-New Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MORRIS RAPOPORT ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 17th, 9:30 a.m.

Mt. Sinai Memorial Park

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Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

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Coast to Coast

Former Kadimahites gather as camp marks 60th year

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlanti c Correspondent

HALIFAX — Jamie Levitz's eyes light up as he steps onto the sports field at Camp Kadimah.

A Newfoundland native now practicing oral surgery in Toronto, Levitz has returned to the camp in Barss Corner, N.S., for the 60th anniversary of the camp he called home for a dozen summers in the 1950s and 60s.

"My body buzzes every time I walk in here," he says on the camp's visitor's day.

Betty Fineberg, then of Saint John, N.B. and now of Halifax, was here in 1945, two years after the camp opened.

"What changes I've seen here over the years," she says as she watches grandson Max Fineberg, 7, relish the food spread brought by his parents, Victor and Sybil, both former Kadimahites.

Max is the youngest camper this year, among 310 campers from across Canada and the United States. When Kadimah started in 1943, to bring together Jewish children from across a wide-spread region, there were 45 campers. It quickly grew to about 100, then by the 1960s and 1970s to close to 200.

As young Jewish adults moved out of the region and started their own families, they sent their children, and now grandchildren, to Kadimah. Today's number is the largest in history, with almost 85 per cent from outside the Atlantic region.

Carrie (Jacobson) Rotman of Toronto attended Kadimah for seven years. Her father, Semon, grew up in Halifax. He moved to Toronto but his children, and now five grandchildren, are enjoying the rustic area around Lake William where their grandfather swam, boated, played sports, learned more of his Jewish heritage, and developed friendships that have lasted a lifetime.

Carrie says she has "far too many memories to pick a favourite. But, if I had to, I guess Maccabia (the eagerly anticipated annual team competition in various sport and cultural activities) would be the best. I was on a winning team once," she laughs.

Her sister, Rosalie Meiteen of Toronto, has one child at Kadimah this summer. "It's all about family," she says.

Liane Stein is only 10 but the Toronto girl, daughter of Pam (Medjuck) Stein, understands the history of her family and Camp Kadimah. Her grandmother, Shirlee, was at the first camp. Her grandfather, Ralph, a former chair of the camp committee, started at Kadimah in 1945.

Liane says, "Everyone in my family has gone here. It's part of me to go here, too. I belong here."

She adds, "it's like a tradition. It gives me pride to know my family has been going here and that everyone in my family feels like I do."

Her brother Matthew, 12, says the fact his family has been here since it started "makes me feel like a Maritimer."

Ralph Medjuck, 70, recalls his time as the camp bugler. "It was my job to wake the camp each morning at seven by blowing [reveille on] the bugle. If I was late, I adjusted my watch and everyone else had to adjust theirs," he jokes.

Close to 1,000 people were at camp on this year's visitor's day, some from as far as California, Florida, Vancouver and New York City. They attended a reception the previous evening, renewing friendships with some people they had not seen in several decades and with some seen at visitor's day last year.

The sports field, which opened this year, is dedicated to the chairs of the camp committee.

In recent years, several new cabins, an arts and crafts building, and a refurbished waterfront and bridge connecting the two sides of Lake William on which the camp is located, have added to the package Kadimah offers its campers and staff.

But it's the memories that everyone takes away that bring them back year after year.

Joyce Pliskow Gordon from Halifax, was camp nurse from 1953 to 1955. "I earned $300 that first summer and it was hard work but I loved every minute. I saw everything from poison ivy to measles, chicken pox and a ruptured appendix. And that summer, my folks called me to tell me I got my Registered Nurse designation."

Gerry Levitz, past president of the Ottawa Jewish Community Council, is from Corner Brook, Nfld. and Labrador. His daughters, Stephanie and Naomi, like himself, were Kadimah campers and staff.

"We had some Jewish upbringing in Corner Brook with a synagogue and cheder[now long gone] but Kadimah made me even more Jewish. I made friends in my first year at Camp (1952) that have lasted a lifetime. I'll support it as long as I'm alive."

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Memorable debut endears Kapler to Fenway Faithful

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Gabe Kapler thought it was cool when he recently learned that Boston Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein is also Jewish. That fact just added to what has become the most exciting time in his seven-year major league baseball career.

Since signing a minor league contract with the BoSox on June 24 and getting called back up to the big leagues four days later, Kapler's found himself "as happy as could possibly be right now."

And why not. He's playing for the first time on a perennial contender and will be involved in meaningful games over the season's final two months, something the Hollywood, Calif., native has never before experienced.

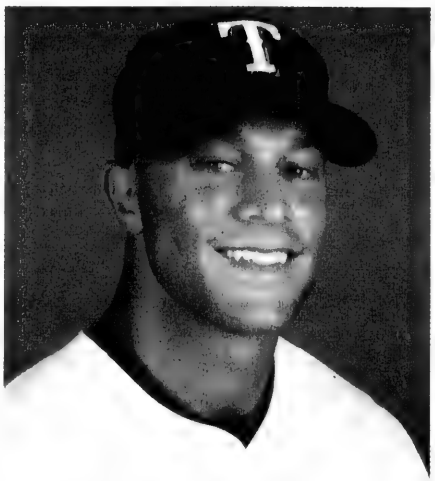
Kapler endeared himself to the Fenway faithful in a pair of memorable contests before the team embarked on a 13-game road trip leading up to the all-star break.

In his first four at-bats in a BoSox uniform against the Florida Marlins, he hit a double off the Green Monster, a single to left, a triple to centre, and a double down the left field line.

The next day, Kapler hit two homers and drove in four runs, equaling career highs in both categories.

"It was thrilling," said Kapler of his weekend debut, in which he went seven for nine with two homers, a triple, two doubles and seven RBIs. "The [Boston] fans are invigorating. They breathe a new kind of energy into you.

"There's real passion for the game there. It's almost like a religion for the people of Boston to be fans of the Sox and be around Fenway Park in the summer."



Gabe Kapler, when he was a Texas Ranger

After starting the season in Colorado as the club's fourth outfielder, the muscular six-foot-two, 210-pounder found himself in a hitting funk that ultimately got him demoted to Triple-A Colorado Springs. He hit .224 with four RBIs in 39 games this year with the Rockies.

Kapler later asked for his release, knowing six other teams were interested in giving him a big-league opportunity.

"In baseball, the timing of guys' struggles tend to be very important," he said. "Everybody struggles during the season, but if it is at the outset of the season, it can be magnified. I think that's just what happened. I struggled early on."

Kapler's job as the Red Sox's back-up outfielder is to hit against left-handed pitching, pinch-run, and prepare himself to play first base should he be called upon to field the position late in games.

He'll also offer the team a right-handed bat off the bench and the ability to play all three outfield positions.

Boston is Kapler's fourth team in the past five seasons. The 1998 Minor League Player of the Year was originally a 57th round draft pick of the Detroit Tigers in 1995.

He was dealt to the Texas Rangers following the 1999 season in a nine-player swap that included Juan Gonzalez. In 2000, his hard work produced a .302 average with 14 HRs and 66 RBIs, including a franchise-record 28-game hitting streak.

At last year's July 31 trade deadline, which coincided with his 27th birthday, Kapler was traded to Colorado. He played in 40 of the Rockies final 55 games and hit .311 with two homers and 17 RBIs.

"It was a welcome change at the time because things were kind of getting stagnant in Texas," said Kapler, who had a career best 10 outfield assists in 2002 between the two clubs. "A welcome surprise that turned out to be a great thing."

Much like his time thus far in Beantown.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 39.

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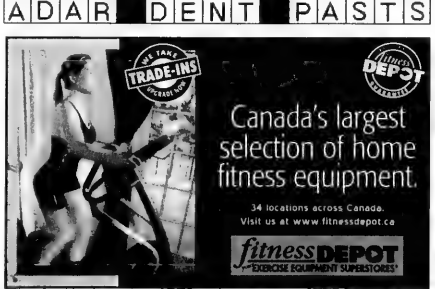

UEFA won't permit Israeli teams to play at home

By ELI SHVIDLER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — European soccer's governing body, UEFA, announced last week that European club matches involving Israeli teams would continue to be played at neutral venues outside Israel until at least mid-August. As a result, Maccabi Tel Aviv will not be able to host the return leg of its Champions League second qualifying round clash with Zilina. (In the first qualifying game, Maccabi lost to the Slovak champions, 1-0.)

UEFA said Israeli national team home games would also be played at neutral venues for the moment, though it promised the issue would be given further consideration.

Because of security concerns, in March 2002, UEFA suspended all competitive European matches in Israel. Last week's decision to maintain the ban came after a meeting of UEFA's Emergency Panel and follows discussions between UEFA, the Israel Football Association (IFA) and senior Israeli politicians, including Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom.

Hopes had been high that the ban would be lifted after Shalom met with UEFA secretary general Gerhard Aigner and told him security could be guaranteed as a result of the renewal of the peace process. Shalom brought with him letters of support from eight European foreign ministers, including Joschka Fischer of Germany, Franco Frattini of Italy and Ana Palacio of Spain. The European Union also empowered its president, Silvio Berlusconi, to call on UEFA to lift the ban.

Although the four-member Emergency Panel noted the positive developments in the region, it said more time was needed to evaluate the situation.

"The panel said it was of the view that an evaluation could only be made when a certain period of time had elapsed and that it would reconsider the matter in mid-August," UEFA said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the English press speculated that the decision to keep the ban in place was partly motivated by a desire to signal the organization's independence from Israeli and European political pressure. But both in Israel and on Fleet Street, another explanation was offered: they suggested that pressure was exerted by Chelsea, which will face Maccabi Tel Aviv in the Champions League if the latter gets past Zilina, to delay the decision so that they will not have to make the trip to Israel.

That was the view of Mark Ogden of the *Daily Telegraph*. "Since the draw was made, it has been obvious that Chelsea isn't interested in flying to Israel, both because of the security situation and because of their humiliating defeat at the hands of Hapoel Tel Aviv in the UEFA Cup.

"I'm sure that if Maccabi Tel Aviv had drawn a Scottish, Belgian or Czech side, it would have received the OK to play in Israel. UEFA didn't want to aggravate a club with the kind of financial clout that Chelsea has. They have a lot of money and a lot of influence in UEFA, and it seems the European football federation chose not to get on the wrong side of them," Ogden said.

Maccabi Tel Aviv chair Loni Herzikovic dismissed the speculation that Chelsea was behind the decision, but accused UEFA of making a political decision. "UEFA simply isn't brave enough to admit it was a political decision. If they think Budapest is safer than Tel Aviv, they're wrong… If Maccabi Tel Aviv gets past Zilina, the decision will cost us $500,000," he said.

Old folks and drifting diaries

"Old age is no place for sissies." – Bette Davis

Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "The test of a people is how it behaves towards the old."

If we in the western Jewish community were to take such a test, would we pass?

We have built structures of incredible enormity to house our "old folk" and simultaneously learned how to treat them like infantile basket weavers. We have determined an age – 65 – as the age of retirement and in doing so, sentenced our seniors to the role of third-arm appendages within our society. We idolize the nubile nature of youth, to the detriment of the nobility of age. We have consequently driven away the majestic lessons once learned from the wrinkled elegance of "the elder."

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

As the bathwater circles and takes with it our elders' wisdom and experience, unknowingly, or perhaps in full view, we have allowed them to slip away. Our mark is at best a passing grade.

Not so long ago, I sat with an 89-year-old retired doctor. He showed me his wondrous attitude toward life and we discussed his constant sense of surprise. With a rich focus, one that youth cannot have, the doctor talked about the afterlife. He told me his Christian patients, on their deathbed, usually said they had made peace with life after death, while his Jewish patients rarely, if ever, even mentioned their expectations of *olam habah* (the world to come).

I was honoured that he shared this thought with me, making me privy to an insight layered in years of experiences, ethical dilemmas, thought, curiosity and maturity. His consideration of his own demise was not that simple meandering of an old man or a young upstart. It was rich and fearless in its approach, and bathed in his memories of the thousands of hands he had held of dying men, and his deliberations as he pulled the sheets over their tired and relieved eyes.

The great American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "As we grow old, the beauty steals inward." I know this to be true every Shabbat dinner when I ponder life with my beautiful 86-year-old Aunt Sylvia. Her eyes have not dimmed, and she beams with awareness and an uncanny understanding of reality and truth.

It is time for the age of retirement to be abolished so that seniors can evolve into a natural position of leadership, with their vast knowledge respected and consulted. This is commonplace in Asia. Old folks' homes should be reserved for orphaned seniors, not those with thriving families.

For those who require a *moshav zikaynim* (home for the aged), let us restructure our on-site programs to include committees to help Ethiopian Jews in Israel, to save our environment, free enslaved children of Africa and to fight AIDS.

Let us start homework clubs in these homes and create tutoring hours when students can visit and learn biology from our doctor or study Talmud and Judaism with very intelligent and creative women and men.

The possibilities are endless.

It is said that old age is not a lousy trick that God plays on us, but a time when we are finally free of the fears that enslaved us.

Seniors – fight for what is yours.

For those who are approaching these years, it might be prudent to consider a revolution in which we storm the castle of western thinking on "aging" so that we do not soon find ourselves gasping for breath as the bathwater carries us out to sea, drifting with our diaries filled with abandoned gems of life.

"I never saw such a large pile of books waiting to be read, as that on the desk of a 90-year-old man." – Rabbi Chaim Nussbaum

CARROT & PEANUT SALAD

This ingredients list may sound odd. Don't be alarmed at the amount of vinegar: the astringency of the dressing, against the oiliness of the nuts and, in turn, nutty sweetness of the carrots, is the whole point.

4 medium carrots, peeled
1/3 cup salted peanuts
2 tblsps. red wine vinegar
2 tblsps. peanut oil
few drops sesame oil

Grate the carrots very coarsely. In a bowl, combine them with the peanuts and then add the remaining ingredients.
Source: Nigella Lawson.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My husband Matt and I took the plunge last year and purchased a cottage in the Muskokas. We saved for a long time and it has been a dream come true for us.

We have very busy schedules. We both work hard and raise a family at the same time. We don't get much private time during the year and we hoped this cottage would be the answer for us as our two children are at camp most of the summer.

What we never thought about is all of our friends who want to come up for a weekend here and there, and we have even had requests from family to stay here when we are not using the cottage.

Maybe this is the way it's done in cottage country, but it's not the way we had envisioned it. I feel guilty about not wanting any visitors, but we really do need this time to ourselves. How do I get out of this gracefully without causing hurt feelings?

Cottage Couple

Dear Cottage Couple

Congratulations on the purchase of your new cottage. I'm sure you will find it your home away from home.

Don't let all your worries spoil the peace of what your cottage will bring to you. You are obviously the kind of people who give, or you would not have a problem saying to anyone, "Sorry not this time." Guilt is a strong emotion and you have to get past it.

Picture this: it's early morning and you and Matt are sitting on the dock together watching the morning mist on the lake. The loons are singing and your coffee cups are warming your hands. The sounds of nature are all around you and the stress of the city has left your shoulders. Now do you feel guilty that you said no to Joe and Jill last week? I think not.

Stop worrying and enjoy. You've waited a long time for this. Most of your friends will understand where you're coming from.

Possibly after a couple of seasons, you'll be ready for a weekend with some friends or family, but right now go ahead and relish your serenity. You've earned it.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

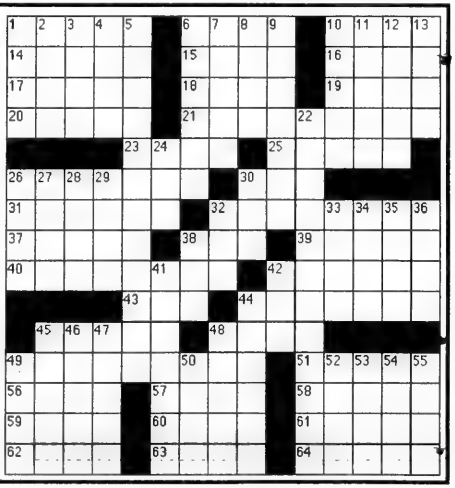
(Answers to the crossword are on page 38.)

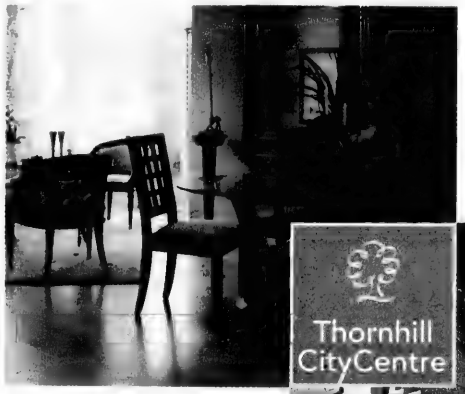
The Canadian Jewish news

Getting on with Summer
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Publicity paragraph
6. This was seen on the Indian's cheek as he contemplated America's trashing of the environment
10. It shields the eyes
14. Proportionalism
15. Fateful Latin words
16. "___ a white horse .."
17. ___ Diamant, wrote The Red Tent
18. Wrote 12 Psalms, founded music school in David-Solomon era (var. sp.)
19. Nebraskan Indian
20. Dollar ancestor
21. See one at Waikiki
23. ____ Scott, runaway slave
25. Ore deposits
26. Interleague tournament hotshot
30. Red or Dead
31. He wrote both Faust and Iphigenia
32. Sent starter bends the truth
37. Bonne ____!
38. Blanc, the Bugs Bunny voice
39. Hamlet and Polonius
40. "Lark, _____" (2 words spoken in introducing one bird to another)
42. Meryl
43. Conjunction
44. Two plants: a shade tree, a bulb
45. A ender yields self-assured posture
48. Comedia dell' ____
49. Conductor's exhortation
51. Not fresh
56. Whisky without ice
57. Rnate starter gives you an option
58. Louis Sachar's opus
59. "There ain't nuttin' like a _____"
60. Horse steering
61. _____ Dunne
62. Hebrew month
63. Arthur ____, hero of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
64. Futures' opposites

Down
1. Nasty kid
2. ___ Turner
3. Short for gas, electricity, phone
4. Religious ceremony
5. Had Noah been generous, he might have said this to papa ram and mama ewe
6. Vexer, harasser
7. And south, in Dijon
8. Docent at La Brea would say "This is _____ pit"
9. Musses, rumples
10. Hen's litter
11. Caesar's wheels
12. Smells
13. Crabgrass or similar
22. Captain's exhortation
24. John ___, Arctic explorer
26. Yaacov ___, Israeli artist, in France
27. Solitary
28. ___ Lenape, New Jersey native
29. Proofreader's direction
30. ____ vous plait
32. Restroom door sign
33. Below a marquis, above a viscount
34. The face of, in Hebrew
35. Rod's companion
36. Sight something or someone
38. Haircut type in Beatles' time
41. In the plane or train
42. Fast plane 41 down might refer to
44. Avid, eager
45. Entreat
46. South American ruminant
47. Horse flick
48. You place _____ a museum
49. ____-lusia, of southern Spain
50. Sheltered from the wind
52. ___ Bora, of Afghanistan
53. Pub offerings
54. Gave to a borrower
55. Curly letters (var.)





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This Week

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Sub Ahoy!

Israel Navy commandos in two rubber dinghies rendezvous with an Israel Navy submarine off the Haifa coast during a recent combined naval exercise. *[Israel photo]*

Teen killed in Hezbollah attack

By AMOS HAREL AND URI ASH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspapers Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Haviv Dadon, 16, was killed and four people were injured in Shlomi Sunday afternoon when Hezbollah anti-aircraft shells crashed into the Galilee town.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon convened top Israel Defence Forces (IDF) officials that night to discuss plans for Israel's response. Security sources said it would be "moderate," focusing mainly on diplomatic efforts to pressure the Syrians to restrain Hezbollah. They said Israel will refrain from overly harsh responses in the north to prevent unnecessary escalation.

The Israeli officials discussed "precisely directed" responses to Hezbollah aggression. Israel fired at suspected Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon Sunday night.

Dadon, who was buried in his hometown cemetery Sunday night, was the first fatality from Hezbollah anti-aircraft fire on the northern border since IDF troops pulled out of southern Lebanon in May 2000.

Israel retaliates

The shelling came from Hezbollah anti-aircraft cannons on the Lebanon side of the northern border overlooking Shlomi. Seven shells were fired. Three landed in Shlomi, in the yard of a private home and at two sites on Harav Hazan Street, a preschool facility and a small plaza. Four shells exploded in the air and caused no injuries or property damage.

But the explosion in the plaza left Dadon dead. Another teenager, Yaron Fingleh, sustained moderate injuries, and three other pedestrians were hurt.

Hezbollah has threatened to continue attacking Israeli targets in the Shaba Farms area, and to respond to Israeli aircraft "encroachments" in Lebanon's airspace. Hezbollah considers the Shaba Farms area, which the Israelis call Har Dov, to be part of Lebanon

"Hezbollah is capable of responding to any attacks on Lebanese soil, and to Israeli provocation," Sheikh Nabil Kauk warned.

Speaking in southern Lebanon, he added: "We want Israeli planes to stop violating our sovereignty, and we'll make sure that such infringements will cost Israel's military command dearly."

Continued on page 36

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Visits to Temple Mount may resume soon — please see page 36

The News in Brief

Canada

Playwright Wins Award

EDMONTON — Playwright Daniel Goldfarb of Toronto and New York has won the Canadian Authors' Association Carol Bolt Award for Drama for his play *Adam Baum and The Jew Movie*. He received the award, for best English-language play, at a banquet in Edmonton last month. The play premiered off Broadway in 1999 and won the 2000 New York Oppenheimer Award. It played more recently in Toronto at the Canadian Stage.

Israel

Autopsy to be Probed

JERUSALEM — An Israeli committee will investigate an autopsy performed on a soldier. Health Minister Dan Naveh announced last week he would appoint a committee to look into the autopsy of Daniel Hiller, who died in service two years ago. The decision came after growing public criticism of state coroner Yehuda Hiss for allegedly misusing the organs of deceased soldiers for research purposes. The Israel Defence Forces said Hiller committed suicide, but his parents did not accept the army's findings. When the Defence Ministry eventually agreed to a new autopsy, they invited a pathologist from Denmark to perform it. According to his findings, major organs were taken out of the body in the earlier autopsy.

New Low-Cal Melon

JERUSALEM — Israeli scientists have developed a low-calorie watermelon. The new fruit contains 20 per cent to 40 per cent fewer calories than the normal variety. To create the diet melon, researchers at Hebrew University in Jerusalem isolated a variety that contains fructose, but not sucrose or glucose.

Pianist Plays Ramallah

RAMALLAH — Daniel Barenboim played a peace concert Aug. 2 in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Barenboim, a world-renowned pianist and conductor who grew up in Israel, played a program with a Palestinian pianist and his son. "I am sure that there are many people in the Israeli government who are not happy about my being here," he said. "But then, I am not happy about many things that they do."

World

Cubans on Birthright

NEW YORK — Ten young Cuban Jews went on a Birthright Israel trip last week, the first Cubans to go on the program that provides free trips to Israel for Jews aged 18 to 26 who have never been to Israel on an organized tour. A contingent of Canadian Jews was also on the 10-day trip. More than 40,000 Jews have gone on Birthright tours since 1999.

Wallenberg Recalled

NEW YORK — Groups around the world honoured Raoul Wallenberg on what would have been his 91st birthday last week. Ceremonies were held in seven cities for the Swedish diplomat, who is credited with having saved more than 30,000 Hungarian Jews from the Nazis. Wallenberg disappeared after the war and is believed to have died in a Soviet prison. The International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation organized the events at Wallenberg monuments in each city. They included a ceremony near the United Nations in New York and one in Budapest that honoured Wallenberg's translator.

Citizenship Revoked

NEW YORK — A U.S. judge has revoked the citizenship of an alleged Nazi concentration camp guard. U.S. District Court Judge Allyne Ross in New York ruled July 31 that Jakiw Palij, 79, lied on his 1949 visa application about having been an armed guard at the SS labour camp Trawniki. Palij claimed he had worked on his father's farm in Poland during the war.

Cemetery Desecrated

MANCHESTER — About 20 gravestones were damaged or toppled in a Jewish cemetery here last week on Monday night, a Jewish security organization said. It was the third Jewish cemetery to be desecrated in Britain this year.

Romanian Shoah Study

BUCHAREST — Romania's president has agreed to establish a Holocaust commission and develop a Holocaust program in Romanian schools. Ion Iliescu told Daniel Marianschin, executive vice-president of B'nai Brith International, who was travelling in Romania, that he would take steps to educate Romanians about the Shoah and that he was sending his education minister to Israel to develop a school curriculum. Romania will also create a special day of remembrance. Israel recently chastised Romania after Iliescu said the Holocaust wasn't unique to Jews and the government denied it occurred in Romania.

FSU Schools Deal

MOSCOW — The Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israeli government will jointly operate schools in the former Soviet Union. The deal announced last week affects 21,000 students in 223 schools. Slated to begin in September, it represents the first time JAFI is participating in formal education in the FSU.

City of Vancouver Gets Its First Eruv

VANCOUVER — The Jewish community here completed its first-ever eruv earlier this summer, allowing observant Jews to carry most items within its boundaries on Shabbat.

Using existing electrical or light poles and wires, Emily Singer, wife of Rabbi Ross Singer of Congregation Shaarey Tefilah, and Rabbi Avi Baumol of Congregation Schara Tzedeck, completed construction of the eruv, which others in the community had been working on for about 30 years.

Richmond, a Vancouver suburb, is the only other Jewish community in British Columbia with an eruv.

Singer told the *Western Jewish Bulletin* that prior to this summer, she had to hire a non-Jew to push her kids' strollers to shul on Shabbat, as the act, as well as carrying children, was forbidden without the eruv.

"We were almost always at home for Shabbat meals because people with small children couldn't get to each other's houses," she said. "Now I can take my kids to the park or bring things to shul for them to eat or drink."

Singer said a fundraising campaign will raise the estimated $10,000 per year needed for regular maintenance. "If 100 families pay $100 a year, then we're covered," she said. The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver paid $7,000 toward the cost of the eruv and there is money left over to last several months and an inspector will be paid to check the condition of the eruv each Friday, she said.

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CJC confronts Trent University over professor

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) has written a letter of complaint to Trent University president Bonnie Patterson requesting a meeting over an apparent exchange of e-mails between a Trent professor and a Web site that compiles links to articles about "Jewish power."

Michael Neumann

The correspondence is posted on Jewish Tribal Review's Web site and is attributed to Trent philosophy professor Michael Neumann as part of a discussion on anti-Semitism on Nov. 25, 2002.

The Jewish Tribal Review describes itself as a compilation of links to online articles "about Jewish and Zionist influence in popular culture, Jewish ethnocentrism, Jewish power, Jewish wealth, American Judeocentrism, and Jewish political lobbying."

In response to the question of whether the Jewish Tribal Review is anti-Semitic, Neumann apparently states, "I do, but I don't get bent out of shape about it."

The e-mail correspondence goes on to state, "My sole concern is indeed to help the Palestinians, and I try to play for keeps. I am not interested in the truth, or justice, or understanding, or anything else, except so far as it serves that purpose."

The Web site quotes Neumann as writing, "I should perhaps have said I am very interested in truth, justice and understanding, but right now I have far more interest in helping the Palestinians. I would use anything, including lies, injustice and obfuscation, to do so. If an effective strategy means that some truths about the Jews don't come to light, I don't care. If an effective strategy means encouraging reasonable anti-Semitism or reasonable hostility to Jews, I don't care. If it means encouraging vicious racist anti-Semitism, or the destruction of the State of Israel, I still don't care."

When it becomes clear in the e-mail exchange that the comments will be published, Neumann apparently writes, "When I said that I would do anything, including lie and obfuscate, to help the Palestinians, I meant the sort of thing that someone would mean who said he would do anything, including lie and obfuscate, to save the lives of his parents… It is a statement of commitment, not a strategic announcement… In fact, I do not lie or obfuscate in anything I write, because that would hurt the Palestinians."

> ***'We should almost never take anti-Semitism seriously'***
>
> **— Neumann**

In an e-mail interview with *The CJN*, Neumann says the material on the Jewish Tribal Review site was published against his express wishes.

Neumann goes on to say, "I repudiate everything attributed to me on that site, and – since I refuse to read the material – will not even comment on its authenticity. I have never voluntarily had anything to do with their Web pages, and consider their site among the most ingenious, insidious and distastefully anti-Semitic enterprises around."

The correspondence apparently began when the Jewish Tribal Review webmaster sent a note to Neumann, praising his article titled "What is Anti-semitism," which appeared in the June 4, 2002 edition of the left-wing Internet magazine, *Counterpunch*. (See "Professor's e-mail raises concerns of intimidation," *CJN*, Feb. 13.)

In the *Counterpunch* article, "What is Anti-semitism," Neumann argues that anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic acts are given too much attention and says they are particularly unimportant to the Israeli-Palestine conflict. He writes that "we should almost never take anti-Semitism seriously, and maybe we should have some fun with it."

In the e-mail interview with *The CJN*, Neumann wrote that "as someone who lost relatives to Hitler's camps, all anti-Semitism bothers me… At this point, however, the condition of the Palestinians, and the crimes committed against them in my name as a Jew, bother me far more. I do not believe that the Palestinian cause can be helped by 'vicious racist anti-Semitism,' by which I mean hostility directed against Jews for what they are rather than for what any of them do. I do believe that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will inflame anti-Semitism until it is resolved by a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories."

Bonnie Patterson

CJC executive director Bernie Farber said in an interview that Neumann's apparent willingness in the Jewish Tribal Review to encourage what is described as "vicious, racist anti-Semitism" has moved beyond "what is considered proper political discourse."

Farber added that Neumann's apparent comments about lying in the name of anti-Semitism should be of grave concern to the faculty and administration of Trent and that students at Trent should not be subjected to Neumann's willingness to instrumentalize anti-Semitism.

"How can students have faith in a professor who appears to have embraced deception as a legitimate tool of influence?" Farber asked.

A Trent spokesperson said Patterson is away on holiday, but will follow up on the matter in early September.

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Consul general Romem returns to Israel

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

When Meir Romem began his stint as Israel's consul general in Toronto almost four years ago, his main focus was on "selling" Israel, particularly its high-tech capabilities.

But with the onset of the current intifadah in September 2000, "everything changed," he said in a recent interview. "We had to emphasize the political aspect, the media aspect."

Romem, who is returning to Jerusalem at the end of this week to take a new position in the foreign ministry, said despite a change in Israel's situation, his message to the Jewish community here has always been "to strengthen the bond with Israel, to make aliyah, to visit Israel as much as possible, to invest in Israel, to buy Israeli products and to support us in every possible way."

Despite a certain amount of what he calls "discrimination against Israel" by the media – for example, use of the word militants instead of terrorists to describe suicide bombers – Romem says he had a good working relationship with the media during his time here. "It's somewhat frustrating, and sometimes you feel angry," he admitted.

But Romem felt he had to educate more than just the media. In his travels to Western Canada and the Northwest Territories, Romem was particularly disturbed by members of a small Jewish group in Vancouver who were publicly critical of Israel to a greater extent than he'd encountered elsewhere.

"I consider them traitors," he said. "It's not the time to criticize, because Israel is at war. Even in the United States, after Sept. 11, all the news organizations supported the government."

Commenting on last week's news that U.S. officials were considering reducing loan guarantees to Israel as a penalty for building a security fence, Romem said that would be counterproductive.

"[The Americans] should remember that [the fence] is part of our war against terrorism. It would be a mistake for the U.S. to weaken our position while we are fighting against terrorism."

Romem, who knows U.S. President George W. Bush personally from a stint as Israel's consul-general in Texas in the early 1990s, thinks the American president "has done a good job" and has demonstrated friendship towards Israel.

He would like to see the Canadian government follow America's lead. "The Canadian government is friendly, but they could be more friendly," he said, referring to criticism of Israel and to Canada's voting history at the United Nations.

Meir Romem

"Canada always tries to be neutral when it comes to us and the Arabs, as if the Canadian government forgets that Israel is a democracy and Canada is a democracy, so Canada has more in common with Israel than with the Arabs."

Romem also said Israel's democracy has faced more challenges than Canada's, because of hostility from its Arab neighbours. "It's easier for Canada to be a democratic country. It's much more difficult for Israel."

His biggest challenge here, he said, has been to fight anti-Israel propaganda. Particularly in the non-Jewish community, he said, people are ignorant about Israel.

In his role as consul general, Romem has spoken to many politicians and service clubs from Ontario to British Columbia, he said. He has also debated local Palestinians on radio and television, although making peace really needs to be done in Israel rather than here, he said.

Interacting with Canada's Jewish community, particularly in Toronto where he is based, has been a highlight for him. "The bond [with Israel] is strong, despite the problems. The Jewish organizations here are outstanding in their support of Israel and connection with Israel, even trying to promote tourism in difficult times when people were afraid to go to Israel. So many people here have kids in Israel, family in Israel, and the Jewish education here is also exemplary."

Since he joined Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1965, Romem has served in the United States and Stockholm. This was his first posting to Canada. He will be succeeded by Yaacov Brosh on Aug. 18.

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Hoenlein to address UJA campaign launch

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Malcolm Hoenlein says he's a realist when it comes to Israel's future relationship with the Palestinians.

The executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, representing 55 national groups, will be the keynote speaker at the community launch of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Campaign 2004 on Aug. 20 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, when he will address "The Rocky Road Map to Peace" using a broad, global context.

"The optimistic approach," he told *The CJN* last week from his New York office, "would be to say that the Palestinians decide they'll live up to their commitments and fulfil their obligations, that Israel will certainly do the same, and that that will move us into an era where Palestinians and Israelis will live side by side. That there won't be a need for a fence [although] there will be separation, and that they will be able to benefit one another. I think Israel has a great deal to offer the Palestinians. By working together, they both benefit.

"The pessimistic view is that Arafat remains in control, that this *hudna* [truce] is a sham, that we will see the resumption of violence maybe after months.

"The truth will be somewhere in between."

It will be a rocky path, he believes. He added that Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, who served for 40 years as deputy to PA President Yasser Arafat, has yet to prove himself. Although

Malcolm Hoenlein

Abbas appears to be a better alternative at this point, "we have to see that he's not Arafat with a nice suit of clothes," Hoenlein said.

"At some point he has to be prepared to challenge Arafat, Hamas and Hezbollah."

Incitement to violence in the Palestinian Authority has decreased, but it's not gone, said Hoenlein. In addition to eliminating it, there "has to be a time when they start talking about peace and the benefits of it. It's Israel's security and survival that's at stake."

Hoenlein is confident that Israel, even when scrutinized, measures up well in comparison to other countries. "To me our strongest weapon is the truth. Our job is to inform the media, to educate them about the challenges Israel faces, and in a broader way to support the war on terrorism and explain what is at stake for the people of the West."

Last week's news reports about the possibility of the United States cutting back loan guarantees to Israel as a penalty for building its security fence was "obviously a leak with the intended purpose of putting pressure on Israel," said Hoenlein.

The fence and the release of Palestinian prisoners are security issues, not political ones, he noted. Historically, he added, 50 per cent of the prisoners released by Israel in the past have been recidivists. "I think [the Israelis] know which prisoners they can release and which they can't."

He added that there "would be no fence if the Palestinians were reining in the terrorists and stopping the attacks." Confiscation of weapons and taking measures against weapons smugglers are "things [the Palestinians] are capable of doing and must do," he said.

Hoenlein said that in some cases Canada can be even more important than the United States, "because of its role as a neutral country, or an additional voice at the United Nations."

Hoenlein believes it's the role of the Diaspora Jewish community to counter pressure on Israel.

He also thinks it's important to foster "creative efforts to sustain our community," particularly when it comes to involving young people, although the Conference of Presidents itself is not involved in that type of effort. "[Young people] are not looking for fancy buildings. They want substance. They want it to be meaningful. That is a real challenge for us."

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Greater Toronto Area

Spector dissects Mideast in new book

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Review

In the 1990s, Norman Spector immersed himself in the Middle East, first as Canada's ambassador to Israel (1992-1995) and then, briefly, as publisher of *The Jerusalem Post*.

Spector's exposure to the region gave him a first-hand perspective of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a dispute he followed assiduously as a columnist after returning to Canada.

Originally carried by *The Globe and Mail* and other Canadian newspapers, these columns form the core of *Chronicle of a War Foretold*, published by Douglas & McIntyre.

The columns, which are introduced by bridging comments, are supplemented by a prologue in which he discusses his ambassadorship and Canada's policy in the Middle East.

Born and raised in Montreal, Spector was the first Jewish Canadian ambassador to Israel, a result of former prime minister Brian Mulroney's decision to break a barrier. As Spector, Mulroney's former chief of staff, puts it: "He had already sent an Irish Canadian as ambassador to Dublin. Now, with his strong links to the Jewish community, he wanted to show he rejected any suggestion of double loyalty, the unstated canard at External Affairs."

From the outset, Spector, who was also accredited as Canada's envoy to the Palestinian Authority, realized that he could be more useful by promoting commercial, scientific and cultural exchanges than by trying to cultivate peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Indeed, he left the peace process to the American envoy in Tel Aviv. "I abandoned any pretension that Canada could persuade the two peoples to beat their swords into ploughshares."

In Israel, Spector spent much of his time exploring its nooks and crannies. He discloses, in a jocular aside, that his "personal project" was finding the best hummus in the region. (He stumbled upon it at the Abu Yussuf restaurant in Haifa).

Due to his familiarity with Arabic, Spector, a bachelor, met a number of Palestinians while in Israel. One of them, a Palestinian woman with whom he had a romantic affair, told him that many Palestinians regard the Holocaust as "Zionist propaganda."

Delving into the Arab-Israeli dispute, the meat and potatoes of this interesting book, he claims that extremism is the root cause of the conflict, and explains why Canadians have "a unique problem" in understanding Israel's struggle with the Arabs.

Norman Spector

Spector writes that most Israelis would be prepared to make "significant concessions" to the Palestinians were they convinced of their sincerity to live in peace as neighbours.

He adds, "I have never met a Palestinian who believes that Jews have not stolen Palestinian lands and that, morally, Israel has a legitimate right to exist as a Jewish state in the Mideast."

Spector accuses Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, of having dodged his solemn commitment to resolve differences with Israel by peaceful means. He assigns part of the blame for this to the European Union and, to a lesser extent, Canada.

By his reckoning, Arafat walked away from an Israeli and U.S. offer for Palestinian statehood because he was loath to confront Islamic extremists.

In the same opinionated manner, Spector doubts whether peace is possible as long as Arafat and Ariel Sharon, Israel's current prime minister, are "at the helm."

As publisher of *The Jerusalem Post*, Spector tried to move its hard right editorial line closer to the centre. He learned that readers did not wish to be exposed to diverse viewpoints.

In the last chapter, he analyzes the first Gulf War and the Sept. 11 attacks.

Spector maintains that, in stopping short of toppling Saddam Hussein in 1991, the United States came off looking weak and irresolute in the Arab world. This encouraged Muslim radicals such as Osama bin Laden, he suggests.

Spector, who wrote *Chronicle of a War Foretold* before the second American invasion of Iraq this past March, comes out in favour here of such a pre-emptive strike.

At the very least, he notes, the reordering of Iraq may stabilize the international system and facilitate a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. He could yet be right.

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Romania and the Holocaust

The current Romanian government has had a serious problem coming to terms with the Holocaust. Observers may be forgiven for thinking that Romania is labouring under a delusion regarding the terrible events of World War II.

On June 13, shortly after Romania signed an agreement allowing the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., to study Romanian archives relating to the Holocaust, Romania's ministry of public information claimed that, "within the borders of Romania between 1940 and 1945, there was no Holocaust." Less than a month later, the country's president, Ion Illiescu, told the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* that "the Holocaust was not unique to the Jews."

The statements issued in Romania's name were factually misleading or simply wrong. First, Romania was indeed a Jewish killing ground. Second, with the possible exception of Gypsies, Jews were uniquely singled out by Nazi Germany for mass extermination. By so mangling the truth, Romania, inadvertently we assume, ventured into Holocaust denial. It it any wonder that Israel summoned the Romanian ambassador in Tel Aviv to the foreign ministry and informed her that Israel took a grave view of these egregious distortions of the historical truth?

Much to its credit, however, Romania recanted in both instances and promised to make amends. Bucharest acknowledged that Jews had, in fact, been murdered on Romania soil, and Illiescu said that he recognized "the uniqueness" of the Holocaust. As if to underline its inexplicable mistakes, Romania pledged to expand Holocaust education in Romanian universities and to establish a memorial day to commemorate the Shoah. These steps should have been taken long ago, but better late than never.

Romanians who study the Holocaust with an open mind will learn that Romania's wartime record was, to put it diplomatically, lamentable. Raoul Hilberg, the distinguished American historian, has written: "No other country, besides Germany, was involved in massacres of Jews on such a scale." Jean Ancel, an Israeli authority on the subject, has observed: "Romania was the only ally of Germany that had its own plan of destruction and used its own army to exterminate Jews."

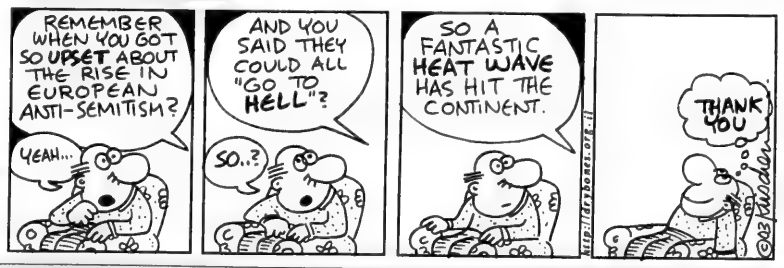
Of 760,000 Jews in Romanian-controlled territories during World War II, 420,000 were killed. Romania pursued a ruthless anti-Semitic policy, as the former Romanian president, Emil Constantinescu, conceded in 1997: "Romanians participated with a criminal blindness in implementing the infamous Nazi project of the Final Solution." Romania's fascist leader, Ion Antonescu, permitted the Iron Guard militia to carry out the 1941 Jassy massacre. In Bucharest, months earlier, the Iron Guard perpetrated a pogrom of incalculable barbarity. Romanian troops, in league with Germany, slaughtered Jews in southern Ukraine, as University of Toronto historian Michael Marrus duly notes. And Transnistria became a death zone for thousands of Jews.

Romania has a lot to live down concerning its disgraceful behaviour during the Holocaust, but at least it is willing to step back from the brink and admit the error of its ways. – **S.K.**

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

MIAs: Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones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AND YOU SAID THEY COULD ALL "GO TO HELL"?
SO..?
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Two sides not irreconcilable

Otto Baruch Rand's article ("Two sides of the story: reframing the Arab-Israeli conflict," *CJN*, June 26) presents ideas and facts that are acknowledged by moderates in both Israeli and Palestinian societies, usually behind closed doors. Thank you for publishing it.

The voices of moderation and accommodation are too easily drowned in the sea of angry rhetoric. That's a shame, because it makes one believe there are no moderates. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Many Palestinians fear and loathe the radicalization of their population. They will privately acknowledge that the right of return is a non-starter, and they will tell you "for your ears only" that they are culturally closer to Israeli Jews than they are to Saudi Muslims. Their grasp of history, both modern and ancient, is, as Rand points out, astonishingly different from ours, but the moderates don't care – they just want to get on with their lives. The same appears to be true for Israeli Jews: secular Jews fear and loathe zealotry's encroachment on humanistic, liberal ideals. According to the polls, the majority of Israelis would give up settlements for peace.

It is not surprising that the Palestinians and Israelis tell different stories and view the peace process differently. That doesn't mean that the two sides are irreconcilable. Sometimes just knowing that another's opinion differs, not because he or she is different, but simply because he or she is looking at the problem from a different point of view, is enough to disarm hostility.

Robert Eisenberg
Toronto

* * *

Beth Shalom Ottawa clarifies

I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some misconceptions raised by rabbis Ginsburg and Price of the Union for Traditional Judaism (UTJ), on their recent letter to *The CJN* concerning Congregation Beth Shalom in Ottawa (Letters to the Editor, *CJN*, June 19).

The rabbis are correct when they say Beth Shalom had not submitted a formal application to join the UTJ. Our past president was communicating with the UTJ about the possibility of joining their organization. We could not formally apply before the membership of our congregation decided our future path. The synagogue's board was also discussing other options, including becoming independent, with no affiliation.

We are also not doing away with age-old customs. Our synagogue is an amalgamation of three Orthodox shuls in downtown Ottawa and our traditions are more than 100 years old. What we are attempting to do in the heart of the city is to bring our traditions into the 21st century.

I also want to reassure the UTJ and your readers that we fully complied with our constitution and that our members did not base our recent vote on any "false premise." We followed a two-staged, 11-month process for change, with each process requiring a minimum of $^2/_3$ majority. Our membership knew exactly what they were voting for at each stage. Each vote produced approximately the same result: 70 per cent in favour of change. Also, contrary to what the rabbis may have been told, Beth Shalom is not moving toward an egalitarian service.

In two Shabbats with mixed seating, we enjoyed two very moving and meaningful services with more than double the normal attendance. The participation was loud, the children were running around and everyone spoke favourably of the change. We look forward to seeing this continue.

Jack Shapiro
President, Congregation Beth Shalom
Ottawa

* * *

Don't vote Liberal

As we approach a federal election, a group of Liberal MPs ("12 Liberal MPs, senators urge shift in Mideast policy," *CJN*, July 17) are beginning to feel the heat of their deafening silence on Liberal Middle East policy. They are seeing their traditional Jewish support slip away. I urge my Canadian Jewish brothers and sisters to punish the Liberals in the upcoming election and defeat this anti-Israel party. I, for one, would rather break both my hands than vote Liberal ever again.

George Adam
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

More Liberal boondoggle

I am happy a group of Liberal MPs wish to change the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's (DFAIT) Mideast policy ("12 Liberal MPs, senators urge shift in Mideast policy," *CJN*, July 17). But DFAIT is a government department supervised by a Liberal minister and run by civil servants. Civil servants don't dictate the policy. The government minister does. The prime minister does. And his cabinet does.

Submitting a brief to DFAIT – that is, to the civil servants – is not effective. The department doesn't make policy. If the 12 wise men really wanted to change the policy, they would have petitioned the prime minister to change the minister in charge, who would in turn have the prime minister in cabinet change it. The fact that they didn't do so is evidence of another Liberal boondoggle to convince Jewish voters that Mideast policy will change if the Liberals are re-elected. Are we that gullible?

Jonathan Usher
Toronto

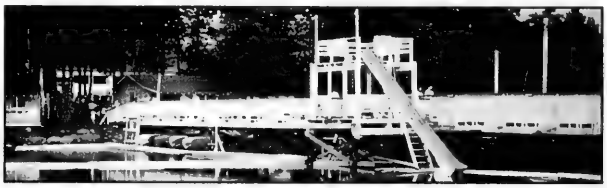
Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Camp Kadimah – Atlantic Jewry's best friend

By PAM MEDJUCK STEIN

A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart and sings it back to you when you forget how it goes. –Author unknown

Camp Kadimah in Lunenburg, N.S., is a magnet for Jewish kids across Canada, the United States and Israel. Although the number of Jewish children in the Atlantic provinces is dwindling, Kadimah magically draws in a full camper population from near and far. It offers everything anyone could want in a Jewish summer camp and simultaneously possesses all the traits of a best friend that nurtures Atlantic Jewish life.



The Camp Kadimah waterfront as it appeared in 1956.

The secret of the legendary charisma at Camp Kadimah is that it has the same elusive ingredients that have kept Jews alive and together throughout history. As a Toronto-based mother originally from the Maritimes, who has children there right now, I'm excited for the fun they'll have and the friends they'll make. As someone with beloved relatives and friends in Atlantic Canada, I am grateful they have Camp Kadimah as a best friend.

There are no Jewish day schools in Atlantic Canada. Each Atlantic camper lives from September through June as a member of a sparse minority in Saint John, Glace Bay, Corner Brook, Bathurst or even the biggest city, Halifax. Jewish life hinges on community, and Camp Kadimah gives Atlantic Jewish parents one good shot annually in the struggle against assimilation.

Growing up in the Maritimes was a blessing, but blessings are often mixed. The small Jewish community was close and active, with friendly neighbours and peaceful streets. The flip-side is that small towns lose their young and the Atlantic Jewish community has certainly lost many, including me. Solid Jewish values send Maritime teenagers to universities west of the St. Lawrence River and across the ocean in search of higher education and a Jewish social life. The conundrum remains: "How do I make a Jewish family for myself and still get to live in the Maritimes?" It's not easy.

I believe the laurels for the Atlantic Jewish community's strength and pride go directly to the sun-tanned brow of Camp Kadimah. Almost every Jew born east of Montreal since 1943 has slept in its cabins and sung in its dining hall. It's an unbelievable achievement. No one was ever turned away for lack of funds.

Every Jewish child received the same message at camp: "You are going to have more fun here than anywhere else in your life and you're going to be happy that you're a Jewish kid! You're going to be proud to be part of this very generation right here in the Maritimes, and you're going to build and protect the State of Israel!"

When Bruce Elman, currently the dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Windsor, was camp director, he actually said, and I quote, "You're going to do it! You're going to love it! And you're going to do it again!"

Whatever it was, we did it, we loved it and we did it again and again and again.

A natural Atlantic pattern emerged. You started camp at the age of eight, knowing nothing about camp – here read in the word "life." Each summer you learned more about camp (life) and had more and more exciting and interesting times. Soon you were hooked on camp and hooked on your friends throughout the Atlantic provinces. You were hooked on your own community!

Camp thus became a central feature of your young life. Free of the busyness of school, Hebrew school and after-school activities, you saw life as a whole. You learned to socialize through the intimacy of cabin living. You cleaned both the cabin and the camp. You cheered your peers. You consoled your peers. You watched other kids struggle where you don't, and they watched you. You anticipated the rhythmic shift in camp routine for Shabbat, and you danced your cares away at the social on Saturday night. In six-week batches, you learned "community." The lifestyle was sound.

Kadimah staff in the 1970s. Back row, second from right, is current camp director Marty Zatzman.

But healthy lifestyle is just the outer shell of Camp Kadimah. The heart and soul of Kadimah was, and is, vibrant Jewish identity. Generations of Kadimah counsellors have created a place centred on Jewish education. The staff of Maritime teens and adults infuse each summer with creative, thematic programs filled with fun, tradition and the Zionist values of Canadian Young Judaea. And through the years, the Atlantic community has built a self-perpetuating centre of Jewish education based on fun and pride, and God and Israel.

The goal of each Jewish community in all four Atlantic provinces was and is to get all its kids to camp. Kadimah was the only real chance for positive Jewish association. Camp had to be great. Sports had to be exciting and gratifying to all. Music had to be joyous and full of Yiddishkeit. Shabbat routine, Shabbat services and kashrut had to be unassailable. The kids had to be immersed in a feeling of warm togetherness, and it had to be in the context of Israel and Jewish tradition. I'll bet some people didn't even realize what was going on. But boy, did it work!

The themed Maccabiah games were always related to the development of Israel as a state. Team songs, cheers, plays and banners were based the theme of the year. One year, the Maccabiah theme was Israel's agricultural development. The White Team became the Redeemers of the Negev. Every cheer chanted about strength to clear swamps and bring water. Another year, the theme was human rights and the Yellow Team became "The Light unto Nations" with songs about anti-discrimination and universal love at the heart of the Zionist dream.

From the 1950s on, 16-year-olds would travel to Camp Biluim for Young Judaean leadership training, and then to Biluim Israel the following summer to see Israel for themselves. Most returned to Kadimah as staff for a few summers to give back what they could and to finally be on *shmira*! This camping cycle carried on and nurtured the lifeblood of Jewish Canada.

Now comes the flip-side of the mixed blessing. When I was born in 1957, there were 25 other Jewish babies born in Halifax alone and we travelled the Kadimah cycle together. Now, my sister's son in Halifax is one of maybe only two or three five-year-old Jewish boys in town. Travelling the cycle together is just not possible when numbers are so low.

In 2003, 80 per cent of the campers in the program that nourishes Atlantic Canada come "from away." It's fabulous. Kadimah alumni the world over now send their children and their friends' children to Nova Scotia year in and year out.

At first the influx of non-Maritimers was a worry. "Alumni kids were one thing, but people from beyond the Pale? Wow!" "Would the Maritime character be diluted?" "Isn't it the people who make camp so great? Haven't they always been Maritimers?" The true character of camp was becoming blurred in protectiveness and routine.

Steadily, the soul of Camp Kadimah shone through and it sang back the song its friends had temporarily forgotten. Alumni and staff realized that Jewish kids are Jewish kids. A full camp is what's important. A full camp is the minyan required to get with the program, and the camp's strength *is* the program, not the campers' postal codes.

Camp Kadimah is singing back to the shrinking Atlantic Jewish community. The song is bright and fresh, just as it always was. The Atlantic Jewish community needs that song dearly, and thanks to its years of friendship with camp, the song is there for everyone to enjoy!

In the 1940s, the campers and their parents possessed strong commitment to each other and to their Jewish identities. Their commitment has crystallized into a phenomenon of its own. Kadimah grabs each camper every summer with a zest that is truly hard to come by these days. That zest alone now attracts all the campers needed to fuel the annual Atlantic shot of Jewish joy and solidarity. Who would have thought that a summer camp could be the linchpin for the continuity of the Atlantic Jewish community?

Clockwise from top right, Kadimah staff in the late 1940s: Alice Newman Arnold, Shirlee Arron Medjuck, Helen Goldfarb Nathanson and the late Carol Silverman Feder.

In my day, we had pen pals from Yarmouth to St. John's. Today, Atlantic kids connect by e-mail all year long – with camp friends from across central Canada, the United States and Israel. Who would have thought that 250 big city kids would choose Barss Corner, Lunenburg County, N.S., for six weeks of fun, renewal and Maritime Jewish folksiness?

In my day, we knew we were considered to live in the back of beyond. Today, 250 campers come east to Kadimah, and students from central Canada are now filling the ranks of Dalhousie Jewish student events. Many come to study there as the result of a Maritime affinity nurtured at Kadimah, which represents the changeable and adaptable Jewish experience. It represents the global village. Maybe the Atlantic Jewish population will "rise again," to quote one former camper. Maybe Camp Kadimah does have the secret ingredient, an influence far beyond what the eye can see. Maybe I'm waxing into overkill. Home is where the heart is.

Camp Kadimah is 60 years old this summer. More power to it! Kol hakavod!… and hello to fellow campers out there somewhere!

Pamela Medjuck Stein was born in Halifax and is now a community activist in Toronto. She is also a member of the editorial advisory board of The Canadian Jewish News.

Just for fun, visit Israel

Recently, I went to Israel to consult with colleagues, attend a conference, carry out research, and visit friends and family.

I did not go with a mission. I did not go to show support or do a mitzvah for Israel. I went for me. Totally selfishly.

Norma Baumel Joseph in Montreal

For two weeks, I walked, talked, read, laughed and ate. I recommend this form of travel.

Previous columns in this space have promoted trips to Israel to show our support and love of our Israeli family. I certainly recognize the importance of such claims and the very real need for tourists in Israel. Many taxi drivers noted the constancy of Christian visitors, which contrasted sharply with the erratic trips of North American Jews.

Thankfully, tourism has picked up a bit this summer. While there, I saw people on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem. Visitors could also be seen in the Israel Museum. Sadly, though, other museums I visited remained empty. But at least there were people in the stores other than Israelis. Hotels are still empty during the week, but on weekends they fill up with Israelis who make a vacation – or family celebration – out of Shabbat. In other words, not enough of us are there. But it is not my intent to play the guilt game.

I want, quite simply, to share my joy at having been there, and to make the counter-claim that people should go to Israel for their own benefit. I have so much fun there. It is a wonderful country to visit, full of the contrasts introduced when an ancient heritage interfaces with a modern techno-society.

One trip took me to a neolithic archeological dig that was uncovering female figurines. An opposing worldview was presented at the Babylonian Heritage Center, which is dedicated to Israel's Iraqi community. Trips to Tel Aviv museums highlighted the history of the modern State of Israel, and my attendance at the Kolech Religious Women's Forum conference underscored modern Israeli intellectual and cultural diversity. Friends shared their experiences at the great spas or described hikes and nature trips. Daily, I was made aware of the contemporary textures of Israeli life. This is not an antiquated social experiment. Israel today is a country like all others – yet different.

Israel is a Jewish state, created for and by Jews. It resonates with our heritage, strength and endurance. It is a living testimony to our survival and to our relatedness. Going there recharges all my batteries. It extends all aspects of my Jewish existence. Hebrew and history come alive.

Obviously, there are many aspects of life there that infuriate, as war and peace, life and death, ricochet prominently through all interactions. Yet, the overriding experience is positive, enriching and just plain fun. Go for the sheer pleasure of it!

Talking to God in the ancient world

I have a suggestion for your late summer reading list that may not seem very seasonal, but, I assure you, will be astonishing.

James Kugel, professor of Hebrew literature at Harvard University and visiting professor of Bible studies at Bar-Ilan University, has written a number of books on biblical texts. His latest, *The God of Old*, is a very accessible analysis of how they reveal the ancients' perceptions of God. Kugel examines the texts and burrows into the minds of the people who left us their written accounts of their encounters with God. He delves into the ancient worldview of what God does, thinks, feels, and bestows on humankind.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

I will describe two of Kugel's examples and leave you to delight in reading about the rest.

"We know a great deal about how God was conceived toward the end of the Biblical period," he writes, "since that way of thinking is in many ways still with us. This is the God inherited by later Judaism and early Christianity, and thus, in many ways, is the God of our religions today. But what of earlier times, what of the God of old?"

Kugel's first chapter deals with what he calls "the moment of confusion." It takes familiar stories, such as Moses at the burning bush, Abraham and the angels, Joshua's encounter with "the chief of the Lord's army" at Jericho and the announcement of Samson's coming birth to his parents, and compares them.

Each intertwines the identity of the heavenly messenger and God. Gradually, the two dissolve into one encounter with the divine. As Kugel points out, there is no lightning bolt that suddenly illuminates the scene. Each person eventually realizes that he or she is receiving a message from the deity.

Evidently, the appearance of angels and the messages from God they delivered were expected, and the people to whom they appear are, at first, confused – Kugel calls it "in a fog" – but they eventually catch on and usually fall on their faces or otherwise acknowledge that the encounter is divine.

In the biblical world, Kugel concludes, the spiritual and the physical realms had no fixed boundaries. The two overlapped, and biblical folk were not surprised at this possibility. Indeed, they saw it as perfectly reasonable.

Thus, Kugel writes: "There are not two realms in the Bible, this world and the other, the spiritual and the material – or rather, these two realms are not neatly segregated, but intersect constantly."

Leaping ahead to the period of the prophetic books, I give my second example of what you will find in the chapter "Not Searching for God."

In later biblical literature, Kugel writes, humans must beseech God to listen to their pleas and heed their calls. This is the God of Psalms, where the psalmist constantly asks for things – help – plenty of it and immediately, to paraphrase Kugel.

But in early narratives of the Bible, God does the talking before anyone else has a chance to speak.

"In much of the Hebrew Bible," Kugel states, "God simply buttonholes people and starts speaking." Abraham in Haran, Jacob at Bethel, Moses at the burning bush – God just starts right in with the mission he has mapped out for them. Nobody does much searching around, and only later do rabbinic and other texts try to put a human voice into the stories.

Mystics went to great lengths to "see" God, or at least to experience the divine. But in the biblical universe, God came looking for you. The prophets are perfect examples of these God-induced encounters. Most – Jonah and Moses being prime examples – try to wiggle out of the mission that God calls them to (of course, without success). They certainly weren't looking for a call, nor are they astonished beyond words, and they actively oppose their given tasks. But God doesn't take "no" for an answer.

As time went on, the idea of God became more remote theologically, so everyone had to go looking. But for the early characters of biblical texts, God could be nearby, talking with you one minute, siding with your army the next.

Why go to all this trouble to tease the essence out of ancient texts? To understand where we are, we should know where we came from. To understand our present-day theology of God, we should see clearly how we got here.

Read the book. You'll enjoy it. I promise.

Celebrating Yiddish

I'm willing to wager several *zlotys* that there are few, if any, hotel clerks and concierges in the world that speak only Yiddish. Yet, on the Internet, there is a Yiddish for Travellers Web site that includes a handful of helpful phrases including, "*Es zenen faran leydike pletser far di nacht*?" ("Are there any vacancies for tonight?").

I'm left wondering what sort of travel – besides time travel – might require tourists to master the mamaloshen for hailing cabs, finding restaurants and renting cars.

While Yiddish is still spoken among many older Jews and remains the first language in a number of haredi communities around the world, it is clearly not our people's pre-eminent language anymore. About four million people can still speak the language. Before the Holocaust, there were 11 million speakers.

My own personal relationship with Yiddish is limited. I learned very little Yiddish in Hebrew school (mostly some nonsense about Yossel going to the store, presumably to buy some herring). My parents spoke Yiddish at home occasionally – usually when they didn't want my sisters and me to know what they were saying. When I attended shul as a kid, I picked some up from the older guys' kiddush banter. I'll occasionally try to use some Yiddish slang with my friends, even though I probably get it wrong. I've taught my kids how to say "*takkeh*" and "*ot a zoy*," often in exchange for a cookie.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

I find Yiddish slang and insults to be almost poetic. And most of them only work in Yiddish. (Can you imagine insulting someone in English by wishing they would "grow like an onion"? It simply doesn't work.)

I've become a little more curious about Yiddish lately because of a local event. The 90th anniversary of the I.L. Peretz Folk School took place in Winnipeg on the August long weekend. More than 700 former students and staff gathered for a series of events designed to rekindle memories, share some Yiddish culture and rejoice in the legacy of a unique educational institution. According to a recent article in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, the secular, left-leaning Peretz school was for a time, in the 1930s, the largest Jewish day school on the continent and also launched North America's first Jewish kindergarten.

Demographics changed and interest in the school declined and, by the end of the 1970s, it merged with the Hebrew-based Talmud Torah which, like the Peretz School, was located in the city's storied north end. In 1997, the merged school ceased to exist when the Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education brought together all its constituent schools under the banner of the Gray Academy of Jewish Education.

So while the Peretz school hasn't been around as a thriving, independent elementary school for many years, its contribution to the Winnipeg Jewish cultural landscape was significant, and it still flavours community life today. There are still Yiddish programs and concerts and, for the first time in years, the University of Manitoba is offering a course in Yiddish.

It seems, too, that the language is holding its own, even growing, around the world. There is now a summer Yiddish program at the Vilnius Yiddish Institute in Lithuania that attracts up to 80 participants annually, ranging in age from 15 to 70. Mendele, an online forum for Yiddish language and literature, has about 2,000 subscribers. Enter "Yiddish" into the Google search engine and you'll get 508,000 hits.

The fact remains, though, that at my age, I will likely not begin to learn Yiddish. My kids won't learn it either, unless our community schools suddenly decide it's a priority. But the dominance of Hebrew shouldn't deter us from finding ways to preserve and celebrate Yiddish. Its sounds and stories, slang and songs, convey a rich and colourful heritage – the texture of 1,000 years of European Jewish life. The organizers of Winnipeg's Peretz School anniversary celebrations, the co-ordinators of "Mendele," the academics studying the language and others who live the language are doing the world Jewish community an important service. We should wish them all a *shaynem dank*.

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

The Temple Mount: a Mideast flashpoint

The Temple Mount, a 35-acre rectangular compound in eastern Jerusalem, encompasses the Dome of the Rock shrine and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. It may well be the most contested piece of real estate in the world.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

An epicentre of religious and spiritual fervour, the Temple Mount is revered alike by Jews, Muslims and Christians. For Jews, it is the most sacred place in Judaism, the site of the First and Second temples – and, perhaps, the third. For Muslims, who refer to it as the Noble Sanctuary, it is the third holiest site in Islam. For Christian fundamentalists, it is where the third temple will be built, leading to the Second Coming.

Since the Six Day War, the Temple Mount has periodically touched off spasms of debate and bouts of violence:

• Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, warned last month that Israel's decision, since rescinded, to again permit Jews to visit the Temple Mount was an attempt to "encroach" upon an Arab property. (Jews were temporarily barred from the Temple Mount after the eruption of the second intifadah.)

• In 2002, a melée erupted when a group of messianic Jews, followers of the Temple Mount Faithful, tried to lay a cornerstone on its grounds in anticipation of the building of the third temple.

• The latest Palestinian uprising, which began in September 2000, was preceded by Ariel Sharon's provocative visit to the Temple Mount.

• The 1996 tunnel disturbances, which claimed the lives of some 80 Palestinians and 15 Israelis, were precipitated by unwarranted Muslim fears that Israel was trying to destroy the Dome of the Rock.

• In 1990, 21 Palestinians were killed by Israeli police after Palestinian rioters on the Temple Mount hurled rocks at Jews praying at the adjacent Western Wall.

• Alan Goodman, an American immigrant, touched off a week of violent protests in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1982 when he shot an Arab guarding the Dome of the Rock.

• Dennis Michael Rohan, an Australian tourist, caused a firestorm of anger and indignation in the Arab world in 1969 when he tried to burn down the Al Aqsa Mosque.

The Temple Mount also loomed large when Israel and the Palestinian Authority were in the throes of final status negotiations in 2000 and 2001. As rumours flew that former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak and Arafat were close to reaching an agreement on the status of the Temple Mount, Muslim and Jewish clergy spoke out.

The mufti of Jerusalem decreed that Islamic law prohibits non-Muslim sovereignty over the Temple Mount. Israel's chief rabbis declared: "Jewish law absolutely prohibits handing over any sovereignty or ownership, indirectly or directly, to foreigners on the Temple Mount. Sovereignty belongs to the Jewish people."

Such were the emotions that the debate spilled over into the United States. The Zionist Organization of America, outraged by the remark by Israel's absorption minister that sovereignty over the Temple Mount could be renounced by Israel, ran ads in the Jewish press attacking her. "Israel must not surrender Judaism's Holiest Site, the Temple Mount," the ad thundered.

Agitated by suggestions that Israel might give up the Temple Mount as part of an end-of-conflict accord with the Palestinians, 30 Jewish communal leaders, including seven former chairmen of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, published an unprecedented appeal against relinquishing it.

As critics pointed out, the Conference's open letter smacked of a double standard, given its heretofore opposition to open criticism of Israel's policies.

In any event, a monolithic Jewish view concerning this incendiary issue does not exist. In December 2000, 101 U.S. rabbis, representing Reform, Conservative and Reconstructionist streams, issued a statement disputing the notion of exclusive Jewish sovereignty over the Temple Mount for religious reasons.

Be that as it may, the Temple Mount proved to be one of the deal-breakers in Israel's attempt to reach an agreement with the Palestinians. With Israeli and Palestinian negotiators hunkered down in Taba in 2001 in an 11th hour effort to bridge the gaps in their respective positions, Barak's spokesperson ruled out any prospect for compromise on the Temple Mount. As she put it: "He [Barak] does not intend to sign any document that will transfer sovereignty over the Temple Mount to the Palestinians."

Israel captured the Temple Mount from Jordan on June 7, 1967, the third day of the Six Day War. Since the seventh century, with the exception of the Crusader period, the Temple Mount had been controlled by Muslims. Shortly after the conquest, Shlomo Goren, the Israeli army's chief chaplain, approached Uzi Narkiss, the general whose troops had wrested eastern Jerusalem from the Arabs. Fired up by messianic feelings, Rabbi Goren suggested that the Dome of the Rock be blown up so that the third temple could be built.

Narkiss would have none of that, according to an account published in *The End of Days: Fundamentalism and the Struggle for the Temple Mount* (The Free Press), a fine book by Gershom Gorenberg.

The rabbi persisted, saying Narkiss would go down in history if he listened to his advice. Finally, Narkiss said, "Rabbi, if you don't stop now, I'm taking you from here to jail." Rabbi Goren, stung by the rejoinder, left without another word.

In line with Narkiss' sentiments, Israel decided to leave the Temple Mount in Muslim hands. Moshe Dayan, the then defence minister, concluded that only the status quo could forestall a holy war.

Rabbi Goren struck again when he announced plans to hold prayer services on the Temple Mount. The Israeli government ordered security forces to direct Jewish worshippers from the Temple Mount to the Western Wall.

Israel's chief rabbis not only supported the edict, but warned Jews not to violate "the purity of this holy place" by treading on the Temple Mount. Since then, religious Jews, but not Jewish zealots, have respected this ruling. The latter are determined to raze the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque and build a third temple on their ruins, and thus speed the way to redemption.

Gorenberg, an Israeli journalist, believes the majority of these extremists come from the old Israeli far right, "prophets of the anti-democratic, irredentist nationalism of the kind that had plagued Europe between the wars."

Within weeks of the Six Day War, Shabtai Ben-Dov, a Lehi veteran who espouses a theocratic system of government for Israel, filed a suit with the Supreme Court demanding that access to the Temple Mount be controlled by people "concerned with protecting it as a Jewish holy place." The court rejected his suit, just as it dismissed a suit by a Lehi ideologue, Yisrael Eldad, demanding the right to conduct Jewish prayers on the Temple Mount.

Israeli border police on the Temple Mount

Gorenberg suggests that Rabbi Dov Lior, a disciple of the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, could be the most extreme Temple Mount messianist. He has claimed that all of Israel's problems are divine punishment for failing to build the third temple after the Six Day War.

Rabbi Lior and his acolytes pose a threat to Israel's stability. Several years ago, Carmi Gillon, the former director of the Shin Bet, Israel's internal intelligence agency, wrote an open letter to Barak warning that an attack by Jewish extremists on the Temple Mount could trigger an apocalyptic holy war.

It's clear that these extremists should not be underestimated.

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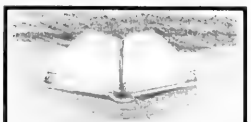
For Moshe, it was simple

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS



Moshe makes a speech that lasts for 23 chapters of the book of Dvarim, Deuteronomy, starting with Chapter 5 and ending with Chapter 28.

That is one long speech. In fact, pretty much the entire book of Deuteronomy is Moshe's last hurray – his last parting words of wisdom to his people before he departs this world.

The parshiot we read these weeks are all part of this long speech. Even the most famous Jewish prayer of all, the *Shema*, is part of this long speech. Moshe tells the people, "Listen Jewish people, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One." Moshe is speaking to us, the Jewish people, urging us to love God with all our hearts.

In the midst of his long speech, Moshe makes what must be a tongue-in-cheek comment – he can't really mean it. In Deuteronomy 10:12, Moshe encourages the Jewish people after having just told them about their failing years ago with the golden calf. He says to them "after all, my friends, what does God ask of you? All He asks is that you fear Him, go in His ways, love Him, serve Him and do all the Mitzvot." That's all.

The Talmud asks: "And Moshe, is fearing God so easy?" The Talmud is really expressing what we feel when we read this part of the Torah: is Moshe being sarcastic when he says that all God wants is for us to fear Him? That's not so easy for us of little faith who struggle with our physical selves that pull us away from spirituality and entice us toward the good life. Fear of God is way too heavy for us, and Moshe rubs it in by saying that all He wants is for us to fear Him.

And so the Talmud asks, "Is fearing God so easy?" To which it answers: "If you have the fear of God, it's easy. If you don't it's hard. For Moshe, it was easy".

Moshe is not being sarcastic. He is merely expressing the profound simplicity of what God wants from us. And for Moshe, it *was* profoundly simple. He figured, "If it's easy for me, why should it be so hard for you?

People often copy Moshe's example. Those who are passionately committed to their Jewish life can't understand how others are not. Those who are lovers of education cannot understand how others are not. We who are unequivocal supporters of Israel cannot understand those of bland support.

We become so self righteous that we find it difficult to understand how anyone could not feel the same as we do. And often, it is those who have overcome the challenges and attractions of other lifestyles and other uses of time and resources who are most guilty of expressing dismay at those who are still struggling and still being enticed.

In the end, Moshe is correct: all He demands of us is fear of Him and to walk in His ways. It's very simple, and if it's simple for Moshe, why shouldn't it be simple for us as well?

Reuven Tradburks is spiritual leader at Kehillat Shaarei Torah in Toronto.

Wachtel interviews thought-provoking in print

Original Minds: Conversations with CBC Radio's Eleanor Wachtel, HarperFlamingoCanada, $34.95.

Since 1990, Eleanor Wachtel, the host of CBC Radio's Writers & Company, has interviewed some of the world's most esteemed and influential writers and thinkers. *Original Minds* preserves these conversations with 16 extraordinary men and women from the fields of art, science, economics, anthropology and social policy.

Wachtel is unfailingly well-informed, probing and thoughtful, able to extract the best from her sometimes diffident subjects. What emerges from these encounters is a spate of ideas, beliefs, impressions, preferences and prejudices, offered with candour, wit and spontaneity.

Surprisingly, nine of the 16 personalities turn out to be Jewish: critics and writers Harold Bloom, Susan Sontag and George Steiner; linguist/political activist Noam Chomsky; scientists and authors Jared Diamond and Oliver Sacks; urban planner and writer Jane Jacobs; writer, performer and director Jonathan Miller; and feminist and writer Gloria Steinem. Much of what they convey is of Jewish interest.

The other interviewees are filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci, anthropologist Mary Douglas, novelists Arthur C. Clarke and Umberto Eco, primatologist Jane Goodall, Nobel Prize-winning Indian economist Amartya Sen and Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu.

In an interview that was first broadcast in 1995, Steiner said he believes the decline of Christianity is inevitable "unless the Church, through some great act of honesty towards itself, begins saying out loud what it knows to be the truth: that Auschwitz grew out of its own teachings and out of 2,000 years of Jew hatred imbedded in the canonic books of Christianity."

Sacks, the eminent neurologist, perhaps best known for his book *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* (1985), recalled watching his mother light the Sabbath candles. He would imagine the Sabbath as a cosmic event, the peace of God settling on different star systems all over the universe. Eventually, he turned against the ultimate parental figure up in the sky, and from that time has never had any sense of a personal God. "On the other hand, God as nature, God as order, I think can inspire a mystical or religious feeling."

The formidable Harold Bloom regards himself as profoundly religious in temperament but heretical ever since he was a little boy. "Indeed, I remember when I was bar mitzvahed getting into terrible quarrels with the rabbis who were counselling me and educating me, and I even had the satisfaction of having one of them denounce me in Yiddish as one of the minim, the ancient Hebraic term which is used in the Talmud for the earliest Jewish Gnostic heretics."

Chomsky, who once worked as a Hebrew teacher, recalled the Friday evenings in his home that were set aside for reading Hebrew and Yiddish classics with his father. One of his favourite authors was Mendele Mocher Sforim. "[O]ne great regret is that I haven't had time to revisit those early experiences, and savour them for the point of view of a life in retrospect rather than prospect. Someday, I hope."

Finally, Diamond, an anthropologist and polymath, widely known for his epochal work *Guns, Germs and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* (1997), said in his interview with Wachtel that from his analysis of the last 13,000 years, he learned human differences are not racial. All people have similar capacities. "It's just a matter of environment that some ended up differently, and if today they are given equal opportunity, they can move forward."

I listened to some of these interviews on the radio and learned much from them. It is helpful and replenishing to have them in printed form.

Jewish Life

Hebrew resources on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Ha'im atah rotzeh lilmod Ivrit?
Do you want to learn Hebrew?

It doesn't matter whether you're a student getting ready to return to school or you haven't practised Hebrew since your Cheder days. The Internet provides incredible resources for people who want to improve their Hebrew. Today, we are going to look at some online resources for people with beginners and intermediate Hebrew skills.

Whatever your level of Hebrew, your first stop should be at Yale University. The Yale Hebrew team has done an outstanding job explaining the history of the language along with an introduction to the 22-letter alphabet **[http://www.library.yale.edu/cataloging/hebraicatea m/index.htm]**. That Yale has such a good Hebrew Web site shouldn't come as a total surprise since the university required Hebrew as a basic curriculum course for freshmen in 1777. The essay, "How Hebrew Came to Yale" explains the special relationship that Rabbi Haim Isaac Carigal had on Yale's fifth president, Reverend Ezra Stiles. To this day, the seal of Yale University carries the Hebrew words "Urim" and "Tumim" **[http://www.yalealumnimagazine.com/issues/01_03/seal.html]**.

Once you've mastered the alphabet and a few basic words, you're ready for the Starting with Aleph site. This delightful and sophisticated tutorial not only quizzes you about the spelling of some basic words, it also gives you an introduction to the mystical beauty of the Hebrew alphabet **[http://ejemm.com/aleph/]**.

The National Center for the Hebrew Language is a U.S.-based organization whose motto is "Building Unity Among Jews Through Hebrew." The site offers a Word of the Day, a Word of the Week taken from that week's Torah portion, a literary corner and much more. And if you'd like to take your Hebrew to the next level, the site has an ulpan directory for classes across the continent **[http://www.ivrit.org/]**.

Do you already have a pretty good Hebrew vocabulary but find Israeli conversation moves along too quickly? Then let an Australian site slow down time for you, literally. The anonymous creator of the site has taken some Israeli dialogue and slowed it down in order to make it easier to follow. Some of it sounds a bit distorted, but you'll get used to it after a few minutes and then you'll feel proud you were able to follow along **[http://foundationstone. com.au/ListeningSkills.html]**.

Aleph-Bet on the Web is another excellent tutorial that tests your knowledge of Hebrew words and phrases. When Hebrew words flash onscreen, you are asked to type in the English equivalent. And when English appears, so does an onscreen Hebrew keyboard, where you can type in the proper Hebrew response **[http://darkwing.u oregon.edu/~ylcflx/Aleph-Bet/]**.

They may not rival standard dictionaries in book form, but there are some pretty good online dictionaries. My Hebrew Dictionary gives you the Hebrew equivalent to common English words **[http://www.words.co.il/]**. I had mixed results with the Milon Morfix dictionary. It worked well when I typed in English and it responded with a Hebrew translation. Things didn't always go smoothly when I tried typing in Hebrew looking for the English equivalent **[http://milon .morfix.co.il/]**. (Please note that this Web site requires Hebrew fonts in order to display properly.)

The always amusing ZigZagWorld Web site is the best place to go to learn Hebrew through games and puzzles. If you are teaching the basics, then Aklah: the Jewish Children's Teaching Network is a great resource that has sound files for each Hebrew letter, printable flashcards, alphabet coloring pages and more **[http://www.akhlah. com/Aleph_Bet/aleph-bet.asp]**.

It's one thing to be able to read and write the words. But you have to pronounce them correctly, too. Go to the Travlang site and you'll hear native Hebrew speakers tell you everything from "*Ani rotseh liknot*" (I'd like to buy) to "*Eifo hasherutim*?" (Where's the bathroom?") **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?D26A24B65]**. Travlang can also e-mail a Word of the Day in Hebrew. Just go to the Web site, fill out the form and check off the Hebrew box. And if you're interested in comparative languages, that same word is also available in about 100 other languages, including Esperanto, Chipewyan, Hawaiian and Xhosa.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers .com.

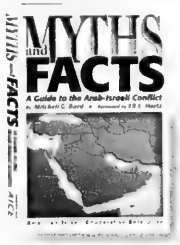
U.S. historically has assisted Arabs

MYTH:

American policy has always been hostile toward the Arabs.

FACT:

Arabs rarely acknowledge the American role in helping the Arab states achieve independence. The U.S. entry into World War I in 1917 and U.S. president Woodrow Wilson's stand for self-determination for all nations, which led to the establishment of the League of Nations in 1919, helped cause the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and stimulate the move toward independence in the Arab world.



The Arabs have always asserted that Middle East policy must be a zero-sum game whereby support for their enemy, Israel, necessarily puts them at a disadvantage. Thus, Arab states have tried to force the United States to choose between support for Israel and themselves. But the Americans have usually refused to fall into this trap. The fact that they have a close alliance with Israel while maintaining good relations with several Arab states is proof the two are not incompatible.

The United States has long sought friendly relations with Arab leaders and has, at one time or another, been on good terms with most Arab states. In the 1930s, the discovery of oil led U.S. companies to become closely involved with Arab countries in the Gulf. In the 1950s, U.S. strategic objectives stimulated an effort to form an alliance with pro-western Arab states. Countries such as Iraq and Libya were friends of the United States before radical leaders took over those governments. Egypt, which was hostile toward the United States under Gamal Abdel-Nasser, shifted to the pro-western camp under Anwar Sadat.

Since World War II, the United States has poured economic and military assistance into the region and today is the principal backer of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Egypt and the Gulf sheikdoms. Although the Arab states blamed the United States for their defeats in wars they initiated with Israel, the truth is that most of the belligerents had either been given or been offered American assistance at some time.

On occasion, the United States has appeared to condone Arab aggression against other Arabs. In 1963, for example, the Americans recognized the puppet regime set up by the Egyptians in Yemen. In 1991, while rolling back Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's aggression in the Gulf, the Bush administration looked the other way while Syria completed its annexation of Lebanon.

Source: Myths & Facts Online: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.

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Reitzes resigns as president of Toronto UJA Federation

After 11 years at the helm of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Allan Reitzes is resigning as president.

Reitzes, 58, will stay in his current position until his replacement is found, and will remain with UJA Federation as a consultant, as well as pursuing other national and international Jewish communal activities, the organization announced.

Federation's executive committee will soon begin searching for his successor, who is expected to be in place by early 2004.

Reitzes first joined UJA Federation as budget director in 1982. Ten years later, he succeeded Steve Ain as the federation's senior professional.

Allan Reitzes

"I will leave my role as president with a combination of satisfaction for what has been achieved and appreciation for what remains to be done," Reitzes said in a statement. "

"I view my 11 years as the senior professional of this organization as a unique opportunity in one of North America's great Jewish communities that has an even greater future ahead."

"I've known Allan for nearly 20 years and I've always admired his devotion to professionalism, his sensitivity to the needs of all community members and the way in which he calmly steered us through many periods of crisis," said UJA Federation board chair Leslie Gales.

"Through Allan's intimate grasp of national and international Jewish issues, Toronto is among the Jewish world's most admired and globally connected communities."

A turning point for Iran

By JASON KENNEY

Iranian students are currently in the midst of the largest attempt to bring down the Iranian government since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. Should they be successful, the fall of the government would have the potential to vastly alter the political environment of the Middle East and would be a positive development in the region.

Guest Voice

Iran is the ideological nerve centre of the extremist Islamist movement. Since the fall of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Iran is the world's last remaining militant Islamic state. Its religious authorities – the mullahs and ayatollahs – hold ultimate control over the making and enforcing of laws, rendering impotent the country's elected officials. The country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khameini, rules by religious law.

In the midst of this, the student protestors are calling for a western-style, liberal democratic state. The establishment of such a government in Iran would strike a serious, if not mortal blow to the worldwide radical Islamist movement. The fall of the central Islamist government would be a sign that those who aim to govern the entire world with Islamic law will not succeed.

The current regime in Iran poses the most serious obstacle to peace in the Middle East. By funding and hosting terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, all of which are responsible for the murders of Israeli civilians and soldiers, the Iranian government is one of the principle obstacles to peace. The ship Karine-A was sent to the Palestinian Authority laden with 50 tons of weapons, rockets and explosives, courtesy of Iran. The flow of weapons and money to militant groups in the disputed territories provides a wellspring of support for the jihad against Israel. Eliminating this support would do more to advance real peace in the region than years of diplomatic talk.

In addition to its support for international terrorism against Israel and the West, the Iranian regime also poses a nuclear threat. Reports say representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were shocked by the degree to which Iran's nuclear program has developed. Just last year, former Iranian president Ali Akhbar Hashemi Rafsanjani noted that a single nuclear strike could easily destroy the entire State of Israel. The virulent anti-Israel and anti-American foreign policy of the current Iranian government, combined with the destructive capability of nuclear weapons, is a terrifying prospect.

Glimmer of hope in growing pro-democracy movement

The fall of the theocrats in Tehran would also put an end to the terrible human rights abuses by the ayatollahs. In Iran, women are not equal under the law and religious minorities are often persecuted. Women are stoned to death in the street after being convicted in kangaroo courts of infidelity, and dissidents are imprisoned and sometimes executed for speaking out. As the recent murder of Canadian photojournalist Zahra Kazemi illustrates, being a journalist in Iran is a dangerous and sometimes life-threatening profession.

Despite the semblance of a democracy, ultimate power is held by mullahs and ayatollahs, not by elected officials. The religious supreme leader can overrule the president if he so chooses. This is not democracy.

Despite all this, there is a definite glimmer of hope in the growing pro-democracy movement. Protests led primarily by students in Tehran against the failed theocracy are spreading across the country, with analysts suggesting that the fall of the government may come much sooner than previously thought.

Western governments, including Canada's, should use political pressure to support Iran's pro-democracy movement. As it so often does, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's government has adopted a policy of "moral equivalence" between the masters of the Iranian terror state and the forces of democracy, refusing to comment on "internal" Iranian affairs while hosting ministers of the current regime in Ottawa. It is time for Canada to get off the fence and declare its support for democracy and human rights and an end to the sponsors of terrorist murder who have held the Iranian people captive for too long.

The vision of a free and prosperous Iran is inspirational. Such a change would be in the best interests of all parties. For Israel, it would mean the elimination of a serious existential threat. For Canada and the United States, it would mean a cessation of funding to dangerous terrorist organizations. For the Iranian people, it would mean an end to religious oppression and hardship. We should do all we can to help make this vision a reality.

Jason Kenney is the Canadian Alliance member of Parliament for Calgary Southeast, and the official opposition critic for Canada-United States relations.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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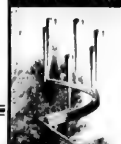
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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Aug. 18, is deadline for Aug. 28 issue and Monday, Aug. 25, is deadline for Sept. 4. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Wednesday, Aug. 20

KOL SHIRA CHOIR

If you enjoy singing Jewish music and want to expand your singing ability under the direction of composer-conductor **Eyal Bitton**, join Kol Shira Choir every Wednesday evening at Beth Tikvah Synagogue beginning this evening. For more information, call **Stan Lofsky**, 416-491-0194 or e-mail him at slofsky@sympatico.ca.

Other news

RUBIN-KUNDA ART EXHIBIT

Canadian-Israeli artist **Lezli Rubin-Kunda** is exhibiting a collection of photographs at the DeLeon White Gallery, 1097 Queen St. W., until Aug. 31. For information call 416-597-9466.

JOURNALISM OPPORTUNITY

A Daniel Pearl Memorial Scholarship is available to a Canadian journalist who is interested in spending a year working as a feature editor for the *Friday Times*, a political weekly, in Lahore, Pakistan. For information, contact **Ronna Syed**, ronnasyed@hotmail.com.

OAKVILLE HEBREW SCHOOL

Shaarei-Beth El in Oakville, Ont., is holding a Hebrew school information night on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m., at 186 Morrison Rd., Oakville. The evening is an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers, learn about the curriculum, review the textbooks and find out about the special events and activities for the 2003-2004 school year. For information, call 905-849-6000.

LEARN AND EARN

Reena Foundation is offering a 16-week training and placement program in the field of developmental disabilities for recent high school graduates, Personal Support Worker (PSW) graduates or interested others, to gain a highly valued certificate and work experience. The course includes orientation, class study, practical experience in a group home and six weeks of paid placement. On successful completion of the program, students will receive an interview for a position at Reena, a non-profit agency helping people with developmental disabilities. The course takes place at Reena's day program location, Clark and Bathurst, Sept. 2 to Dec. 19. For information, contact **Fiona Ott**, 905-889-2690, ext. 2042.

BARRIE SUNDAY SCHOOL

A new Sunday Hebrew school for children 2½ to 5 years old will begin Sunday, Sept. 7, in Barrie. Children will learn about the Jewish traditions, holidays and Hebrew language in a warm and loving atmosphere. Music and arts and crafts play an important role in the program. For information call 705-734-9794.

LEARN HEBREW

The Canadian Zionist Federation offers Hebrew language studies with **Channa Sargon**. Next session begins the week of Sept. 22. Classes offered during the day and evening, beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Explore current events, newspaper articles and literature in Hebrew. For information and registration, call 416-633-3988 or email czf@bellnet.ca. Classes will be held at 4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508.

Keren Hatarbut Institute is now accepting registration for the fall session Hebrew language and Bible classes at 788 Marleé Ave. Classes are offered for adults, teenagers and preteens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions! For registration and information, call **Joseph Klinger**, 416-787-0197.

Continued on page 17

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What's New

Continued from page 16

BOWLERS WANTED

Maven Bowling League, a co-ed league for bowlers in their 30s and 40s, is looking for new bowlers for the 2003-2004 season. A pre-season barbecue is planned for Aug. 23 and the first bowling night is Thursday, Sept. 4. For information, check out www.eteamz.com/maven or call **Ron Caine**, 905-889-8333.

Ladies 10-Pin Bowling League is looking for bowlers for their 7 p.m. Wednesday night league at Playtime Bowl. For information, call **Charlene**, 416-221-9328.

The Don Mills Couples Bowling League bowls every second Sunday night beginning in September. Experience not necessary. Couples who are interested should call **Michel**, 416-520-1433 or **Harold**, 905-882-0585.

AUDITIONS

Medina Theatre Ensemble will hold a public audition for its annual Holocaust Education Week production. This year's presentation will be a staging of *The Aching Heart of Samuel Kleinerman*, directed by **Ralph Small**. Auditions will take place at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., Wednesday, Aug. 27, by appointment only. Males 10-15, 20-30, 40-60 years old and females 20-35 and 40-60 years old are invited to audition. To make an appointment, call **Barbara**, 416-486-6626.

NCJW JIFY MARKET

National Council of Jewish Women is having a Jify Market Sunday, Aug. 31, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have been thinking of having a garage sale, this is the place to do it. Or come out for great deals. Tables are only $30. For information or to book a table, call 416-633-5100, e-mail info@ncjwc-ts.org or visit www.ncjwc-ts.org.

TALMUD CLASS

The weekly Talmud/Gemarah classes resume Wednesday, Sept. 3, 9:15 a.m., at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 100 Elder St. The group will study the fifth chapter of tractate Sanhedrin. Newcomers welcome. The class is conducted by **Dr. Aaron Nussbaum** in English using the original Hebrew-Aramaic text. For information, call 416-633-8097.

WOMEN'S LEARNING DAY

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women is sponsoring a pre-High Holy Days day of learning, Approaching The Days of Awe: Reflection and Renewal, Sunday, Sept. 14, with keynote speaker **Ora Lee Kanner.** Study sessions through the day with Mekorot faculty members. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Associated Hebrew School, 252 Finch Ave. W. For registration and information, call **Lisa**, 416-398-1510 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

SINGLES DIRECTORY

Single? Jewish Information Service of UJA Federation has a new Greater Toronto Jewish Singles Directory. It can be found on their Web site, www.jewishtoronto.net. Follow the link to Community Directory. Or call their office at 416-635-5600 and a volunteer will answer your questions.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Aug. 14, lecture with **Eitan Glaser** of Jewish National Fund; Aug. 21, movie; Aug. 28, free discussion. Sunday, Aug. 17, is a special Yom Ahava party. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday in August; Aug. 14, cruise and casino; Aug. 28, Casino Niagara; Bingo every Tuesday 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

Seniors Bowling League meets every other Saturday night and has openings for new bowlers. The mixed league meets from September to June. For information, call **Sydney Fox** at 416-633-7305.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Lifelong Learning Institute with **Hugh Innis** discusses The Outsiders: People Who Have Influenced Us And Made A Difference, Tuesdays, Aug. 19 and 26, 10-11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. $1.50 members, $3 non-members. For information, call **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Summer classes continue through Sept. 19. Advanced watercolour painting, Mondays, 1:30-4 p.m. with **Jean Rodak** and **Bilha Morgan**. Beginners watercolour painting, Tuesdays 9:30 a.m.- noon. Pottery, Wednesday and Friday morning 9:30 a.m.-noon. Also: Gentle Fitness I and II, Low Impact Fitness, Vigorous Fitness, NIA and Osteofit I and II.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Aug. 19, political lecture, Aug. 26, sing-along. For information, call **Anna**, ext.110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

It's never too late to look after your bones. If you are a senior living with osteoporosis, register for the fall session of POWER, a 7-week wellness program that covers exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes start Oct. 20. Registration is $70. For information, call ext. 2588.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

The community is invited to free swimming on Sundays for the month of August, noon to 5 p.m. Both lane and recreational swimming will be available.

The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre is launching Lifesaving Society's 2003 Water Smart Contest called Who's Your Buddy? This is an art contest for kids 7 years old and under and a writing contest for those 8 to 14. In keeping with the important message of never swimming alone regardless of your swimming ability, participants in the art contest are invited to draw a picture of their buddy when they swim. In the writing contest, participants explain why you should always swim with a buddy. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each category. The winning entry in each age category will be submitted to the Lifesaving Society to be eligible for province-wide prizes. For more information, contact Alison Lee, ext. 113 or alison@milesnadaljcc.ca.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Come see the new pool! Short-term memberships available.

The Chai Dancers will be celebrating their 25th anniversary on Aug. 27 at the Leah Posluns Theatre. If you are a former Chai dancer and would like to participate in this program call **Teme**, ext. 364.

Spaces available for morning school, programs include Tic Tac Two, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten, and for full day care for children 18 months to 5 years of age. Call ext. 351 or 248 for a registration package or to arrange a school tour.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MEALS ON WHEELS

Circle of Care needs drivers to deliver kosher Meals on Wheels, nutritious food for those unable to prepare meals for themselves. Be part of a team and help others in our community. Call 416-635-2860.

TRAIN AS PUPPETEER

The Concerned Kids needs energetic, enthusiastic volunteers with a dramatic flair to help present interactive puppet programs to young people, 4-14 years old, in schools across the GTA and surrounding area. Topics include drug awareness, HIV/AIDs, violence and viruses. Must be willing to travel and commit a half-day per week from September 2003 to June 2004. Call **Livia** at 416-636-1656 or visit www.thecon cernedkids.com.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Circle of Care is offering a new 30-hour training session for the Volunteer Visiting Hospice and Jewish Hospice program Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings beginning Oct. 23. Topics to be discussed include care for the caregiver, emotional and spiritual support and comfort and hope. Volunteers must make a commitment of at least one year. For information, call **Gayle Zack**, 416-635-2860, ext. 413.

VICTOR FEINMAN HONOURED: Dr. S. Victor Feinman, one of Canada's first hepatologists and director and founder of the liver study unit at Mount Sinai Hospital, was honoured at the Canadian Liver Foundation gala, Key To Life, held recently at the Liberty Grand. All proceeds from the event went to promote research to fight liver disease in Canada. Seen, from left, are: Feinman; Dr. Eve Roberts, CEO of the Canadian Liver Foundation; Wendy Switzer Myles, gala chair; and Gary Fagan, foundation president.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18

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Singles Events is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*

Deadline is Wednesday, 4 pm, 8 days preceding issue date.

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have about upcoming events to the event organizers.

***Games Jewish Singles Play! Sunday, Aug. 24, 7:30 pm,** Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook. "A": ages 21-39; "B": 40-69. **Bingo** 7:30-8. Prizes. **Board games. Refreshments. $6, 129 couples have met!** Free intros. Mollie, 416-733-3634.

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Greater Toronto Area

Day school pioneer remembered on her yahrzeit

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

July 28, 26 Tammuz, was the first yahrzeit of Sarah (Steinhauer) Rumack, who in 1941 started the first Beth Hayeled (nursery) at the Brunswick Talmud Torah, a program that grew into Toronto's first Jewish day school.

"I don't know of any teacher who didn't have the highest regard for Sarah – as a teacher, and as a colleague who was always ready to assist in any way, and as a friend," said Eva Dessen, who was a close friend and colleague of Rumack and once taught at the Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto, the successor to that first day school.

Dessen, who delivered a eulogy at Rumack's unveiling, said Rumack started many programs that are still part of the Associated curriculum. "She was so creative and sincere. She wrote books and trained teachers, and her house was always open to teachers who came from Israel and would stay at her home until they could become established.

"Several generations of former students were privileged to receive not only academic excellence but the warmth and affection that became her hallmark."

Rumack was a student at the Brunswick Talmud Torah during World War II, when the supply of teachers from Europe was cut off, creating a shortage of teachers.

When she was 15, she and several other top students were selected to teach. She went to New York to take a Hebrew teachers' course at the Jewish Theological Seminary, since there was nothing similar in Canada.

Soon after graduation, she was asked by Levi Jacober, principal of the Brunswick Talmud Torah, to set up a day nursery program.

In an interview with *The CJN* in 1987, the year she retired, Rumack said she personally went calling on people who had young children to ask them to enrol the youngsters in the nursery program. She donated most of the materials for the first class and got her husband Oscar and friends to help with the work. She received $8 a week for teaching and training teachers.

Each year, an additional grade was added to the new day school. Rumack taught Grade 1 until her retirement from Associated more than four decades later.

In her own words, she summed up her philosophy of teaching. "The characteristics that make a good teacher are, someone who really cares – because a child senses it and responds – and you need a sense of humour, patience, an optimistic outlook and a good imagination."

The Rumacks had two children, Michael, a chazzan and bar/bat mitzvah teacher and Gail, an English teacher in Israel who has published a number of books on teaching. The teaching tradition has also carried on to another generation. Michael's daughter, Ruth, runs a tutoring service in Toronto.

TABS FOR WHEELCHAIRS: Toronto's Sharon Chapter of Jewish Women International of Canada has been gathering aluminum pop tabs for the past 10 years. Earlier this summer, the group succeeded in gathering 1 million tabs. With this massive pile of tabs, they provided a portion of the cost of a new wheelchair for Christene Rowntree of Bellwoods Centre for Community Living. This was the twelfth wheelchair provided by the chapter's project. Seen here with Rowntree is Evelyn Revivo of Sharon Chapter.

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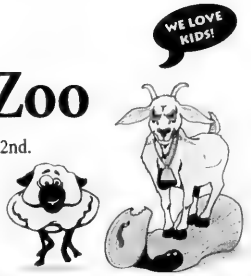

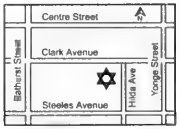

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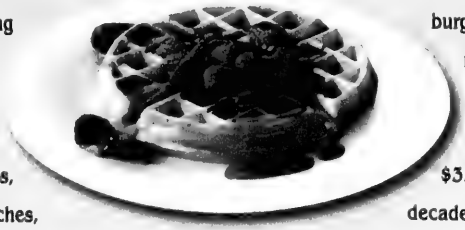

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Yonit and Clara Nisan

Teen lives out her dream on March of the Living

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

Clara Nisan didn't want her daughter Yonit to go on the March of the Living trip to Poland and Israel. As the daughter and granddaughter of Holocaust survivors, Clara knew how difficult the trip would be, and she wanted to protect her daughter from the things she would see there. But Yonit, who had been interested in her family's history since she was a youngster, was determined to go. She had been saving her money since Grade 7.

"It was something I had to do for myself," she said.

Clara has also been captivated by her family's history. Her father, Aharon, was one of six children. He, his mother and two of his siblings survived the Holocaust by escaping from the Bershad concentration camp in Transnistria, hiding first in the forest, and then in the homes of non-Jews.

Born in the Ukraine, Clara moved to Israel when she was a child. For as long as she can remember, she wanted to heal the sick and care for the elderly. It was only natural that she gravitated to the nursing profession, which put her in close contact with Holocaust survivors. When she was 19, she became a registered nurse.

Years later in Israel, when his mother was paralyzed by a stroke, Aharon, who did not trust doctors, refused to put her in a facility. With Clara's help, they cared for her at home until she died. Because his mother had saved him during the war, he wanted to do everything for her, Clara said.

"It was difficult for him to believe in God," she said. "Until the end, he couldn't accept what happened to his family." He died in 1997 from untreated diabetes.

In 1984, Clara moved to Canada with her husband and two young children, and she found a job at Baycrest, where half the residents are Holocaust survivors. Her knowledge of her family's history and of the war helped her understand the residents and change the daily routines that frightened them. Trapped by dementia and Alzheimer's, they were reliving their wartime memories.

One day, an elderly man screamed in the shower. Clara came running, saw the tattoo on the man's arm, and instantly understood. Disoriented from pneumonia, the man had mistaken the shower for the gas chambers. Clara coaxed him back to his room, reassured him and gave him a sponge bath instead.

Clara knew what Yonit would see at the camps, but she still allowed her to go on the March of the Living.

Yonit was also afraid of what she might see, but she wanted to go nevertheless. She went last May during her year off between high school and university, and was the oldest participant.

In Poland, she was shocked by what she saw.

"I collapsed on the curb, violently shaking as I choked on my sobs of anguish," she wrote in her diary after visiting Majdanek. "I was incapable of being touched, let alone receiving love from another human being. I was appalled and disgusted with myself for being a part of this so-called humanity."

Yonit said her grandfather rarely talked about his wartime experiences. Now she regrets she doesn't know more. After his death, she sat down with her paternal grandmother and spent four hours recording her grandmother's wartime experiences.

It's important to hear their stories, Yonit said. "We are the last generation that will be able to hear it."

The "**new normal**" at Baycrest

The past four months have been a trying time for all health care organizations. Dealing with the SARS alert at Baycrest was made much easier with the support of families, clients, volunteers, staff and the entire community. The true community spirit that Baycrest has come to rely on was one of our most important assets as we traveled this uncharted course. Thank you everyone!

We all must get used to a new way of thinking that requires us to be more aware of our own health and the impact it can have on our elderly.

Baycrest is now moving thoughtfully toward implementing "**new normal**" policies and eliminating the outbreak restrictions. We only began to do this when the Ministry of Health and Public Health gave us the all clear. Our recent experiences have taught us that we must move cautiously and always be on guard against any infectious disease. That is our responsibility to our clients, their families, and everyone.

For Baycrest, "**new normal**" means a permanent state of heightened vigilance to prevent or quickly contain future outbreaks.

This awareness, along with responsible behaviour, will help protect our most vulnerable population from infectious disease.

What will the "**new normal**" mean for you?

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- New admissions to Baycrest will be screened for their admission history to other facilities.
- When booking a clinical appointment, you will be reminded that if you are experiencing symptoms that could relate to a respiratory illness or other infectious disease, you should not come to Baycrest.
- You may want to consider keeping your own Health Diary – a notebook that charts how you've been feeling, and lists the doctors or other health care specialists you have visited. This will be indispensable to you if Baycrest or Toronto Public Health need to ask you this information in the event of an outbreak.
- Baycrest is planning a healthy living campaign.
- Baycrest is developing a new **Visitor Code** that will reflect the responsibility all of us have to protect the Baycrest environment, our clients, staff and visitors, from future outbreaks.

Baycrest has a Rapid Response Plan for quickly re-establishing restrictive outbreak precautions.

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Winnipeg school reunion evokes loving memories

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Jerry Spinak says although he was a real troublemaker during his years at the I.L. Peretz Folk School in the 1950s, he loved going there.

"I have wonderful memories of Peretz School," says the executive director of Proceid, a non-profit agency in Montreal. "It engendered in me a love of Yiddish which I carry with me to this day."

Spinak's warm sentiments were echoed by other alumni of Winnipeg's Peretz school, who met on the August long weekend to celebrate the school's 90th anniversary and to see old friends again. Almost half of the 700 attendees were from out of town, including many from the United States, and some from Europe and Israel.

Phillip Finkle, a pharmacist in Sudbury, remembered the dedication of his teachers in the 1940s. Toronto-based actress Candi Zell (class of '63) said her former classmates still feel a sense of family. Torontonian Brenda Honigman, who graduated in 1977, fondly remembered school plays and marching with Israeli flags for Yom Ha'atzmaut.

For retired Toronto public school teacher Paul Pascal, the Peretz school played an essential part in fostering his strong Jewish identity.

"Yiddish has remained a strong presence in my life," Pascal said. "It has helped me even in recent years in communicating with relatives from the former Soviet Union and translating the Yizkor Book from my mother's home shtetl."

When the Peretz School was started in 1913, it was one of the first Jewish day schools in North America. At its peak in the 1930s, it was the largest private Jewish school in Winnipeg. Enrolment began to decline in the 1970s along with a decline in the city's Jewish population.

In the early 1980s, the school was amalgamated with the rival Talmud Torah under a single board of Jewish education. The new school maintained a Yiddish track for interested students until the last Yiddish teacher, Aviva Katz, retired in the mid-1990s.

The idea for a 90th anniversary reunion was sparked by a series of smaller class reunions over the past 10 to 15 years.

A committee led by community volunteer Laurie Mainster planned the event for three years.

For the returning graduates, it was an emotional weekend that began with a Friday evening get-together featuring former principals Shimsho Heilik and Yoseph Bar-El and a Yiddish sing-a-long led by alumni Debbie and Jerry Maslowsky.

On Saturday evening, the graduates were treated to a gala concert featuring alumni and entertainers Herschel Fox and Aubrey Tadman from Los Angeles, Kenny Maslow from Las Vegas, Vicki Knight from Palm Springs, international opera star Norman Mittleman and an alumni choir directed by cantor Richard Yaffe.

Among those at the Peretz School reunion were siblings Candi Zell from Toronto, Michelle Zell-Kanter from Chicago and Rabbi Shawn Zell from New Jersey.

The weekend also included a visit to a new exhibit at the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada describing the influence Yiddish had in establishing a Jewish culture in Canada, a bus tour of Winnipeg's old Jewish North End, and a reception at the University of Manitoba in honour of the university's new Yiddish course.

But the highlight of the weekend was the reunion, which Spinak called a "real love-in."

Pascal pointed out an interesting observation his wife, Ruth Rohn, made at the event.

"[She] noted how many Peretz School graduates are in the helping professions – teachers, social workers, therapists," Pascal said. "I think that is directly connected to our Peretz school education and the values we imbibed there."

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JNF Western Canada galas raise over $500,000

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — A series of Jewish National Fund Negev galas in four western Canadian cities in June raised more than $500,000 in funds for JNF projects in Israel.

Winnipeg-based Rami Kleinmann, who has been the JNF shaliach to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for three years, said about 1,500 people attended the annual event in Winnipeg and about 500 attended the yearly galas in both Calgary and Edmonton. Saskatoon's first gala drew about 150.

"The JNF has not been that active in this region," says Suzanne Kaplan, president of the Saskatoon Jewish community, which numbers about 200 families.

"Rami wanted to get something going here. He helped out a lot, as did Lior and Keren-Or Bachar from our Arevim program." (The Arevim program sends young Israeli couples on yearlong contracts to help smaller Jewish communities across Canada.)

The money raised in Saskatoon and Calgary has been earmarked for the new Ilanot Park, named in memory of Israeli astronaut Ilan Ramon and his fellow crew members who died in the Columbia space shuttle disaster.

For the Edmonton gala, the JNF honoured businessman, lawyer and philanthropist Howard Starkman and his wife, Esther, a well-known community activist in the field of education. Funds from the Edmonton gala will go toward establishing the Esther and Howard Starkman Ilanot Science Literary Centre.

In Winnipeg, the JNF honoured Rev. John Howson, the Canadian national director of Bridges for Peace, an international evangelical Christian organization that raises money for projects that support needy Jews in Israel and the former Soviet Union.

The Winnipeg gala raised money for the creation of the John Howson Education Wing at the Asper Family Community Centre in Ofakim, a development town in the western Negev.

The four galas, Kleinmann noted, drew the equivalent of more than 10 per cent of the Jewish populations of the four cities.

He also noted the growing support of non-Jews for JNF and other Jewish projects.

"The support isn't coming just from evangelical Christians. The business community is also putting its financial support behind Jewish and Israel-based projects," he said.

From left, Saskatoon Negev Dinner co-chair Barry Zalmanowitz, honorees Howard and Esther Starkman, JNF Jerusalem emissary Rami Kleinmann, dinner co-chair Marilyn Cohen and Cheryl Slawsky are pictured during the presentation of the Negev Dinner Citation.

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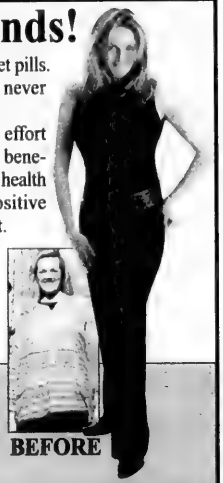

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Coast to Coast

Pro-Israel think tank's reputation growing

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

In just three years, the subscription list of an e-mailed compilation of news articles on Israel and the Middle East produced in Montreal has reached almost 22,500 people around the world.

Isranet Daily Briefing is a free service of the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research (CIJR) published Mondays through Fridays. A French version is put out weekly. Both are also available by fax.

CIJR was founded 15 years ago during the first intifadah by Frederick Krantz, a Concordia University history professor. Krantz's goal was to establish an independent think-tank guided by academics who would bring their expertise on Middle East-related issues to the media and Jewish and non-Jewish communities.

CIJR, which receives no money from any Jewish organization and relies on donations from its members, hosts a major fundraising event every August. This year's event, to be held Aug. 19 at a private residence, will be a reception in honour of philanthropist Edward Winant, a founding member of CIJR. The guest speaker will be Itamar Marcus, director of the Israel-based Palestinian Media Watch.

> *'This is the only databank of its kind in Canada'*

"By monitoring Palestinian newspapers, television and radio, Marcus has shown the world what the Palestinian Authority leadership is really saying to its people," Krantz said.

Although CIJR is clearly pro-Israel, Krantz said the content is "objective and fair." Journalists, he said, are especially appreciative of its service.

Every day, CIJR's tiny staff comb through a lengthy selection of Canadian, American, Israeli, Arab and other international newspapers, magazines, journals, wire services and government publications to produce a four-page briefing.

Most of the articles chosen are opinion or analytical pieces. Occasionally, CIJR runs an original piece. Krantz said he is proud that CIJR was the first Canadian information outlet to publish Victor Davis Hanson, whose byline is now seen regularly in major American newspapers.

Each Wednesday, the briefing consists of notable quotes and short takes of news stories. Sources from a recent edition included the *Washington Post*, *Ha'aretz*, Britain's *Sky News*, Agence France-Presse, the *Globe and Mail* and a White House press release.

Though the briefings are sent to 22,500 people, CIJR does not know how many people the news actually reaches. "We don't know how many other people Isranet is forwarded to," said Krantz.

CIJR also publishes a printed quarterly digest called Israfax in both English and French, which, like Isranet, consists of reprinted articles from a wide range of publications.

The organization also keeps on file thousands of articles related not only to the Middle East, but to Jewish affairs in general, which are available to the public. Its Web site (www.isranet.org) handles inquiries from around the world.

In addition to its publications and file-sharing, CIJR also organizes and sponsors events throughout Canada, such as lectures and rallies. Its membership and board come from across Canada and Israel, and its academic council includes professors from the United States. A recent addition to CIJR's board is Annette Paquot of Laval University.

"She saw our Isranet briefing and became interested in what we are doing, even though she is not Jewish," Krantz said. Paquot is now helping edit the French version.

All this work is accomplished with a staff consisting of assistant director Karen Lazar, who formerly worked for the Israeli consulate in Boston, an archivist (hired with a government grant), a part-time researcher and a secretary. Volunteers include Baruch Cohen, 84, a Romanian Holocaust survivor, who has helped CIJR since its inception.

CIJR is financially supported by the Winnipeg-based Asper Foundation, but Krantz said its contribution is modest and CIJR survives from paycheque to paycheque.

"We have no endowment. By the last week or two of our year, we have trouble paying our bills," he said.

With a little more money, Krantz would like to digitize CIJR's holdings and make them available on its Web site. Currently, they occupy a roomful of filing cabinets in its downtown office.

"This is the only databank of its kind in Canada and we are running out of space," Krantz said.

Krantz said he would also like to do more for students. CIJR currently offers seminars to university students on Jewish history and Israel and employs several students during the year. Krantz envisages a sort of "afternoon school" for college kids.

"We have found this age group does not know a lot about the modern history of Zionism," he said. "They just don't have the facts when it come to debating Arab and left-wing students. We want them to have the commitment to not be afraid of the truth."

But Krantz's biggest dream is to produce a high-quality Web magazine. Published quarterly, it would go beyond Middle East affairs to include the arts, culture, book reviews, fiction and politics. "This we would charge for," he said.

For information on the Aug. 19 reception, call CIJR in Montreal at 514-486-5544.

Photo of Camp Ogama in 1959. Co-chair of the 2003 reunion, Ernie Rubenstein, is in the back row, eighth from the left. Below: The 1953 marketing brochure for Camp Ogama.

Third Camp Ogama reunion set for Sept.

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Hail, hail, the gang's all here – and many of them will be at the Camp Ogama reunion.

On Sunday, Sept. 7, former campers and staff of Camp Ogama (now called Camp Winnebagoe) will gather at the camp to renew friendships and recall the wonderful summers they spent there.

"For me, this camp reunion is not so much a recapturing or reliving of a time past, but a connection with a time and place that was formative in my life," says Roby (Levene) Hochman, who is co-chairing the reunion with Ernie Rubenstein.

Rubenstein, a business consultant, was the camp truck driver from 1958 to 1963.

"Although I worked as the truck driver, I developed many close relationships. Many are still my friends today," he says.

Hochman, a speech language pathologist, attended Camp Ogama for five years, first as a camper in 1957 and later as a CIT (counsellor in training).

"It was a privilege of sorts, because I believe it was a camp where an important part of my life's journey began," Hochman says. "It was a camp where we first sowed the seeds of independence, and learned to take responsibility for ourselves and others.

"We learned to lead and to follow, to stand firm and to compromise. We learned to co-exist within our cabins, our units and the larger community of the camp. We learned about accepting and being accepted, and how it felt when we were neither."

Camp Ogama was established in 1947 by Samuel Verman as a boys' camp. Two years later, Dave Lieberman took over and made it co-ed. In 1958, brothers Joe and Morris Goldenberg bought the camp, and Joe became the sole owner in 1960. He operated it until 1971, when it was purchased by Jill and Ben Lustig and it became Camp Winnebagoe.

This is the third Camp Ogama reunion and the first to be held at the camp site. Two other reunions were held in Toronto in 1983 and 1993.

Rubenstein says many of his values evolved during the summers he spent at Camp Ogama.

"As staff members, we were approaching maturity, and shaping ourselves into the people we were choosing to be," Rubenstein says.

"We were in the company of a variety of challenging group of peers, including very memorable characters, like noted comedy writer Earl Pomerantz, who now lives in Los Angeles, who used to say that he couldn't tell the difference between the salmon and the ice cream served at camp – the salmon was melted and the ice cream had bones."

The reunion committee has arranged for buses to leave York Mills Collegiate the morning of the reunion and return the same day. Participants can also drive to the camp on Fox Lake near Huntsville, Ont.

The morning will begin with box breakfasts and a welcome and orientation. Participants can choose from a number of organized camp-wide activities throughout the day, and organizers promise to set aside ample time for socializing and reminiscing.

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For reservations or information, e-mail ogamareunion3@rogers.com, or call Ernie Rubenstein at 416-484 -7078.

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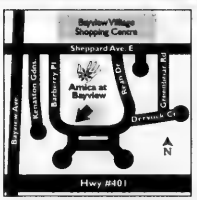

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New Supreme Court justice hailed for judicial brilliance

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Canada's newest Supreme Court justice grew up on Montreal's storied St. Urbain Street, the heart of the old Jewish immigrant district, and graduated from Baron Byng High School, a Protestant school that had a high number of Jewish students who became very successful.

Morris Fish, 64, who took his seat on the highest court Aug. 5, is the younger son of the late Zlata Gruber and Aaron Fish, who came from an area in eastern Europe that has changed hands between Poland and Russia.

"He was an outstanding student and a good athlete, especially in basketball, but he was a normal boy," recalled his brother Abe Fish, a Toronto businessman.

"He made friends easily and always had a deep interest in people. And he always displayed very good judgment. That was an intrinsic quality he inherited from our parents."

Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler has been friends with Fish since they were law students at McGill University in the early 1960s. Reached in Jerusalem, Cotler called Fish's appointment "simply brilliant, an ideal appointment. He is an exemplary judge in every respect.

"He has all the qualities you could seek in a judge: a judicial temperament, integrity, fairness, a command of civil and criminal law."

Cotler remembers Fish as a distinguished debater in his university days, as well as an outstanding editor-in-chief of the *McGill Daily*. Fish helped support himself through university as a staff reporter for the Montreal *Star* from 1959-63. After graduating in law, he continued to write editorials until 1970.

Fish's flair for writing judgments has been traced back to his early career in journalism.

"Although Morris's background is more secular or cultural than religious, he has a good knowledge of Jewish history and culture, and he speaks a good Yiddish," Cotler said.

Fish has been to Israel and once visited with Cotler as part of an exchange program between Canadian and Israeli appellate judges.

He is a friend of Aharon Barak, chief justice of Israel's highest court, and former deputy chief Menachem Elon, Cotler said.

Fish and his wife the former Judy Chinks are longtime members of the Reconstructionist synagogue. Shul president Bram Rubinger said Fish attends High Holy Day services. "He usually has one of his grandchildren on his shoulders as they listen to the shofar being blown. He's a tall, imposing man with snow-white hair. He's hard to miss.

Morris Fish takes seat on top court

"He is committed to the synagogue as an institution, as a place to be affiliated with. He was supportive our our expansion [last year]. He does not look at us from a distance."

Fish has two daughters, Amy Budman, a health consultant, and Laura Goldin, a lawyer, and four young grandchildren.

Avi Morrow, Judy Fish's uncle, said what he respects most about Fish are his strong values and principles.

"A few years ago when I got a new passport, I sent it over to him to authenticate it. He called me up and said, 'I can't do that if I don't witness you signing it.'"

Morrow said Fish has a passion for language. "On my birthday, he gives me dictionaries and other books about words, and on his, I give him books with Jewish content."

Morrow plans to hold an exhibition of Fish's photography – another hobby – at an Old Montreal gallery this fall.

Fish was named to the Quebec Court of Appeal in 1989 by Brian Mulroney, after a criminal law career that included directing Montreal's legal aid bureau.

Ian Solloway, immediate past president of the Lord Reading Law Society, the association for Jewish lawyers and notaries in Quebec, hailed Fish's appointment as "fantastic" and "long overdue." Fish is only the second Jew on the nine-member High Court. The first was the late Bora Laskin, who was appointed in 1970 and was chief justice from 1973-84. Fish is also the first anglophone Quebecer named since 1954.

Solloway said Fish, who is a member of the society, has a "superb judicial intellect" and is a humanitarian. "His appointment has been universally acclaimed by the profession."

He called Fish "a well-spoken, well-rounded, remarkable human being."

As for whether Fish will bring a Jewish sensibility to his decisions, Solloway said, "He will bring all his life experiences to bear."

The Supreme Court is due to soon hear a case of a very Jewish nature. In April, the Supreme Court granted leave to B'nai Brith Canada to appeal a Quebec Court of Appeal ruling that prevents residents of a high-end condominium from erecting sukkot on their balconies. The Quebec court upheld the side of the condo corporation. B'nai Brith says the permanent injunction infringes on religious freedom.

Canadian Jewish Congress president Keith Landy welcomed Fish's appointment as "a great source of pride to our community" and a benefit to Canada.

CJC Quebec region honorary vice-president Max Bernard, a lawyer who knows Fish personally, said he has "the qualities of understanding, caring and fairness that are the benchmarks of someone who is able to dispense true justice, in the noblest sense of the word, to all who come before him."

Bernard said Fish cannot help but be shaped by "the moral foundation" of Judaism. He sees those coming before him as "people, not just facts and figures... He does not apply the law in a technical way, but rather looks at whether justice is being done."

Fish, he said, is "very warm, down-to-earth."

Joseph Nuss, a colleague of Fish on the Court of Appeal since 1995, described Fish's decisions as exhibiting a "penetrating analysis of the issues, and clear reasoning written in an eloquent and elegant manner." His written French is also impeccable, honed during post-graduate studies at the University of Paris.

Criminal lawyer Raphael Schachter, who has known Fish professionally and personally for more than 35 years, was thrilled by the appointment of his old friend – and adversary.

"Morris is responsible for my spending many a sleepless night during those days when I was a prosecutor and he was a prominent defence attorney.

"There was never the need for a raised voice when Morris was your adversary. His style as a litigator was low-key, his demeanour gentlemanly, but when it came to matching wits and achieving bottom-line results, there were very few the equal of Morris."

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Coast to Coast

Media getting tangled on security fence

Israel's security fence was the big news last week. And most of it was negative from Israel's perspective.

With the U.S. administration, ordinarily Israel's staunchest supporter, reportedly threatening to withhold or reduce loan guarantees to Israel over its continued construction of the fence, criticism in the media has been mounting.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The *Wall Street Journal*, which is normally very supportive of Israel, said (in a July 31 editorial) that the security fence "which is being constructed well inside the borders of the West Bank... is incompatible with any realistic vision of a permanent settlement" – an argument also made by Marcus Gee in the *Globe and Mail* on the same day.

In its editorial, "Stumbling block on road to peace" (Aug. 5), the *Toronto Star* argued that Israel's "security barrier" should be dismantled. While the paper acknowledged that "Israel has every right to build a security fence, or wall, along its borders... it is a mistake to build the fence on land that might become part of a separate Palestinian state, or be controlled by the Palestinians."

The *Star* does raise a valid point that has been heard elsewhere, including within Israel: one may affirm Israel's right to build a security fence in general and still question precisely where the fence is being constructed.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon originally opposed the fence's construction, fearing a return to the undefendable June 4, 1967 armistice line. And in order to gain approval for the fence from the Israeli right, Sharon agreed to place it in disputed areas substantially east of the "Green Line" (which is often improperly referred to as Israel's border) in order to protect a number of settlements. This move has been controversial, and discussion and criticism in the media is certainly valid. Even Sharon said, during his July 29 meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush, that Israel would do what it can to minimize resulting hardships to the Palestinians.

But just because the fence's placement is controversial, it does not follow that the fence should, therefore, be dismantled. Instead of concluding, as the *Star* did, that "Bush should continue to pressure Sharon to dismantle the fence," the paper – to be fair – should insist that Bush pressure Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to fulfil the key demand of the road map: to disarm and dismantle the Palestinian terrorist groups. It is these groups that necessitated Israel's construction of the fence in the first place, and the barrier is supported in principle by the overwhelming majority of Israelis.

It is essential that discussions of the security fence make the distinction between overarching principles – Israel's valid security requirements – and details like the exact location of the fence. This is the tactic taken by Shira Herzog in an opinion piece in the *Globe and Mail* (Aug. 5). While she raises substantial concerns about the fence's current configuration, Herzog concludes that "a fence along agreed-upon borders can increase confidence in a negotiated agreement."

The true stumbling block to peace is not a fence that can be moved or even dismantled. Rather, the real impediment to peace is the reason the fence is being built: Palestinian terrorism, which must be eliminated once and for all.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

KOACH Web site wins award

The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism's KOACH Web site has received a Silver Trumpet award from the Publicity Club of Chicago (PCC).

The award, which was presented to the online communications program of the Conservative Movement's college-age organization, recognized the group's achievements in public relations.

Jonathan Lehrer of Lehrer Communications is the KOACH site's webmaster (its designer and manager). He is also the new co-president of PCC, along with Jill Stewart.

In applying for the award, KOACH had to demonstrate how the various features of its site (www.koach.org) implement its mission statement. The site is designed to provide information and advice to Conservative Jewish college students and their families; maintain a connection between students, their families, their home congregations and the community; create an online community among Jewish college students; become a way to increase participation in KOACH activities and programs; and provide resources to prospective students and their families.

The KOACH Web site features a monthly e-zine written and edited by students from across North America. Articles have dealt with a wide range of topics, including the Holocaust, the war in Iraq, Israel, substance abuse, the environment and Jewish travel opportunities. An online poll measures student opinions on a different topic every month. The site contains campus contact information, job opportunities, academic resources, information about Jewish holidays, Shabbat, kashrut and other topics, and lists programs and services available through KOACH, the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and sister organizations.

For further information about the Web site or other KOACH activities, contact director Richard Moline at moline@uscj.org.

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Congratulations to Alek & Leslie Silver on their 50th Wedding anniversary. Best wishes and many years of happiness. Love, your children, grandchildren and family.

Lionel & Fran Stern were thrilled to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at a surprise party hosted by their daughter Erica Stern.

Mazel tov Zaidy Jack Shecter. You're turning 80. With love, wife Roselyn, children Cindy & Ken, Stuart & Caryn, Lisa & Saville, and grandchildren.

Miriam & David Buckman and Caroline & Bob Levine announce the engagement of Brent Buckman of Richmond Hill and Stephanie Levine of Florida.

Dan & Anne Wasserman and Michael & Debbie Ross are thrilled to announce the engagement of their children Hindy & Joel.

Mazel tov to all.

Mazel tov Mania & Haskiel Mandelman on their 70th wedding anniversary. Best wishes on this exciting milestone, Krystyna, Michael, Judy, Hillel, Amanda, Janet, Ike, Kara and family.

Miriam & David Buckman and Clara & Arnold Kalechstein are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Brianne Buckman & David Kalechstein.

Bryan Posner and Sharon Rieger are thrilled to announce their engagement. Parents are Nancy Rieger, the late Morris Rieger, and Harvey and Susan Posner.

Mazel tov Zaida Ben Pinkus on your 90th birthday. Love, Ernie, Bev, Stacy, Michael, Shawna and Wendy.

Mazel tov to Emanuel & Barbara Bar-Dayan and Sheryl & Brian Ross on the engagement of their children Daniel & Marni.

Hy & Shirley Rabinovitch celebrated their 60th anniversary. From Marilyn & Robert Moskovic, Sam Rabinovitch & Shelley Horenstein, Gail Rabinovitch & Paul Orzech and grandchildren.

Lillian & Bob Tolensky announce the engagement of Marni to Tal, son of Sara & Yehuda Lewinger. Grandparents, Faigie Tolensky, Tanya Margalit and Magdalena Lewinger.

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Advertising feature

LifeStyle

Lawrence Plaza: 50 years at the heart of a community

Lawrence Plaza, opened on ten acres in 1953, was Canada's first shopping plaza. Fifty years later, it's still thriving.

Harry Kichler is a vice-president of Steele Valley Developments, which together with partners, bought Lawrence Plaza in 1996, when its future was uncertain. There was talk of redeveloping it, maybe turning it into a mall.

The community though, wanted the plaza intact; and they won. For the future, Kichler sees Lawrence Plaza "at the heart of the community," as in the past. "Steele Valley is pleased and proud to manage it," he says.

Generations of kids have hung out in the donut shops and record stores. Generations of parents have done their weekly shopping here -- pausing to chat over coffee and pastry in United Bakers and other places, going from table to table to greet friends.

There have always been "anchor stores" which, by drawing large numbers of customers, encourage other businesses to move in and share the traffic flow. Some of you will recall Morgan's, the first of these -- where, in September 1962, stylish women's shoes were selling for $19.98 (no sales tax).

Today, Lawrence Plaza has one of the best Winners stores, The Shoe Company, a 24-hour Dominion, with a large kosher section, and a Shoppers Drug Mart open till midnight. These are the anchor stores of today.

Many of the current businesses, like Kleinberg Jewellery, have served two or three generations, as have doctors and other professionals. Kids attend the Roland & Romaine Dance School; and at Summit Karate; you see parents and kids together.

"What makes Lawrence Plaza work," Kichler believes, "is not one thing only, but the mix. We choose tenants that cater to the neighbourhood. The merchants know many of their customers by name. And where else but Lawrence Plaza can you go to Open Window Bakery and buy half a challah for Shabbos?"

Part of this mix is the neighbourhood itself. Just to the north is the Barbara Frum Library. Not far away are schools, houses of worship and community organizations. And while the Jewish presence has always been strong, the cultural mix is diverse.

From the beginning, Lawrence Plaza has seen the launch of many community projects. Many a charity drive owes its birth to informal talk over a cup of coffee.

There's plenty of walk-in trade. Mothers with strollers and kids in tow, youngsters looking for school supplies, oldsters who've left the car wars behind, can shop here without fighting traffic.

Thousands of families have grown to a second and third generation in this area. While many have left, young couples have moved in to take their places, raising families of their own. And as Kichler says, "it's people raising families in a neighbourhood, who keep it alive".

Opening Day 1953

Lawrence Plaza has always been easy to get to, with the Bathurst bus at the corner, the 401 a few blocks north, and the Yonge Street subway 20 minutes away. The Spadina subway has made it even more accessible.

In such a popular plaza, parking has sometimes been scarce. Someone once asked Kichler:

"Why did you buy it, when you saw how crowded the parking lot was?" Kichler replied: "We bought the plaza because the lot was crowded. People enjoy shopping at Lawrence Plaza."

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A life in bloom at the Bernard Betel Centre

"I'm getting well paid," jokes Allan Pryce, volunteer gardener at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. "I'm making 60 minutes per hour." Most mornings through the summer, Allan tends the Centre's outdoor beds of fiery red and delicate green.

Though he laughs about time, Allan, 80, knows how to make the most of every hour of a life miraculously spared from Auschwitz. "I was standing in front of the gas chamber," he says, then pauses. "I survived so many things."

In 1989, after losing his wife, he moved back to Toronto from North Bay to be near one of his two daughters. "I didn't want to stay by myself," he says. "Avodah, avodah [work, work]," is his motto. When he discovered the Betel Centre had opportunities for Meals on Wheels drivers, he came to volunteer – and quickly found many reasons to join.

"I socialize, meet people, attend seminars, day trips, and Tuesday morning lectures," he says. And then, there's his gardening. As the sun moves higher, Allan turns his attentions to his lush plants inside the Betel Centre. "I start everything off from seeds," he says, "divide the plants, take cuttings. There are plants in the office, library, craft room. Flowers make a big difference."

Longtime Centre employee Barbara Zigler agrees: "Everyone says it looks like magic. Allan's gift … makes our place just shine."

In North Bay, Allan took time from his paint and wallpaper business to volunteer with the Horticultural Society, helping line Main Street with 135 large hanging baskets. He also participated in rose shows with his prize-winning blooms.

Allan still attends flower shows. He also walks for an hour daily and is an accomplished chef, baking bagels and ginger snaps for friends and family. But he always finds time to give something back to the Betel Centre for the learning and companionship it's brought to his life.

"I'm here every day except Friday," Allan says, lovingly tending his plants. "This is my second home."

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The Centre is on the south side of Steeles Ave. West, one set of lights west of Bathurst St.

Brock's Jewish students put fun on the agenda

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

When Aaron Bronsteter left Thornhill to study at Brock University, he noted that there was virtually no Jewish life on the small-town campus.

Last November, the 21-year-old decided to start a club for fellow Jewish students at Brock, few though they are.

"Something like that didn't exist," said Bronsteter, who is going into his third year of an undergarduate degree in business communication. "I only knew one or two Jews on campus. I figured there were more."

BUJA founded last November

He said BUJU – short for Brock University Jews United, which was founded last November – has different aims than most Jewish student groups.

Because of growing anti-Jewish sentiment on many campuses, most Hillel organizations tend to focus on pro-Israel advocacy and responding to anti-Semitism, but "we're here to have fun," Bronsteter said.

Other than an anti-Zionist letter printed in the the *Brock Press,* the student newspaper, there has been virtually no confrontation between Muslim and Jewish students at the University, he said.

Calling the clashes between pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian students at Concordia University and York University " counterproductive," Bronsteter said BUJU has a positive working relationship with the Muslim Students Association.

"We set an example of how people should operate," he said.

He said BUJU's main goal is to provide a place for Jewish students to interact with each other.

So far, BUJU has hosted bagel lunches and bowling nights. These activities are open to everyone who wants to come.

While St. Catharines has only a small Jewish community, the nearby B'nai Israel Synagogue has embraced BUJU's 30 members by providing them with a place to hold programs and to pray on the High Holy Days.

Also helping the group has been Bill Chernin, the director of regional campus Jewish services for Canadian Jewish Congress. He provides financial support and programming ideas to Jewish students at the University of Guelph, the University of Waterloo, Wilfred Laurier University and Brock.

Members have come up with programs

Chernin drops in periodically to see how the groups are doing, and offers advice and resources.

When it comes to programming, he said, "the sillier, the more fun."

He recalls a backyard "pool party" he attended recently that used a kid's wading pool instead of a real one. Guests spent the afternoon running around shooting water guns at each other.

"It was a blast. It was the most fun program I've ever been to," Chernin said.

"The unexpected always leads to good times."

There are a number of programs in the works for the fall at Brock, he said, including a joint camping trip with Guelph and Waterloo's Jewish students, a theatre field trip to the Stratford or Shaw festivals, and a murder mystery night.

Chernin, who describes the Brock group as "very self-motivated" said members have come up with most of the programs themselves.

"They've really taken the bull by the horns," he said.

Half the Jewish students at Brock are from Toronto and have had to adjust to a non-Jewish lifestyle in St. Catharines.

"They're used to more Jewish content in their lives," said Chernin.

The main focus is on the social aspects, said 21-year-old kinesiology student Noah Cooper.

"It's a great opportunity for Jews to feel some sort of community there. It's nice to have a touch of home," he said.

LifeStyle

Advertising feature

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Tomatoes: red, nutritious and yummy

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

Tomatoes are so versatile that they taste great in sauces, in sandwiches or salads, and even in juice or soup. Low in calories, tomatoes are rich in dietary fibre, vitamin C, beta-carotene, potassium and iron.

They also contain significant amounts of lycopene, an effective anti-oxidant that has been linked in several scientific studies to lower cancer rates. By cooking tomatoes, you can actually enhances lycopene levels and their effects, because cooking breaks down a tomato's cell walls and makes the lycopene more available.

TOMATO CORN BREAD

1 large tomato, cored and halved crosswise
4 tbsp. unsalted butter
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
½ cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
1 tbsp. sugar
2 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. dried basil
2 large eggs, slightly beaten
1 cup milk
¼ cup plain yogurt

Using your finger, push seeds and surrounding liquid out of the tomato. Dice it and set aside in a strainer to drain. Gently melt butter in a 10-inch cast-iron skillet and remove from heat.

Preheat oven to 400. In a large bowl, mix cornmeal, flour, cheese, sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and herbs. In another bowl, blend eggs, milk, and yogurt. Pour melted butter into the liquid, but leave heavy coating of butter in pan.

Make a well in the dry mixture and add the liquid. Stir briskly to blend, then fold in diced tomato. Turn batter into buttered skillet and bake for 25 minutes, until surface is light golden. The top should resist gentle finger pressure. Let stand for 5 minutes, then slice and serve. Makes 8 servings.

NO-COOK TOMATO SAUCE WITH OLIVES & MOZZARELLA (dairy)

This no-bake recipe is a snap, but needs to be made at least one hour before serving to give flavours time to blend.

3 large tomatoes seeded and chopped.
2 to 3 tsp. garlic, minced
3 tbsp. sliced green onions
1½ tsp. oregano; dried
⅓ cup olive oil
2 tsp. sugar
⅔ cup black olives, pitted and sliced
6 oz mozzarella cheese; diced
½ lb. any kind of shell pasta
parmesan cheese, optional
salt and pepper, optional

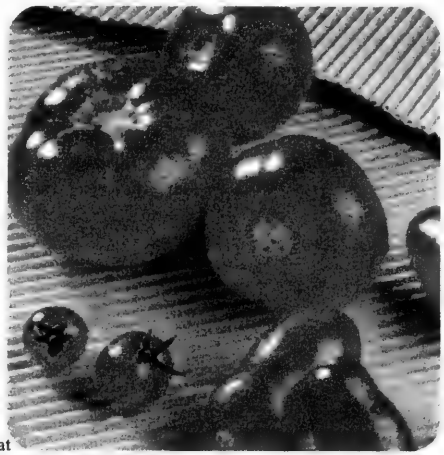
Combine tomatoes, garlic, green onions, oregano, olive oil, sugar, and olives in a large glass bowl. Mix gently to combine. Set tomato mixture aside for at least 30 minutes, or up to 2 hours. Just before serving, cook pasta and drain. Return cooked pasta to empty pot and pour tomato mixture over hot pasta. Add cheese and toss gently. Cover with lid for one minute to let cheese soften slightly. Uncover and season with salt and pepper if desired. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese, if desired. Serves 4. Recipe can be doubled or tripled.

TOMATO AND ONION PIZZA (pareve)

As a dinner, lunch, snack or appetizer, this simple recipe is guaranteed to become a family favourite.

1 lb. plum tomatoes
1 tbsp. oregano
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 lb. sweet onions sliced
2 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. garlic, minced
½ cup white wine
1 to 2 tsp. rosemary, dried
¼ cup black olives, minced
2 pre-made pizza crusts
fresh rosemary and /or oregano (optional)
olive oil

Preheat oven to 375. Wash tomatoes and cut into ⅓-inch slices. Set aside. Heat olive oil in sauté pan and cook onions and sugar together over medium heat for about five minutes. Add garlic, white wine and rosemary and reduce heat; cover and cook for about 10 minutes or until liquid is almost totally absorbed. Stir in chopped olives and immediately remove mixture from heat. Spread onion and olive mixture over pre-made pizza crust. Place tomato slices on top and brush with additional olive oil. Sprinkle top of pizza with oregano and bake for 10 minutes, or until pizza is hot throughout. Makes 2 pizzas. For extra flavour, decorate top with fresh oregano and/or rosemary just before baking.



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90-year-old stays active teaching dance

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Irving Naftolin teaches dancing.

Naftolin, who will be 90 years old in October, is spry, articulate and has a clear memory of events past and present. He is enthusiastic about sharing his thoughts on staying youthful, his love of dancing and the tremendous benefits he gets from dancing and teaching others to dance.

He believes ballroom dancing builds confidence.

"Dancing is a means of expressing one's emotions through movement," he says in a 1990 book he wrote on ballroom dancing titled *Step by Step by Step*.

"Dancing is the oldest of the arts that needs no instrument, for the dancer's body is the instrument."

Naftolin's book was written for beginners and seniors. It contains a history of the dances, as well as instructions and diagrams for waltz, fox trot, rumba, cha cha, samba and other dances.

In an interview with Naftolin in his compact apartment in a veteran's residence, where the walls are covered with photographs and magazine cut-outs of ballroom dancers and people in his life, he said he began dancing at age 21.

Irving Naftolin with dance partner Bella Lokshiner

"I was shy, didn't have any girlfriends and joined the Brunswick YMHA at College Street in 1935 to exercise, socialize and to dance."

He said he became interested in ballroom dancing and went on to take private lessons "and I went dancing at least twice a week."

Naftolin attended Central Technical School for two years and worked as a tinsmith until he went to work for his brother Ben Naft in 1938 in the printing business. Naftolin retired in 1975.

He served in the Canadian Army from 1942 to 1946, and when he was discharged, he married Clara Levi. She died in 1977.

In 1980, Naftolin was selected to dance in a chorus line that performed at Harbourfront. He later began teaching ballroom dancing at Earl Bales Park and veterans' clubs, as well as the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living and other venues. But Naftolin does more than dance. He believes keeping busy and active is the secret to remaining youthful.

Indeed, his posture and movements belie his age. He goes to the JCC twice a week and exercises at home every day. "I enjoy dancing at Mel Lastman Square every Sunday evening in July and August."

He said "memory is very important" to the effort of staying youthful. To keep his mind active, he has several archival scrapbooks into which he pastes stories and photos of interest from newspapers. He also writes in his diary every day and belongs to several clubs.

Naftolin has two sons, Edward and Richard, and three grandchildren.

Goldenberg new president of CUA

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Urologist Larry Goldenberg, the director of the Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital, was recently installed as president of the Canadian Urological Association (CUA) in absentia at the association's annual general meeting at the Bonaventure Hotel in Montreal.

Goldenberg, a former Torontonian, required urgent surgery and was unable to attend the conference, so Andy Moore, a close friend and colleague, read his acceptance speech and accepted the medal of office on his behalf.

Goldenberg said that as CUA president, he will interact with other national specialty groups and co-ordinate educational activities with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He will also correspond with heads of urological groups in other countries.

Goldenberg attended the Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. He graduated from the University of Toronto's medical school in 1978.

He did his residency at the University of British Columbia and was a winner of the Terry Fox Research Fellowship in cancer endocrinology in 1984, and was a fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) in 2000. He is a professor in the department of surgery in the division of urology at UBC.

In 1999, Goldenberg received a $20 million donation from Vancouver's businessman Jim Pattison to set up a research centre for prostate cancer at Vancouver General Hospital.

"I am proud of the accomplishments of the scientific team that I have put together at the prostate centre in Vancouver. It is currently reputed to be one of the leading research centres in North America," Goldenberg said.

"My research involves the study of diagnostics, education, novel treatment approaches and outcomes in prostate cancer," he said, adding that he is heavily involved in national and international clinical trials.

Goldenberg is also leading a magnetic resonance imaging research team investigating the role of dynamic imaging and spectroscopy in treating prostate cancer.

Goldenberg is married to radiologist Paula Gordon. They have two sons, Adam, 16, and Mitchell, 14.

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Israel & the Jewish World

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Visits to Temple Mount may resume soon: minister

Ha'aretz Daily Newspapers Ltd.

Public Security Minister Tzachi Hanegbi told the Knesset House Committee Monday that he might order the Temple Mount reopened to visits by Jews within a week, even if the Waqf objects, Israel Radio reported Monday.

Hanegbi said Israel would wait another week for the agreement of the Waqf (Muslim religious trust) to visits by Jews. If consent was not forthcoming, he said he might anyway order the resumption of visits by Jews to the disputed site, Judaism's holiest.

Visits by groups of Jews and tourists to the compound, which contains the Al Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock and is Islam's third holiest site, resumed several weeks back for the first time since the outbreak of the intifadah almost three years ago. After Arab leaders, including Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, warned that the renewal of visits would have dangerous consequences, the police, fearing violence, again barred them.

Likud MK stopped by police

On Aug. 7, Tisha b'Av, the day Jews traditionally mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples, Likud MK Yehiel Hazan vowed to visit the site but was stopped by police. Officers had to physically block him from going up to the compound twice. The second time came after police spent half an hour explaining to him that he would be endangering himself as well as the people gathered to pray at the Western Wall, below the Temple Mount.

On the heels of Hazan's decision to visit the compound, the Waqf called on all Palestinians and Muslims in Israel to "protect the Mount from attempts of Jewish extremists to force their way into the compound."

The last Israeli poltician to visit the site was Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in September 2000, just prior to the beginning of the intifadah.

TISHA B'AV: A Jewish worshipper carries his weapon while praying at the Western Wall as he recited prayers marking Tisha B'Av last week. The holy day marks the destruction of both temples which stood on the Temple Mount, behind the Western Wall. [RNS/Reuters photo]

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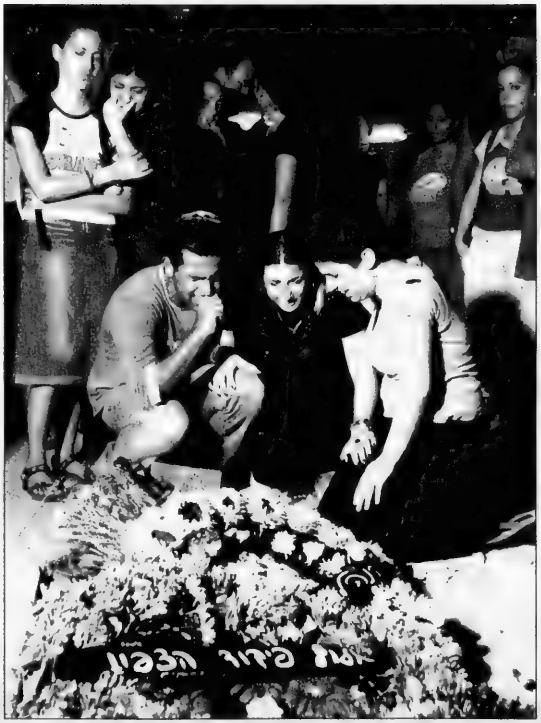
Israel fires on Hezbollah position



Continued from page 1

Israel Air Force (IAF) planes Sunday attacked the Hezbollah anti-aircraft cannon that fired the shells on Shlomi, destroying the Hezbollah positions.

Top IDF officers said that, although they do not want to see escalation, continued Hezbollah anti-aircraft attacks could provoke stiffer Israeli retaliation.

IDF warns of stiffer retaliation

Israeli security officials are checking claims that three Hezbollah men were killed on Friday by IDF fire carried out in retaliation against Hezbollah shelling and missile fire against Har Dov. Hezbollah did not report the loss of any of men.

IDF forces in the north remain on alert, with their status unaltered since the assassination of Hezbollah operative Ali Hussein Salah last week in Beirut. Hezbollah claimed Israel was responsible for this assassination, but Israel has not responded to the charges.

In recent weeks, 18 Israelis have been hurt in the north by Hezbollah attacks.

With files from JTA.

Left: Family and friends mourn Haviv Dadon – who was killed in a Hezbollah attack – at the teen's funeral in Shlomi. [Isranet photo]

Israel & the Jewish World

Politicians believe Sharon scandals will force Israeli PM to resign

By LESLIE SUSSER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — As he skillfully conducts negotiations with the Palestinians and enjoys widespread popularity, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon could be forced to resign over a string of financial scandals in which he and his sons are principal players.

Analysis

That, at least, is the view of many Israeli pundits and politicians, some of whom already are gearing up for a post-Sharon era.

The process has become more urgent since Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein announced his decision to leave office next January. Before he does, he is expected to issue a comprehensive report on the Sharon affairs.

Even if there is no criminal prosecution, Rubinstein's condemnation of Sharon's ethical conduct is likely to be so devastating that pressure will intensify on Sharon to resign, observers say.

Sharon and his sons have been named or investigated in four cases of suspected misdemeanour or felony:

• a mysterious loan from an Austrian bank;

• the so-called "Greek island affair," in which Sharon's son Gilad was paid huge sums of money by a leading Likud activist when Sharon was foreign minister and, later, a candidate for party leader;

• building permits for that same activist in the town of Lod; and

• the proposed rezoning of agricultural land in the centre of the country, where the Sharons have a second farm.

Criticism has grown over the past few weeks as Gilad Sharon twice invoked the right to remain silent under police interrogation.

Last December, Sharon fired Naomi Blumenthal, the deputy infrastructure minister, after she kept silent during an investigation of bribery allegations in the Likud party primaries.

The right to silence is not something to which elected officials should resort, Sharon declared at the time. Though Gilad Sharon does not hold public office, legal experts say his silence in affairs involving his father is tantamount to a public figure remaining silent.

Even Likud Knesset members were outraged at Sharon's perceived double standard.

"If the prime minister of Israel doesn't urge his sons to co-operate with the police, what will ordinary citizens say?" asked Michael Eitan, chairman of the Knesset's Law Committee.

Rubinstein publicly castigated Gilad Sharon's silence and his refusal to hand over key documents, knowing that the prime minister's parliamentary immunity kept the family farm off-limits to police.

Pressure on Sharon escalated when Austrian law enforcement officials two weeks ago turned down an Israeli police request to pursue their inquiries in Vienna.

Coming just days after Israel and Austria restored diplomatic ties, the Austrian decision led to speculation that Sharon had agreed to restore ties if Austria blocked further investigation of the transfer of a controversial $1.49 million loan from Vienna's Bawag Bank to a Tel Aviv bank account run by the prime minister's sons.

Some leading politicians see a strong chance of Sharon being forced to resign. Shimon Peres, chairman of the Opposition Labor party, urged party colleagues to be ready for a change at the top.

In the Likud, two prime ministerial hopefuls – Finance Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom – discussed a possible alliance to head off potential leadership bids by Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz and Trade and Industry Minister Ehud Olmert if Sharon leaves office.

Ariel Sharon

The Austrian loan affair goes back to Sharon's 1999 campaign for Likud leadership. After the campaign, Sharon's elder son Omri, now a Knesset member, was questioned by police about whether he illegally used shell companies to raise campaign funds.

As part of an effort to return an illicit contribution from a company called Annex Research, Cyril Kern, a family friend based in South Africa, transferred $1.49 million through an Austrian bank to the Sharon brothers.

They then used the money as collateral for an Israeli bank loan to repay an earlier loan that had been used to repay Annex.

Police are investigating why the repayment process was so circuitous, whether Kern's loan could be considered a gift that officeholders are forbidden to accept, whether the source of the money really was Kern or whether it was the same people behind Annex Research, who Sharon was supposed to be paying back, and how Gilad Sharon was able to repay all the loans within the space of a few months.

Sharon has not addressed the issue beyond a news conference he gave during the last Knesset elections.

In the "Greek island" and Lod affairs, the common denominator is Likud activist and land developer David Appel.

In the late 1990s, Appel, who was trying to lease the Greek island of Patroklos for a tourism project, hired Gilad Sharon as a consultant. At the same time, he allegedly was seeking the intercession of Ariel Sharon – then the foreign minister – with Greek authorities.

Appel allegedly paid Gilad Sharon, a young economist with no experience in tourism, $25,000 a month for marketing, a down payment of $300,000 and a promise of $3 million if the deal went through, which it never did.

As prime minister, Sharon allegedly intervened to promote plans to develop areas to the east of Lod – where Appel owns land – despite objections by municipal and planning authorities. The move raised suspicions of a payoff.

In the land-zoning affair, Sharon was severely chastised by both the attorney general and the state comptroller for taking an active part in a 2002 decision that affected family-owned land in Moshav Kfar Malal, where Sharon was born.

Rubinstein closed the case on the grounds that there was no evidence of criminality, though he blasted Sharon's conduct.

In a signed editorial, Israel's Yediot Achronot newspaper suggested the Israeli right, which feels threatened by the road map peace plan, would not be overly saddened to see Sharon embroiled in legal complications as a result of the investigations.

Eitan Haber, former bureau chief to former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and one of the paper's top journalists, wrote that Sharon's strongest supporters are now on the left because they know he is the only Israeli leader with sufficient standing to produce a peace agreement with the Palestinians and make it stick.

"If Sharon is truly bent on peace, on establishing a Palestinian state and uprooting Jewish settlements, there are many on the right who will dance on the rooftops if and when the attorney general decides to implicate Sharon in his sons' affairs," Haber wrote. "But for people on the left, it would be a tragedy of historic dimensions."

Sharon's resignation would not necessarily spark new elections. The Likud party could simply choose a new leader who would take over as prime minister if he is confirmed by a majority of the Knesset.

If so, that new leader could adopt policies toward the Palestinians that are very different from Sharon's, whose positions are too conciliatory for much of his party.

YIDDISH CORNER
Edited by: ALEK SILVER
יידיש־ווינקל
רעדאַגירט פון : אַלעק סילווער

דענטיסטיק אין דער ייִדישער געשיכטע

פון ד״ר פרעד ווײַנבערג

• די וועלט אָנערקענט, אַז ייִדישע דאָקטוירים זײַנען פון די בעסטע און באַרימטסטע אין אַלע צײַטן. כמעט אַ דריטל פון די נאָבעל־פּריז געווינערס אין מעדיצין זײַנען ייִדישע דאָקטוירים. אָבער וועגן ייִדישע דענטיסטן געפינט מען זייער ווייניק אין דער וועלט ליטעראַטור. פון דעסט וועגן געפינט מען אינטערעסאַנטע פאַקטן וועגן שיינהייט־דענטיסטיק אין תּלמודישע צײַטן.

אין די 1940ער יאָרן האָט אין לאָנדאָן, ענגלאַנד, פּראַקטיצירט אַ ייִדישער דענטיסט, משה כ״ץ, געבוירן אין לאָדזש ווו ער האָט שטודירט דענטיסטיק. טראָץ דעם, וואָס ס׳איז באַוווּסט, אַז צײַן־דעפעקטן ווירקן אויף דעם אַלגעמיינעם געזונט צושטאַנד, געפינען זיך גרויסע מאַסן מענטשן, וועלכע שרעקן זיך צו גיין צו אַ דענטיסט. זיי ווילן בעסער פאַרטראָגן די צײַן שמערצן.

דאָס האָט געטריבן דעם דענטיסט כ״ץ אין לאָנדאָן צו שרײַבן אַן עסיי וועגן דעם ענין. ד״ר כ״ץ ברענגט אַרויס אינטערעסאַנטע פאַקטן ספּעציעל פאַר אונדז ייִדן. מיט קנאַפּע 2000 יאָר צוריק, אין די צײַטן פון אונדזערע תּנאים, האָבן שוין עקסיסטירט נישט בלויז גאָלדענע צײַן נאָר אויך גאָלדענע צײַן־קרוינען. די גאָלדענע צײַן זײַנען געווען באַפעסטיקט, אָבער די גאָלד־קרוינען האָט מען געקענט צו יעדער צײַט אַרויסנעמען און זיי ווײַזן.

אין מסכת שבת, דף ס״ד, געפינט זיך אַ משנה ווו עס ווערט געשטעלט די פראַגע: אַזוי ווי לויט דער הלכה טאָר מען נישט טראָגן אום שבת, צי מעג מען טראָגן גאָלדענע צײַן? די פּוסקים דערקלערן, אַז די פראַגע איז נישט אויף גאָלדענע צײַן, ווייל זיי זײַנען באַפעסטיקט. אויף גאָלדענע צײַן, ווערט דערקלערט, זײַנען אַלע מתּיר. די פראַגע איז נאָר וועגן טראָגן שבת גאָלדענע קרוינען, ווייל מען קען זיי אַרויסנעמען. רבי איז מתּיר, אָבער די חכמים זאָגן, אַז מען טאָר נישט, ווייל טאָמער טרעפט אַ פרוי איר פריינדין און זי נעמט אַרויס די גאָלדענע קרוין צו ווײַזן ווי שיין זי איז.

עס איז וויכטיק צו באַמערקן, אַז מיט דעם פּראָבלעם פון פאַלשע צײַן אָדער גאָלדענע קרוינען האָבן זיך נישט אָפּגעגעבן די דעמאָלטיקע דאָקטוירים, נאָר ספּעציעלע קינסטלער, וואָס האָבן זיך געווידמעט דער שיינהייט פּראָצעדור.

אין תּלמוד ווערט דערציילט, אַז רבי ישמעאל איז געווען דער בעסטער שיינהייטס קינסטלער פאַר ייִדישע פרויען. עס ווערט דאָרט געברענגט: „רבי ישמעאל היה מפרנס בנות ישראל ברעב כדי שיהיו יפות, ולאחת עשה שן של זהב״. רבי ישמעאל האָט געשפּײַזט די אויסגעהונגערטע ייִדישע טעכטער, כּדי זיי זאָלן שיין אויסזען, און פאַר איינער האָט ער געמאַכט אַ גאָלדענעם צאָן. אין יענע צײַטן האָט טייל מאָל פּאַסירט, אַז דער מאַן האָט נישט געוואָלט וווינען מיט זײַן פרוי, ווייל זי האָט געהאַט אַ מיאוסן צאָן. נאָך אַנדערע מאמרים אין תּלמוד באַווײַזן, אַז אַ מיאוסער צאָן האָט בײַ דער ייִדישער באַפעלקערונג געשפּילט אַ גרויסע ראָלע.

מען זעט פון דעם, אַז אין יענע צײַטן איז דענטיסטיק געווען געטיילט אין צוויי קאַטעגאָריעס: דאָקטוירים און שיינהייטס־קינסטלער ווי רבי ישמעאל. די אומאָרדענונג צווישן די פאַרשיידענע קאַטעגאָריעס דענטיסטן און דאָקטוירים האָט אָנגעהאַלטן ביז 1837, ווען ס׳איז געשאַפן געוואָרן אין אַמעריקע דער ערשטער דענטיסטן פאַרבאַנד אין דער וועלט. אין 1839 איז געעפנט געוואָרן די ערשטע שול פאַר „דענטאַל כירורגיע״ אין באַלטימאָר.

The Week in Israel

Aug. 4

• A 19-year-old U.S. yeshiva student was reported missing in what seemed to be the latest in a wave of kidnappings. He was last seen in the area Aug. 3. It was the second disappearance of a young Jew in the Galilee in five days.

• After a gag order was lifted, Israel said it has arrested two accomplices in the May 18 and June 11 suicide attacks in Jerusalem that killed a total of 24 people. They allegedly took orders from Hamas.

Aug. 5

• Israel told the UN Security Council that Al Qaeda operatives have infiltrated Palestinian areas and have tried to enter Israel to carry out attacks, and that the group has increased propaganda in the areas.

• Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein criticized Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for a "conflict of interest" in a land-use decision, but said he won't press charges. Sharon allegedly sought to influence a decision to let farmers use land for commercial purposes. He and his family own a Negev ranch that may have benefited. He has denied any wrongdoing.

Aug. 6

• Israel released 339 Palestinian prisoners as a goodwill gesture. But an adviser to PA President Yasser Arafat denounced the move because many were slated to be released soon anyway. Israel said none of the prisoners had been involved in deadly attacks against Israelis.

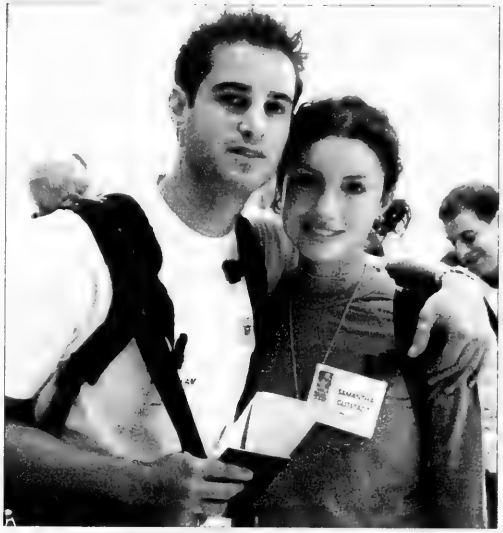
Aug. 7

• Israel's debt ballooned from NIS 448 billion at the end of 2001 to NIS 502 billion at the end of 2002, a new Finance Ministry report says.

Aug. 8

• An Israeli soldier and two Hamas members were killed in a gun battle near Nablus. Israeli troops raided the Askar refugee camp to apprehend two Hamas bomb makers.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz



On Aug. 6, 275 young Jews lined up for a specially chartered El Al flight from Toronto to take them on Birthright Israel. Between May and August, more than 1,600 young Jewish Canadians will have taken part in Birthright, which is funded in part by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. At left, participants Ron Nayot and Samantha Gutstadt prepare to leave Toronto.

Birthright Israel drawing record numbers

By DAN HOROWITZ
Special to the CJN

It's turning out to be a record year for participation by young Jewish Canadians in the Birthright Israel program.

Between May and August, close to 1,600 participants will have taken part in the program, which provides Jews ages 18 to 26 who have never been to Israel on an organized tour with a free trip to the Jewish state. It's sponsored by leading philanthropists, Jewish federations and the government of Israel.

There were so many participants aboard the Aug. 6 Birthright flight from Toronto that El Al sent a chartered 747 to take 275 young people from Pearson International Airport to Tel Aviv. Approximately 200 were from Toronto, with the rest coming from Montreal, Winnipeg and the Atlantic provinces.

Ron Nayot, 24, a University of Western Ontario graduate, has witnessed first-hand the growth of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment on Canadian campuses.

He sees programs such as Birthright Israel as important tools in defending students against such rhetoric.

"I've been to Israel before several times. So Birthright, for me, is about education, rather than running around to see the sights of Israel," he says. "It's especially important that we, as young Jewish adults, are given the tools and taught the important information needed to defend Israel and counter ignorant arguments about Israel."

Samantha Gutstadt, 22, a recent graduate of Toronto's Ryerson University, hopes Birthright Israel will help her see the bigger picture when it comes to Judaism.

"I hope, and I've heard, that Birthright Israel gives people a true sense of belonging and connecting with something bigger," she says. "I think this trip will also provide me with a better understanding of where I come from as a Jew."

Adds Nayot, "I've been to Israel many times because my mother is Israeli, but [I've only experienced the country] on a superficial level. Birthright Israel gives me the chance to enjoy Israel on a spiritual level, and that's what I plan to do."

Dan Horowitz is senior communications co-ordinator at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. He is currently traveling with the Birthright participants.

British writer ignores pro-Israel letters

By RICHARD ALLEN GREENE
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LONDON — A British newspaper columnist who admits he ignores pro-Israel letters to the editor if the writer has a Jewish name will not be punished, the country's media watchdog has decided.

Richard Ingrams, a columnist for the *Observer*, made the remark last month in a column criticizing Barbara Amiel, a journalist and the wife of *Jerusalem Post* proprietor Conrad Black.

"I have developed a habit when confronted by letters to the editor in support of the Israeli government to look at the signature to see if the writer has a Jewish name. If so, I tend not to read it," Ingrams wrote in his July 13 column.

The *Observer* received about 50 letters and e-mails in response to the column, including one from the Board of Deputies, the umbrella organization that represents most British Jews.

Neville Nagler, the director general of the board, called Ingrams' position "quite unacceptable."

"If a Jewish person chooses to support the Israeli government, this does not make his argument any less legitimate than a non-Jewish person's," Nagler wrote. "It is deeply worrying that a journalist of your paper is so willing to blind himself to one side of this sad conflict."

Another person who complained to the paper about the column pointed out that many Jews are highly critical of Israel.

"Ingrams would thus exclude names such as" Noam Chomsky, Susan Sontag and David Grossman – all fierce critics of Israeli policy – "from the public debate on Israel, on much the same ethnic principle as Jews were once blackballed from certain gentlemen's clubs," R.J. Chisholm wrote.

The *Observer*'s own journalist employed to investigate reader complaints admitted the piece was "inflammatory" and "bigoted."

"I agree with a reader who pointed out that Ingrams' piece displayed such a degree of prejudice against Jews that it will be impossible ever again to take seriously anything he writes about Israel," the journalist, Stephen Pritchard, wrote on Aug. 3.

But the Press Complaints Commission, which received two formal complaints about the piece, has decided not to take action against Ingrams.

"It is clear there has been no breach of the code" governing newspapers, commission spokesperson Stephen Abell told JTA.

Complaints were filed on two grounds, he explained: accuracy and discrimination.

The column did not breach the accuracy clause because it was clearly labelled opinion rather than news, Abell said.

And the code's discrimination clause applies only to named individuals, not to groups, he said.

Ingrams "wasn't naming individuals, he was making a point about a group," Abell said.

The column might have been offensive, he said, but that is not a violation of newspaper guidelines.

"Matters of taste and offensiveness aren't covered by the code," he said.

Norman Lebrecht, a former columnist for Britain's *Jewish Chronicle*, supported the commission's decision.

He called it a matter of courtesy to read one's mail, adding, "If a columnist chooses to be discourteous, that isn't a matter for the Press Complaints Commission."

"There is no anti-Semitism in" Ingrams' refusal to read mail from Jews in support of Israel, Lebrecht said.

The reaction to the column stemmed from anxiety in the Jewish community, he said.

"There is an awful lot of nervousness in the community at the moment," Lebrecht said, adding the complaints "are a manifestation of that."

Arts & Travel

Jewish woman survived by marrying Nazi

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

The Nazi Officer's Wife is a stunning documentary about a young Jewish woman who survived the Holocaust by adopting another person's identity and marrying a Nazi who was later drafted into the German army.

Edith Hahn was a law student in Vienna in 1938 and came from an assimilated Jewish family.

After the German annexation of Austria, she fled to Munich, where she passed herself off as an Aryan and married a member of the Nazi Party.

Hahn managed to survive the war this way, and with her daughter, immigrated to Israel, where she now lives, and where she wrote the memoir, upon which the film is based.

Incredibly, Hahn kept painstaking records of those days, including documents and photos, all of which have been used to bring her amazing story to life.

This remarkable film is narrated by actress Susan Sarandon, with additional readings by Julia Ormond.

After a successful screening at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival earlier this year, *The Nazi Officer's Wife* is now available on video and DVD through SMA Distribution in Mississauga, Ont.

Another important video, *Israel: A Nation Is Born*, was recently released on DVD. This six-part film chronicles the birth and development of the State of Israel and is narrated by the late Israeli diplomat and foreign minister Abba Eban.

The production gives a brilliant overview of the history of the Jewish state and provides first-hand testimony about the events surrounding the creation and growth of Israel through its first five decades. It includes interviews and rare archival footage of U.S. presidents Harry Truman and Richard Nixon, as well as such world leaders as Winston Churchill, Anwar Sadat, David Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir, Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin.

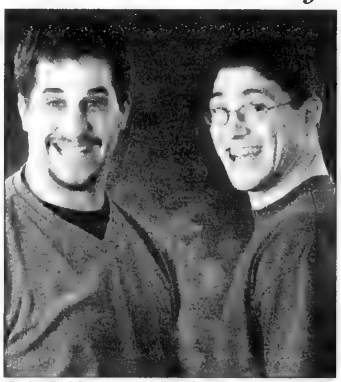
In a comment made at a time when the prospects for peace were a little brighter than they've been over the past few years, Eban himself describes the film as a "depiction of the turbulent and dramatic history of Israel, through the conflicts and tensions of five decades, climaxing in the brighter prospects of Arab-Israeli peace."

The DVD release includes a booklet that contains the *New York Times*' tribute to Eban after his death and a video tribute to him featuring his wife, former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger, and historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr. The DVD also includes subtitles in Hebrew, Russian and Spanish.

It is distributed in Canada by Morningstar Entertainment.

Magazine covers Canadian film industry

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern



Jody Goldwasser and Mike Zembowski [Signature Photos]

In midtown Toronto, on a wooden patio deck, Jody Goldwasser and Jeff Kahane have set up two sofas, a wood kitchen table and two chairs, an ottoman and a glass coffee table supported by grey bricks, all under a black and white striped tent.

In the kitchen, there are beer bottles in the fruit basket and photos Kahane won't let me see. Back on the deck, a fan whirs, but the humid air is so heavy the breeze doesn't carry. The men lounge about as if they're at the beach. All that's missing is the sand.

These are the headquarters of *Hollywood North*, a new magazine for Canada's film and TV industry.

Along with four other buddies in the film and TV industry, Goldwasser, 26, Kahane, 34, and Mike Zembowski, 25, created *Hollywood North* because they didn't see anything like it on newsstands.

Goldwasser, the editor-in-chief, is quick to say what his magazine is not about. "We're not really interested in who's kissing who and that kind of stuff – the entertainment gossip part." Its focus is the industry itself: what's being filmed in the city, government tax credits for foreign filmmakers and filming technology. It's also the only Canadian magazine that publishes the Nielsen TV ratings.

Right now the magazine is published quarterly, but the group hopes that by January it will be coming out every month. They printed 200 copies of the first issue; for the second issue, they more than doubled that. Now their subscription list is up to 1,000 and they're sending copies to the United States.

The magazine has so far been produced on a shoestring budget. None of the writers or editors have been paid, and the advertising revenue has just barely covered production costs.

The editors all agree that the city's SARS-related economic slump, which has led to a slowdown in the entertainment business, has made it hard for the magazine to thrive. The first six months have been rough, they concede, and they predict it will take two years until *Hollywood North* starts making money.

Goldwasser says the "hurry up and wait" attitude on production sets gave him the idea for the magazine.

"I realized a lot of people are sitting around on the set not doing anything and we decided it was time to really do something about it. There's [American trade magazines] *Variety* and the *Hollywood Reporter*, but there's nothing like that in Canada, and that's how we started to develop it."

"It's a niche that needs to be filled," says Dan Resnick, a University of Toronto student who is currently writing a piece about films being shot on Toronto's three university campuses.

The group's biggest advantage is that almost all of them are in the film and TV industry. Goldwasser is an assistant director who has worked for "almost every major American distributor." Zembowski, the publisher, is a screenwriter and producer. Kahane is a graphic designer who does the t-shirts for Mandell Entertainment's summer tour and is the magazine's creative director. All of them met while working as DJs for Mandell Entertainment.

"The neat thing about it is that we have no magazine experience. None of us went to school for this, to learn about how to do magazines. None of us wanted to do magazines," says Goldwasser. *Hollywood North* is currently gearing up for its Toronto International Film Festival Issue.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

70 YEARS LATER, NOVEL RECALLS CHRISTIE PITS RIOT OF AUGUST 1933

Vancouver novelist-screenwriter **Karen X. Tulchinsky** is celebrating the release of a new novel, *The Five Books of Moses Lapinsky*. The work is set in Toronto around the turbulent time of the Christie Pits riot, which occurred on Aug. 16, 1933, 70 years ago this week.

At a softball game at Christie Pits, a group of boys known as the Swastika Club unfurled a huge swastika flag, setting off a race riot between Jewish and gentile youths. The riot was preceded by several skirmishes earlier that summer between Jewish youths and the Swastika Club who modelled themselves after Adolf Hitler's stormtroopers, and whose mission was to drive Jews and other "undesirables" from the beaches of Toronto.

The Five Books of Moses Lapinsky follows the life of Sonny Lapinsky, a young boy from a poor family, who dreams of becoming a professional boxer. When his younger brother Izzy is permanently injured in the Christie Pits riot, a rift forms between Sonny and his father, a rift that threatens to tear the family apart.

Tulchinsky is a recent graduate of **Norman Jewison's** prestigious Canadian Film Centre in Toronto. Her novel, *Love Ruins Everything*, was named one of the top 10 books of 1998 by the *Bay Area Reporter*.

She reads from her new novel at the Vancouver JCC, 950 West 41st Ave., on Thursday, Aug. 21, 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Canada Council for the Arts and co-presented by the JCC's cultural arts department and Raincoast Books.

* * *

Medina Audition: Medina Theatre Ensemble seeks actors for a stage-reading of *The Aching Heart of Samuel Kleinerman*, a play by **Marion Andre** about the hard choices a Berlin family faces in the Holocaust era. Auditions by appointment only on Aug. 27 at the Lipa Green Bldg., 4600 Bathurst St., Room 423. Barbara, 416-486-6626.

* * *

Names in the News: During a recent visit to Israel, American actor **Christopher Reeve** visited several state-of-the-art institutions specializing in spinal injury and stem-cell research and complimented them on their work. Eight years after a catastrophic riding accident left him almost fully paralysed, Reeve – best known for his roles in four *Superman* movies – met Israelis with injuries similar to his own, and talked of how impressed he was with Israel's facilities for handicapped visitors.

Reeve also visited the Western Wall, the last remnant of the ancient Temple's retaining wall and the holiest site of Judaism. Mobbed by crowds of well-wishers, Reeve asked for some time alone so that he and his son **Matthew** could reflect quietly. Matthew placed hand-written notes into the wall on his father's behalf.

At a gala dinner at Jerusalem's King David Hotel, Minister of Tourism **Binyamin Elon** presented Reeve with a commemorative plaque, saying, "Your visit and your determination are an inspiration to Israelis, and I know they will also inspire Americans eager to visit the Holy Land."

Visits by celebrities like Reeve, **Richard Gere** and **Whitney Houston** are helping bring about a dramatic rise in tourism in recent months, Israeli tourism officials say.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• A free outdoor screening of award-winning Canadian short films takes place on the patio of the Pure Spirits Oyster House and Grill, 55 Mill St. in Toronto's Distillery Historic District. Aug.11, 9 p.m., rain or shine.

• Memorial Evening for the Murdered Soviet Poets, presented by the Yiddish Culture Council and the committee for Yiddish. English and Yiddish; free. Beth Tzedek Synagogue, 1700 Bathurst St. Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.

• The National Film Board of Canada is screening home movies on its International Home Movie Day. The event also features activities for kids, workshops on how to improve your shooting technique, how to store your home movies, a screening of *My Father's Camera* by **Karen Shopsowitz**, and more. 150 John St., Aug. 16. 416-973-3012.

• The 15th RBC Seniors Jubilee, featuring more than 1,300 performers ranging in age from 50 to 95, is at Roy Thomson Hall, Aug. 18 to 22, with a different line-up daily. Lobby entertainment begins at 11 a.m., and auditorium performances begin at 1 p.m. $15-$35. 416-872-4255 or www.roythomson.com.

• BuskerFest, Toronto's street performers festival, features more than 40 performers from around the world. St. Lawrence Market neighbourhood, Aug. 21 to 24, 12 noon to 11 p.m. daily (Sunday to 5 p.m.) Proceeds to benefit Epilepsy Toronto.

O Borealia we stand on guard for thee

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Bet you didn't know:

We could be Borealians. That's right, our founding fathers, in their wisdom, once considered Borealia, Tuponia and Efisga before settling on Canada as their new country's name.

•Sandy McIntyre, proprietor of the goldmine near Timmins, Ont. that produced $230 million in gold, sold his stake in 1909 for $25 to buy liquor.

•Famed Bolshevik revolutionary Leon Trotsky was held in a Nova Scotia prison.

•Alert, Nunavut, is closer to Moscow than to Toronto.

•Superman's hometown was Toronto and Al Capone once cooled his heels in a maze of tunnels beneath Moose Jaw, Sask.

These and many other fun, informative facts make up *True North Strange & Free* [Reader's Digest Canada].

The 320-page book is well-illustrated and easy to read. Subjects range from history to medicine, the arts to sports and politics to crime.

It makes an excellent gift, especially for out-of-country guests.

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT
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120 COTTAGE WANTED
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123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT
125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE
130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT
135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
140 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION WANTED
143 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. AVAIL.
145 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMM. WANTED
147 FLORIDA ACCOMMODATION
150 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION
155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE
160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT
165 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT
170 ISRAEL PROPERTIES WANTED
175 ISRAEL ACCOMMODATION WANTED
178 ISRAEL TRANSPORTATION
180 OUT-OF-TOWN PROPERTIES
185 OUT-OF-COUNTRY PROPERTIES
190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE
195 VACATION PROPERTIES WANTED
196 VACATION PROPERTIES-EXCH./SHARE
198 SPACE FOR LEASE
199 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AVAILABLE
200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
201 OFFICE SPACE WANTED
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203 STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE
205 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE
210 LAND/LOTS FOR LEASE
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225 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
232 BUSINESS FOR SALE
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515 WATERPROOFING
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525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

REAL ESTATE Section

Paul Slavens

REAL ESTATE INC. REALTOR

RESULTS
RESULTS
RESULTS
483-4337

FINE PROPERTIES

FOREST HILL RD. / KILBARRY
$1,475,000. Classic Village Tu[SOLD]rms. Main fl. family rm. + library. Multi fireplaces. CAC. Private drive & garage. *Linda Rose.

FOREST HILL INCOME PROPERTY - $1,065,000.
Multi-family dwelling. Updated [SOLD]s & baths. Fuly rented. Private drive. 3 car pkg. Income & expenses available. **Don Wagman.

PRIME LOWER VILLAGE - $1,099,000.
1st ad. Charming 5+ bdrm. Tudor. Family rm. on main. Fabulous library on 2nd level. Finished lower level. Private drive. *Edith Weiss.

PRIME LYTTON PARK - $959,000.
Gracious, stately centre hall. Spacious rms. Main fl. family rm. & powder rm. 4 bdrms. Private drive & double garage. *Leslie Dennis.

YORK MILLS / LESLIE - 729,000.
Exceptional 4 bdrm., 4 bath h[SOLD]ain fl. family rm., powder rm. & laundry. CAC. Finished lower level. Dble. garage. *Kathie Wood.

YONGE / EGLINTON -- $659,000.
Stunning 5 yrs. new townhome. Main fl. powder rm. Eat-in kitchen w/w/out to fenced patio. Fin lower level. Garage. **Richard Sherman.

BATHURST / FAIRTOWN - $649,000.
Reno'd 4 bdrm. Main fl.family r[SOLD]powder rm. Fireplace. Fin. lower level. Private drive & garage. *Edie Winberg.

FOREST HILL - $619,000.
Tastefully updated 3 bdrm. ho[SOLD]rge principal rms. Powder rm. Finished lower level. Large deck & lovely garden. *Kathie Wood.

SPADINA / HEATH CONDO - $499,000.
Rarely available penthouse suite. Totally reno'd. Designer kitchen & baths. Access to rooftop garden. Parking. *Shawnee Slan.

ALLENBY SCHOOL - $407,513.
Charming 2+ bdrm. Tudor sty[SOLD]elow. Fireplace. Private drive & built-in garage. Live in, renovate or build new. *Veronica Key.

YONGE / EGLINTON - $239,000.
Excellent location. 1 bdrm. + bright solarium. Walk-out to balcony. Locker. Parking. 24 hr. security. Walk to subway. *Christina Paisley.

DON MILLS / FINCH - $229,900.
Spacious corner suite in "Skym[SOLD]bdrms. + den + solarium. Open balcony. 2 parking spots. Approx. 1,600 sq. ft. *Kathie Wood.

BATHURST / SHEPPARD - $219,900.
Well maintained. 2 bdrms. + solarium w/balcony. Eat-in kitchen. Central. air. Parking & locker. For viewing call **Richard Sherman.

1st TIME BUYERS - $197,000.
Great value at "Soho Lofts". Fantstic studio apartment. High ceilings. Jacuzzi. Granite kitchen counter. Parking. Ensuite laundry. *Janice Sackichand.

416-483-4337
* Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

ALAN NEWTON

REAL ESTATE LTD. REALTOR

BATHURST-CENTRE $874,900
Gorgeous custom home, over 4,000 sq. ft. on ravine lot! Triple car garage, circular driveway, prof fin basement w/walk-out, great family home! Steps to hebrew schools & synagogue. *Cila Fleischmann

YONGE - NORTH OF HWY 7
Large 4 bdrm home on south facing pool size lot! Fabulous finishings throughout! Finished bsmnt, extras galore, exquisite detail. Main floor family room plus upstairs den! *Ted Waxman

YONGE & CENTRE - 63.39 X 177.62 FT LOT!
Totally reno'd throughout! 2 bdrms, new dble gar, high ceilings, beautifully lndscpd. Very unique! Extras! Must see! *Ted Waxman

BATHURST-CENTRE - ON QUIET COURT
Detached with hardwood floors, new Maple kitchen, finished bsmnt, steps to schools, synagogue & Promenade. Shows extremely well! *Cila Fleischmann

YONGE & 19TH - RICHMOND HILL
Fab 4 bdrm, bleached floors, service stairs, 9 ft. ceilings on main floor, extras galore! "Homes & Gardens" Decor! *Ted Waxman

BATHURST-CLARK - STUNNING HOME!
Updated 5 bedroom on 61 ft. frontage, new custom kitchen & master ensuite, strip hardwood floors, newer windows thru-out! 2 bedroom apartment with separate entry. *Carey Rosenzweig

BATHURST MANOR - WALK TO SHULS!
Fabulous 3 bdrm sidesplit, 4 level, dble garage, rec room, fireplace, walk-out from dining room to huge deck! $399,999. *Helen Winer

CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

SHEPPARD-WILSON HEIGHTS
2 year new 2 split bedroom suite, close to all amenities! Carries cheaper than rent! A must see! *Carey Rosenzweig

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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We have ELEVEN MAGNIFICENT NEW HOMES to be built on choice lots in this prestigious area by esteemed builders. Call David Eichorn* or Mark Eichorn NOW for best selection!

CLANTON PARK — NEW LISTING — OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS!
Spacious 3 + 1 bdrm. ranch bungalow on gorgeous 50 x 135 ft. lot, main floor family room, separate entry to in-law suite. **ONLY $399,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

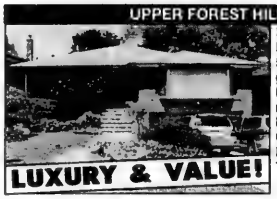
CENTRAL PARK GARDENS — NEW AND STUNNING!

EIGHT EXQUISITE NEW TOWNHOMES in a prime central location! Choice of 3 & 4 bdrm. units, each individually customized, attached garages and features galore! Brochures and samples available at our sales office! Call David Eichorn* NOW for best selection at (416) 787-1712.

FALKIRK / JOICEY — RARE OPPORTUNITY!
Spacious 4 + 1 bdrm. side-split on fabulous 50 x 115 ft. lot surrounded by many new luxury homes. Renovate or build your dream home! **PRICED FOR IMMEDIATE SALE AT ONLY $499,000!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

UPPER FOREST HILL



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Charming 3 + 1 bedroom bungalow on gorgeous 50 x 140 ft. lot, backs onto Viewmount Park. Walk to subway, shops, schools, etc. Only $519,000 — **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

CLANTON PARK
Gorgeous 54 x 150 ft. building lot on quiet street in prime central location! Close to synagogues, schools, park. Asking $449,000. Call Esther Rubenstein, Sales Rep., (416) 787-1712.

AVENUE ROAD / BATHURST / LAWRENCE

SPACIOUS 4 BDRM. SIDE-SPLIT on 55 x 117 ft. lot in prime prestigious location. Large principal rooms, gorgeous family room addition, shows well! Only $749,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST/CHABAD GATE
Real dollhouse, 3 bedroom, 4 baths, finished basement, with jacuzzi, completely updated. See it - love it.

FRASERWOOD/LAWRENCE
6-plex, 5x3 bdrms, 1x1 bdrms, retrofit. $899,000 asking.

FINCH & YONGE
Super 2 bdrm condo, great gym facilities. $289,000 asking.

STEELES & YONGE
3 bedroom condo, 2 washrooms, balcony, $189,900.

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SEIDMAN
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BATHURST/SHEPPARD
Spacious 3 bdrm , 2 baths, finished basement, garage, large lot.

PALM DRIVE
3 bdrm, 2 ba SOLD! & din combined, fin bsmnt, gar, don't miss.

AVENUE RD/LAWRENCE
Legal sixplex, balconies, bath in suites, garages + parking, A1 location, fully rented, good income.

SHEPPARD AVE. WEST
2 bungalows, ideal for development, 100' x 143' lot.

416-633-7373

YORK MILLS/BAYVIEW $799,000
Denlow 4 bedroom, 4 baths, family room with walk-out to private garden, library, nanny's suite, rec room with wet bar, sauna, 70 x 109 ft. lot.

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10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Bath/Lawrence, 6 bdrm. lux. house, approx. 5,000 s.f., $1,000,000. 416-785-4422.

!!! Steps to Shul !!! Bathurst/Clark, spacious 5 bdrm., 3 bath home, largest backyard in area. $379,000. Call 905-709-1145.

1 Romney Road. Best offer! By app't only - no exceptions. 416-884-1693.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

85 Skymark Dr., lux. 1 bdr., den, 1.5 bth., wshr/dryer, white kit., apps., pkg., locker, $MM rec. cntre., 24 hr. sec., $1600/mo., all inclus., avail. Oct. 1. Call 416-499-6930 or 416-707-9898.

62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Quiet, responsible editor seeks shared accommodation in quiet house. Please call David at 416-494-7764.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003

SKYMARK
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Skymark I: prime SE cor., 2 bdrm. + fam., sol., balc. City view.
Skymark II: Upgraded 2 bdrm. + solarium. Approx. 1,200 sq. ft.
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Luxury condo Clark/Hilda 2 bdrm. 2 - 4 pc bth., solarium Steps to shul. 905-886 -6493.

Apt. Unit. 10 BELLAIR. 1505 sq ft, most prestigious address at Bloor/Yorkville. Pkg, locker, designer finishes, luxury amenities ++. **Vera Gyenes, 416-487-4311, Royal LePage.**

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bathurst/Steeles area, 2 bdrm. lux. condo for rent. $1450/mo. 905-763-1835.

Bath./Steeles, 2 bdrms., 1.5 bth. + den, lrge. kit., from Sept. 15th, $1600/mo. 416-449-3571.

70 UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION

4 rooms to rent in a beautiful **HALIFAX** home. Close to Dal. Campus - 1881 Walnut St. $450-$550/room/month. Incl. everything! This KOSHER house serves as the "Bayit" (student house) for Jewish University students, and is operated by the Jewish Student Association. The house is used by the Jewish Student Association for some meetings, Friday night Shabbat dinners and staff office hours.For more information, please contact Bonnie at 902-422-7491 ext 23.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

ELDORADO, 2500 Bathurst St., lux. apts., large suites, reno'd. Immediate. 416-787-9451.

Bathurst/Sheppard, behind BJCC, 34 Carscadden Dr., accepting applications for our beautiful bldg. in a ravine setting. 1 & 2 bdrm. Sept. 1, 1 bdrm. Oct. 1. 905-474-3600 / 416-633-1495.

Bathurst/Lawrence, spac. 3 bd., 2 bth. eat-in kitch., balc., pkng. laund., close to all amens. Avail. Sept. 1. 416-783-8700.

Bath./Glencairn, 1 bdrm. bsmt. sep. entr. apt. in brand new house, 1 bth., kit., ideal for 1 person. 416-785-7227.

660 Briar Hill, xtra. lge. 2/3 bdr. 1 1/2, 2 1/2 w/c, util incl., near bus & shul. Kurt, 416-823-2700, office: 416-769-6779.

Bathurst/Lawrence, newly decorated 2 bdrm. bsmnt. apt., priv. entrance, 4 piece bathroom, perfectly located, close to all amens. No pets/smokers, references. Call 416-783-8775.

Bath./Wilson/Avenue Rd., lge. reno. 1 br. bsmt. apt., sep. entr., partly furn. $825. 416-782-2130.

Bath./Atkinson, bsmt. apt., sep. entr., close to all, n/smkr., $750/mo. Call 905-771-1819.

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms, ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
960-3238 - Bus.
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75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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BATHURST SOUTH LAWRENCE
2 bedroom apartment on main floor in small boutique building. Steps to shops, TTC & synagogues. References with applications required. $900 monthly Call now appointments **Eva 416-782-0479.**

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82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Furn., bsmt. apt. avail. in kosher home. Shared entr. Walk to shul/buses. 416-410-8788.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

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Waterfront
2 NEW LISTINGS •100' on Kempenfelt Bay, 3 bdrm renovated cottage, easy access to lake $649,000! *and* •75' on Lake Simcoe, 4 bdrm year-rd cottage, some original trim & hardwd. Beach $639,000.
Call: **Patti Harper,**
C21 B.J. Roth **416-350-3973**
or direct **705-791-0440**

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

Exec. lkfrnt. 4 bdrm. Beaverton, priv. bch. Aug. 25-Sept. 1. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

122 TIME SHARE FOR SALE

Costa de La Sole/Spain, Mijas Costa Malaga, Red week in The Grangefield Oasis Club, 416-398-2539.

122 TIME SHARE FOR SALE

CLUB HOTEL EILAT, Red Season 20th wk, RCI membership (for 5). 416-736-3731.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

West Palm Beach, Century Village. 2 bed, 1 1/2 bth., 1st fl. corner. Excel. cond., 4-mo. min. rental $1200/mo US., 1 mo. security. ALSO 1 bed., 1 bth. 2nd fl. mint cond. $1000/mo US. 860-232-5076.

Century Village, Boca, 1 bdrm., 1 bth., fully furn., 3rd flr., elev., seasonal, 3-4 mos., start date flex., $1275/mo US. Call 416-630-3602, leave a msg.

Hollywood, winter season. Lovely 1 bd., 1 bth, on beach. Magnificent view. $2200/mo US, 3 mo. min. 703-356-9213, 954-920-3349, 954-599-3349.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

p/t, f/t cook & counter workers positions in kosher food service. Fax resume to 905-763-6250.

Lawyers wanted, either practicing or retired, to develop the low-cost Do It Yourself Legal Kits. Kindly e-mail us saying Attn: HBP Lawyer in the subject line through URL **www.mylinksite.com/honestbusinesspeople** and we will e-mail you all the information.

Cooperative Hebrew School requires grade 6 teacher Sunday mornings, Bath./Wilson area. Knowledge of Hebrew language & Jewish Customs a **MUST.** B.Ed or in program an asset. **MUST** be proficient in English. Fax resume: Attn: L. Federman 416-630-2987 by August 24th, 2003.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Are you keen to work with children and teenagers? Committed, creative, motivated, passionable about Judaism, love teaching? Are you available Sun. morning or Mon. evening? Teaching positions are available. Send, fax or email your resume to Principal, Holy Blossom Temple Religious School, 1950 Bathurst St., Toronto M5P 3K9. Fax 416-789-9697, bkatz@holyblossom.org

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elizabeth & Michael Rochwerg are thrilled to announce the birth of their son
Benjamin Jacob
On July 29th, 2003
weighing 9 lbs. 4 oz.
Spoiling privilges belong to excited grandparents, great-grandmother, other loving relatives, friends *and teddy bears!*

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

Attr. Jewish-Ukranian lady in her late 60s, 5'2", independent, full of life with a sense of humour, likes to travel & has many other interests, would like to meet an honest, independent man in his early 70s, for a long-lasting relationship. Call & lve. msg. for Lina, 905-771-0429.

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M3B 3K4
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275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

SWEET SENIOR LADY
I know you don't answer these ads, but I am new here, so how else can I meet you? I am a JM, interesting, trim, nice looking, active, golf, bridge, country club lifestyle. If you are early 70s, trim & nice looking, please write about yourself, a photo & ph # would expedite our mtg. Reply to CJN Box #4590.

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations! Winners of Na'amat Canada's Daily Calendar Lottery Draw, for July 2003: Miriam Cass, Anne Reay, Darlene Benjino, Pearl Halpert Goldin, Bryna Steiner, Anita Ovics, Louis Sonenberg, Anna B. Baranowsky, Leah Williams, Sam Bloom, Lillian Cooper, Alex Moskovitz, Myrna Lefko, Oded Orgil, Temi Kerr, Sandy Ciebelman, Zelda Goodman, Shauna Brail, Bea Lipson, Mrs. H. Rouhi, Bess Plosker, Fran Collis, Doris Gradiwsky, Judy Margolis, Bonnie Lipton, Darlene Sacks, Alan Klinwick, Allan Silburt, Rita Tobias, Shirley Silverman, Gilda Rossman.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Golf balls, all brands, up to 70% off, 10 West Pearce St., #14, R. Hill. 905-882-7497.

330 OBITUARIES

MARKOWITZ, Helen – on July 28, 2003, late of 850 Steeles Ave.
GROSMAN, Zev – on July 28, 2003.
SEIFER, Miriam – on July 27, 2003.
SARAGA, Isaac – on July 28, 2003, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W.
SHIP, Betty – on July 29, 2003, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd.
LEMBERSKIY, Gennady – on July 31, 2003.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

GOLDSTEIN, Eddie (Teets) – on July 15, 2003, late of 6000 Bathurst St., #11.
LEVINOFF, Hilda – on July 15, 2003, late of 138 Baycrest Ave.
JESSEL, Max – on July 16, 2003, late of 8 Geddes Crt.
GOLDSTEIN, Adrian – on July 17, 2003, late of 4001 Bayview Ave., #9.
KASHTAN, David – on July 16, 2003, late of 411 Duplex Ave., #7.
PENFIELD, Dinah – on July 19, 2003, late of 4 Hughes St.
COOPER, Harriet – on July 20, 2003, late of 7 Glenarden Rd.
MOSES, Betty – on July 19, 2003, late of 19 Sunbeam Ave.
PEPPER, Seymour – on June 20, 2003, late of RR#6 Ball Rd., Cobourg.
LAPIDUS, Celia – on May 28, 2003, late of 382 Horsham Ave.

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MELES, Eleanor - On Wednesday, August 6, 2003. Beloved wife of the late George. Dear mother of Andrew. Loving grandmother of Jordan, Anthony, Joshua and his wife Dana. Survived by her brother George Teicher. A funeral service was held Thursday, August 7 at Steeles Memorial Chapel. Interment took place at Pardes Shalom Cemetery, community 3 section. Shiva was observed at 649 Manning Ave., Toronto. Donations in Eleanor's memory may be made to Beit Halochem Canada 416-787-8950.

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Zaglembier Society-New Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
WILFRED KIDECKEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 17th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MORRIS RAPOPORT ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 17th, 9:30 a.m.
Mt. Sinai Memorial Park
Ozrower Section - 986 Wilson Ave.
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
IRVING SEIDEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 24th 9:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St. S. of Steeles
Stashiver Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
AL GOLD ז"ל
Beloved brother and uncle
will take place
Sunday, August 17th 12:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Apter Friendly Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SELMA MAYZEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 17th, 10:15 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
(Bathurst north of Finch)
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LIVIA SCHONBERGER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 17th, 10:30 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetary
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
VICTOR TUCKER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 17th 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Beth David Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
CHAIM GRINSTEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 24th 10:45 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St. S. of Steeles
Warshawer Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ALLAN MUIR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 17th 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. north of Major M.
Solel Congregation Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
EVA KLEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 24th at 11:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
Shaarei Tefillah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
POLA ZENDEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 24 at 10:30 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

Greater Toronto Area

Mission to Israel will focus on families

The upcoming Jewish National Fund of Canada solidarity mission to Israel will focus on meeting Israelis in their own communities.

"We are encouraging Jewish Canadians to show their support for Israelis during one of the most stressful and uncertain times in Israel's history," said Dr. Sharon Marcovitz Hart, chair of the mission to take place Sept. 4 to 11.

"Now, more than ever, Israelis need to know that Jews from around the world continue to stand together with them," she said.

Israeli families will welcome mission participants at Moshav Farran, a flourishing development in the Arava Valley of southern Israel and one of many communities developed by the Jewish National Fund.

"JNF has made a strong imprint on the land of Israel," said Marcovitz Hart.

"We have built water reservoirs and provided the essential infrastructure for new areas like Moshav Farran – land excavation, roads, water distribution and sewage systems.

"JNF also conducts agricultural research and development, to discover the ideal crops and farming techniques for local climatic conditions. It's fascinating to see how Israeli communities have developed in locations that were once considered too remote and uninhabitable."

In the Besor region and Kibbutz Magen, mission participants will witness the dramatic change in this part of the Negev since JNF started to develop the area in 1991 under its Action Plan Negev.

The mission will also include visits to the Old City of Jerusalem, Air Force Base Ramon, Mitzpe Ramon and the Ramon Crater.

Participants will travel through the ancient Spice Route, a desert route once used by caravans of camels to transport highly prized spices of the east to the ports of the Mediterranean coast.

As well, they will visit the Sapir Children Sculpture Centre, the Yair agricultural research and development station and the Centre for Special Studies.

The mission includes a return flight on El Al, luxury accommodations at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, most meals, deluxe tour buses and transfers. The trip departs from Toronto, and connections from major Canadian cities are available at reasonable cost. For further information, please contact the Jewish National Fund of Canada, in Toronto: 416-638-7200, in Montreal: 514-934-0313.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RUTH UNGAR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 17th 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section G
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

336 CARD OF THANKS

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Arts & Travel

The Animal Sciences:

Toronto family doctor writes his first novel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ron Hotz

Ron Hotz is not your garden variety family doctor.

Hotz, 39, writes on the side, and his first novel, *The Animal Sciences*, was published recently by Coach House Books of Toronto.

A portrait of a group of friends and lovers, it is laced with quirky facts about science and medicine.

Or, as he explains,"It's really a romantic anatomy lesson that examines the remains of a relationship."

The Animal Sciences, said Hotz, a graduate of Forest Hill High School and York University, reflects his academic interests. "It bridges the fine arts, theatre, psychology and medicine. It's no surprise that the characters in the book include an artist, an actor and a doctor."

The book's genesis is quite clear.

"I was inspired to write it when I was a fine arts student at York University," said Hotz, the son of Jack and Tzafi Hotz. "My creative writing professor, Bruce Hunter, took an interest in my work and encouraged me to pursue it more fully."

Another source of inspiration was Evelyn Mitsui, his common-law partner and mother of their 18-month-old daughter, Hana.

"I used to read sections of the book to Hana once a week, like an old fashioned movie serial."

He compares *The Animal Sciences* to a laboratory in which he could experiment with writing and personal expression. "Over time, I came to realize that its themes were of interest to other people," he said.

"Mainly, the concept is that in nature, certain physical laws, such as primitive animal responses and chemical reactions, have a definite outcome. Hence the title. I tried to compare this with the 'laws' of human nature. Despite our best intentions, certain relationships have an inevitable outcome."

When he finished the unsolicited manuscript, he sent it to some 20 publishers. There were many rejection letters. "Most of the form letters wished me better luck elsewhere," said Hotz, who had no literary agent.

"And then Coach House Books responded. It had been floating in their slush pile for a while, but somehow it found its way to Alana Wilcox, my editor, and she was interested in working with me."

Wilcox, who received the manuscript last summer, was impressed.

"As soon as I started reading it, I knew I had found something really good," she observed. "It's so compelling. I love the characters, and I love Ron's way of telling anecdotes within a story. It's a really good novel – smart and fun and moving."

Hotz acknowledges that the manuscript required several "exhausting and ferocious edits."

Wilcox, more or less, concurs.

"We needed to do a little fine-tuning with the narrative and the logic. Any story with five characters who each have a particular relationship to every other character needs a fair bit of scrutiny to make sure that information is revealed consistently and in the best way to keep readers engrossed."

Last month's official launch of *The Animal Sciences* was truly symbolic of Hotz's multifaceted life as a doctor-cum-author.

"I had been awake the night before owing to a complicated series of obstetric calls," said Hotz, who earned a bachelor of medicine degree at McMaster University and who studied clinical psychology and family medicine at the University of Toronto, where he now also teaches.

On the day of the launch, just minutes before he was expected at a reading, he delivered a baby at Mount Sinai. Then, after reading an excerpt, he raced back to the hospital for another birth.

Hotz, who practises in the Bathurst and Lawrence area, believes medicine gives him an opportunity to better understand the physical and emotional aspects of the "person as a whole."

As he put it, "Writing simply documents these findings. It is also something I love to do."

Hotz is currently working on a new novel, and, not surprisingly, medicine is a big part of it.

"The story involves a couple that has lost a child. The father specializes in the advancing field of surgical robotics, and his wife is a veterinarian. Other characters include a Great Dane named Holly, a ghost and a pin-hole camera."

Looking ahead, he said, "If I can produce a good book I'm really proud of once every 10 years, I'll be happy. But I suppose my publisher might have some deadline issues."

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VP wants to make Maccabi Canada a 'brand name'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

As organizations go, Maccabi Canada has been pretty unique. Every four years, the Maccabiah Games are held in Israel; so the year before, the Canadian group is active in recruitment, fundraising, planning and marketing. Then there are the Pan Am Maccabi Games, also held every four years, and they provide a short burst of increased level of activity as well.

The rest of the time, well, if the organization isn't exactly dormant, it resembles an idling engine waiting to be put into gear.

Tom Bacher and the other members of the current Maccabi Canada executive want to change all that. As senior vice-president of the nation-wide organization, he's pushing a vision that would see Maccabi Canada increase its profile in the community, add staff, become a year-round operation and help address the key issue of youth assimilation.

Tom Bacher

Sports, of course, is the preferred method by which Maccabi Canada hopes to entice young people into closer ties with Israel and greater identification with the Jewish people.

"Our message is [we want] to develop Jewish identity through sports and athletics and strengthen bonds with Israel," Bacher said.

To this end, Maccabi Canada is developing a broader program of year-round activities and is inviting Maccabiah alumni to rekindle their ties to the organization to give it a broad-based, grassroots support system.

Maccabi Canada recently held an alumni picnic and is planning a November bowlathon as well as parlour meetings to keep interest in the organization alive, Bacher said.

Prior to the 2005 Games in Israel, Canadian athletes will be invited to a camp in Israel where they will tour the country, hear lectures, and enjoy various social activities. The Maccabi organization will provide something like the Birthright itinerary that has proven so successful for other young Jews, Bacher said. (Birthright is an all-expense-paid 10-day trip to Israel for first time visitors who range in age from 18 to 26.)

In the interim, Maccabi Canada is considering ongoing projects with educational, cultural and sports themes for athletes who hope to be part of the Maccabiah Games team. One example could be a Chanukah torch run from Montreal to Toronto, or meeting Israeli athletes in schools, Bacher said.

Other ideas being floated around include a national sports championship every year, sponsorship of Maccabi clubs, off-year training in Israel and coaching by Israelis (the trips to include educational and cultural events) to "get kids excited about Israel and sports," Bacher said.

"We need to make Maccabi Canada a brand name," he added.

Bacher, who played for the 1985 softball team and in subsequent Games served as one of the Canadian team's doctors, believes a trip to Israel in a sports environment can provide a lifetime link to the Jewish people.

"I became a much better supporter of Israel, emotionally and financially, due to participation in the Games," he said.

The Games, he continued, helped "bring young people back into the fold, even if they arrived in Israel with weak Jewish identities."

A key component of the new approach advocated by Bacher is to involve the many alumni who hold great memories of their time in Israel. Bacher figures 60 to 70 active volunteers can make the organization hum and provide the network to solicit the support of other alumni. If each alumnus gives $180 per year, Maccabi Canada can take a huge step towards raising the $4 million Bacher believes would help send a team of 300 or more athletes to the Games in Israel free of charge.

As the planning gets under way for the 2005 Games, expectations are that Canada will send as many as 400 people to Israel, including athletes, coaches and medical and administrative staff.

There's nothing like walking into the stadium in Israel during the opening ceremonies. "It was a phenomenal, life-changing experience for me," Bacher said.

Toronto youths gearing up for JCC Maccabi Games

By NEIL BECKER
Special to The CJN

In mid August, approximately 80 athletes representing the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC) will venture to the Garden State of New Jersey in the quest for gold.

It's a confident group who will be hoping for a repeat performance. At last year's JCC Maccabi Games in Montreal, they took home more than 60 medals.

"I expect we'll do well again this year," says Grant Smith, one of the team's chief organizers. "We have a strong swim team, and that's where most of our medals came from last year."

The Maccabi Games, which run Aug. 17-22, bring together young athletes to compete in basketball, soccer, baseball, softball, swimming, tennis and golf.

Tenafly, N.J., along with Houston, Tex., and St. Louis, Mo., will host games this summer. More than 5,000 teens from across the United States, Canada, Israel, Mexico, Great Britain, Poland, Ukraine, and Venezuela will travel to the host communities to compete and take part in a variety of non-athletic Judaic activities.

Athletes were chosen after a series of tryouts. Bad weather, however, cut short the baseball and golf tryouts for the Toronto team.

Like the Olympics, the JCC Maccabi Games kick off with a colourful opening ceremony – in this case with each team marching into Continental Airlines Arena carrying banners of their country and signs identifying their city.

The Maccabi experience "is a good way to meet other Jewish kids," said Smith.

"One year, a kid from our baseball team met a girl from out of town, and ended up taking her to his prom."

Besides sports, participants, who range in age from 13 to 17, interact in athletic night social events and an Israeli-theme night.

In their spare time between events, athletes participate in trivia games, art projects and group challenges led by young Israelis who help share their love of Israel and Judaism.

"Learning about their religion is something valuable they can hold onto for a lifetime," Smith says.

In order to raise money for travelling expenses, the BJCC held a garage sale in July that raised an estimated $500. Another sale is scheduled for the end of the month, while other funds have been raised through athlete and team sponsorships.

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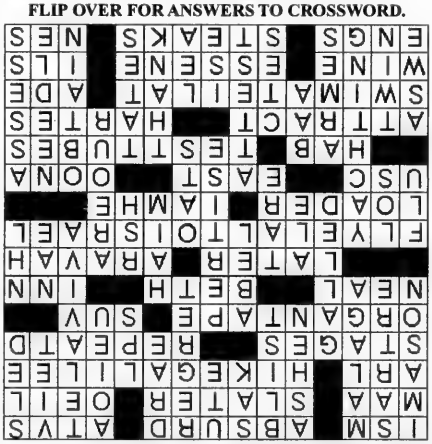

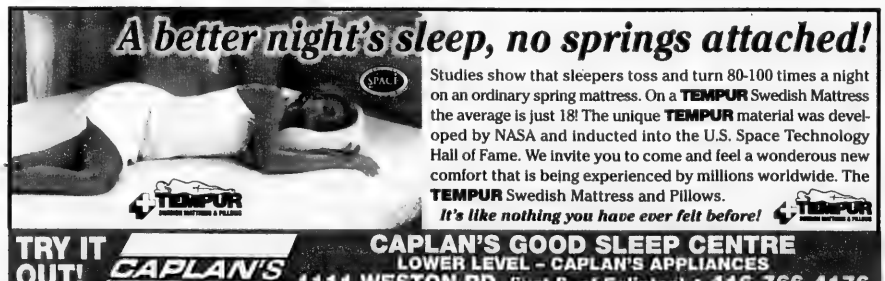
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Get Involved: Why not?

20 something

By JODI KOVITZ

Marla Bennett was a 24-year-old student who was killed in a terrorist bombing at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem a little over a year ago. Only two months before she died, Marla wrote an article for the Avi Chai Bookshelf, a project for participants of Birthright Israel, called "Jerusalem: no other place I'd rather be."

In the article, Marla shared her feelings about living in Israel. She wrote, "Here in Jerusalem, I've found a community of seekers: people who like me want to try living in another country, who want to know more about Judaism, people who are trying to figure out exactly what they want their lives to look like. The air is charged with our debates and discussions as we try to assimilate into our lives all that we've learned. Life here is magical."

Marla was clearly a woman who was hungry for knowledge and who lived with purpose. She chose to be involved in and know her community.

Though I did not know Marla, I feel lucky to have learned from her through her writing. Marla made me realize how lucky I am to belong to a community. She also made me recognize how incredibly rewarding it can be to engage myself in that community.

I find it interesting that what seems like a large proportion of Jewish 20-somethings are very reluctant to get involved in the community. Even more interesting is that many clearly identify themselves as Jews, both culturally and socially. They have been educated at Jewish institutions, their friends are Jewish, they live in Jewish communities and they even go to synagogue on the High Holy Days. Yet if you are throwing a party (even at the most liberal of Jewish institutions), or offering a Torah study session, this vast group of 20-somethings is nowhere to be found.

I wonder where this reluctance to get involved comes from. Is it a lack of interest? Is it perceived as "not cool" to participate in Jewish activities? Is it a fear of losing our independence somewhere in the process?

A friend recently provided insight on this issue. "We live in a very commercial world," she said. "Everyone is always trying to sell me something. The last thing that I want to be sold on is what to believe. For that reason, I am very reluctant to get involved."

Perhaps we might be more open to participating in events and programs if we trust that we will not have beliefs or thoughts pushed on us in any way. On the other hand, we might be happily surprised if we opened our minds a little more.

There are some great programs out there. On Sept. 7, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. in Toronto's Suydam Park in Forest Hill Village, you can enjoy live music, a market full of Israeli goods, a nargila café and more at Shuk in the Park. Every Wednesday, a Toronto rabbi runs a provocative educational series out of his home for people in their 20s on Jewish ethics. If you are interested, call Rabbi David Zauderer at 416-785-1107, ext. 302.

I have learned that we are very lucky to be part of a community. Personally, I have been extremely fulfilled through my involvement. I continue to welcome your feedback at jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

HAMBURGER SWINGERS

1 garlic clove, minced
1/4 cup onion, peeled, finely diced
1/4 cup tomato, finely diced
1/4 cup green pepper, finely diced
1 tsp. dried oregano
salt & freshly ground black pepper to taste
1 lb. lean ground beef
1 egg
3 tblsp. extra-virgin olive oil
2 lg. yellow onions, peeled, thinly sliced

In med. bowl, combine garlic, onion, tomato, green pepper, oregano, salt & pepper and mix well. Cover with plastic wrap and set aside.
In large bowl, combine ground beef, egg, salt & pepper. Shape into 8 4" patties. Place spoonful of vegetable filling in centre of 1 patty, top with 2nd patty, press down firmly and shape into a round, carefully sealing the sides by pinching together. Repeat with remaining patties.
Sauté onions in oil until lightly brown. Transfer to bowl and keep warm. Brown hamburgers 5 mins. each side, or until cooked to med; return onions to pan & heat. Serve immediately.

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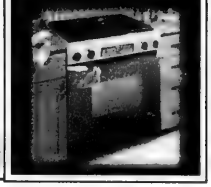


Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

As the vice-president of Jewish education at the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE), I am known for imposing two conditions on all Israel programs for teachers:

• The program must include a value-added factor unique to the Israeli experience. For example, participants studying a passage of the Bible in the place where a biblical event took place.

• The two-way bridge between Israel and the Diaspora must be fully respected. Both communities must be open to learning from each other.

I mention this in relation to a study seminar called Tikkun Olam I attended in July with a group of Toronto educators that was jointly sponsored by the Jewish National Fund (JNF), the Jewish Agency, Partnership 2000 and the BJE. We were in the Galil visiting the grave of Ilan Ramon, the Israeli astronaut who so tragically lost his life in February. He is buried at the famous Nahalal cemetery overlooking the beautiful Yizrael Valley.

As we talked of Ramon's life, his mission in space, and his death, it occurred to me he symbolized the two elements I mentioned above that are *sine qua non* for authentic Israeli-Diaspora dialogue. Ramon, zichrono livrachah, was the product of the best education Israel has to offer. He excelled in his studies and in his military career. He was the prototypical proud, intelligent, fit Israeli with deep-rooted values in the Zionist endeavour. When he was transferred to the United States to be part of the crew of NASA's space shuttle *Columbia*, he sought out Florida's Jewish community, gave his children a Jewish education and joined a synagogue – knowing that in the Diaspora, these are the ways one maintains a link with the Jewish people. As we all know, this secular Israeli requested kosher food for the flight, brought along a Torah and items related to the Shoah and spoke on the flight as both a Jew and an Israeli. He compromised no part of his complex identity while managing to show deep respect for all of us, Israelis and Diaspora Jews.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

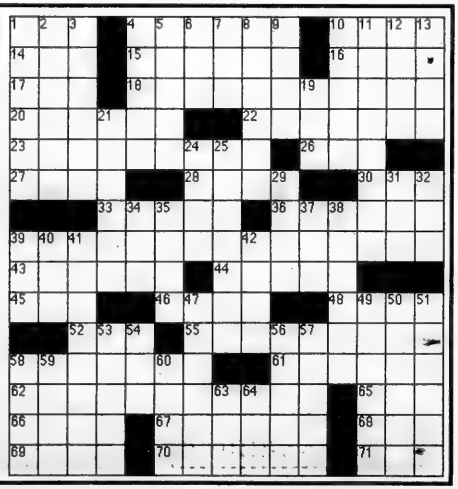
(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

The Canadian Jewish news

Tour Israel!
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Belief, in brief
4. Theater of the _____
10. Things driven off-road
14. Young flock sound
15. Roofer
16. French for eye or ayin
17. U.S. Natl. Cemetery
18. Walk northern hills!
20. Phases
22. Say the 4th letter again
23. Pipe instrument recording
26. Tahoe or Trooper
27. Tatum O'___
28. Hebrew for house (Anglicized)
30. Stay at this, rather than at a large hotel!
33. You need to tour Israel, sooner or _____!
36. See this desert valley, south of the Dead Sea!
39. What one airline tells you!
43. Front-end _____
44. "_____ who did it" (an admission)
45. Pacific univ.
46. Where the sun rises
48. Eugene's daughter
52. Short for domicile, residence
55. You find them in the lab
58. What opposites do
61. Bret's family
62. Do aquatics down south!
65. Summer drink
66. Carmel potable!
67. One of community that wrote Dead Sea Scrolls!
68. They, in France
69. People who design utils., structs.
70. Porterhouses
71. ___-tle, chocolate makers

Down
1. "_____ of ...", a boy might say, relating to his father
2. French Existentialist
3. Spanish wine
4. Pale faced
5. Just below the highest rated names
6. Fifth Avenue store, a bit shortened
7. Western Native American
8. Be sorry
9. ___-german, mine rescue worker
10. Our five vowels, a bit out of order
11. Towards Israel's biggest city, as said in Hebrew
12. ____-nam
13. Winter conveyance
19. Ancestors of CD's
21. Irritated (someone)
24. A First Brother
25. Ex follower makes for authority
29. Hebrew for life
31. Scot's negative
32. Gretsky's org.
34. Pub pint
35. Empty scale weight
37. ___ Hshana.
38. "You _____ leader!" her supporters cried, affirmatively
39. Asian ___
40. ___ Gatos
41. A sport, say, out of a marina in Israel!
42. High-fiber cereal
47. Affirm to be true
49. Get
50. Taunt
51. Evaluate
53. Weapons, to Napoleon
54. Mature flock sound
56. Express gratitude
57. Two of London's art museums
58. "Do ____ do!": a Roman saying?
59. Esau or Jacob
60. Univ. centers for teaching excellence
63. Enterpr ending
64. English meadow



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Dr. Alan Bocking

Dr. Bocking has an extensive background in perinatal research and is no stranger to the research team at Mount Sinai's Samuel Lunenfeld Institute (SLRI) and University of Toronto, having collaborated closely and published with Dr. Stephen Lye and his group.

"It is a measure of both the stature we have grown to and of our good fortune that we have been able to attract Dr. Bocking, a world-class leader, to bring his own vision, expertise and reputation to our Hospital," says Joseph Mapa, President and CEO.

Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. Bocking held the joint positions of Obstetrician and Gynaecologist-in-Chief at London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Centre, and Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Western Ontario. He graduated in Medicine at the University of Western Ontario in 1977 completing his specialty training there in 1982. His subsequent research training as an MRC Fellow was in London, Ontario and Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

"I am absolutely delighted to have joined the Mount Sinai team," comments Dr. Bocking. "Everyone has been very welcoming. During the short period of time since my arrival, I have been impressed by the strong commitment to excellence in patient care, teaching and research."

Shaking it up & causing a stir

More than 400 people "shook it up" at the Courthouse Chamber Lounge on Thursday, July 10 at Leadership Sinai's annual fundraising event, *Shaken Not Stirred*. The gala evening was in support of the Leadership Sinai Advanced Surgical Technology Centre and the Leadership Sinai Chair in Surgery. Many thanks go to event Co-Chairs David Sherman, David Goldstein and Galit Janco along with the rest of the team for organizing such a wonderful evening.

Event Co-Chairs present sponsor Eli Dadouch with a token of appreciation. From L-R: David Goldstein, David Sherman, Eli Dadouch (Event Sponsor, Firm Capital), Galit Janco.

Shaken Not Stirred Committee
From L-R: Moira Wright, Sabrina Zimmerman, Jordan Bernamoff, Carrie Orfus Gelkopf, Laura Dowsley, David Sherman, Galit Janco, David Goldstein, Megan Abel, Rachel Haar, Melissa Nadler, Sue Kolar, Keith Isaac, Cindy Berk Goelman and Miriam Kumer.

Don't miss our upcoming events!

AUXILIARY 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Monday, October 20th, 2003: 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary's 50th Anniversary Jubilee Tea will take place at the Windsor Arms Hotel. Invitations will be sent by the Auxiliary for this very special milestone event! If you are - or if you know someone - who was associated with Mount Sinai's Auxiliary, please call the office at 416-586-8290. We would love to include all our past and present members!

DANCEATHON

Sunday, October 26, 2003

Like to Dance? The *Danceathon 4 NICU babies* is coming this fall to The Carlu on Sunday, October 26, 2003. Enjoy dancing for 5 hours (with breaks!) while raising money for new isolettes in the Neonatal ICU at Mount Sinai Hospital. For more information on how you can be one of only 100 dance couples, please call Cindy Berk Goelman at 416-586-8749.

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This Week

National

Israeli youth orchestra visits Ottawa. *Page 24*

Naturalization records now online. *Page 25*

Lebanese ambassador's comments anger leaders. *Page 25*

Israel & the Jewish World

More than 5,000 celebrate at Birthright gala in Jerusalem. *Page 29*

Aliyah from Argentina slows down. *Page 30*

Arts & Travel

Falafel as metaphor for Israel. *Page 42*

Rabbi Witty "flabbergasted" by large response to lecture series. *Page 44*

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Community copes with blackout

By SHIRA HONIG and FRANCES KRAFT
CJN Staff

Rachel, left, and Mark Zelunka ate their wedding meal by candlelight and flashlight during last Thursday's power failure. The couple's wedding went ahead as planned at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation in Thornhill, albeit with a few twists. [Orly Cohen photo]

TORONTO — The blackout that brought much of Eastern North America to a standstill late last week had members of the Jewish community scrambling to find food for Shabbat and keep services and businesses running.

The power went off late last Thursday afternoon in the biggest power failure ever to hit the continent, affecting 50 million people in Ontario and the northeastern United States, including Jewish communities in Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, New York, Detroit and Cleveland.

As computers, subways, streetcars, refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners all came to a halt, people left work early and squeezed into jam-packed buses, drove through intersections without working traffic lights, or simply walked home in the blazing heat.

Until its electricity came back on Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m., power at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto came from emergency generators. According to its Web site, dentistry clinic and audiology services were cancelled, but the hospital and Apotex Centre were fully staffed, while some gas stoves, as well as refrigerators and steamers, were working. Staff gave residents lots of water, took them outside to keep them cool and served them cold food for Shabbat.

Like many others who observe Shabbat, Torontonians Karen and Ari Sitnik barbecued whatever food they had for themselves and their two sons, Dov, 6½ and Chaim, 5½ months.

"Whatever we have in the house, we'll use and that's it," Ari said Friday. "We have canned vegetables, tuna and whatever Karen can cook on the barbecue."

When their power came back on 4:45 p.m. Friday, "we were pretty much set by then," he said Sunday. "I put large containers of water in the freezer so if the power went again, we could use them as ice packs. And I made sure the wine was cold, because I like cold wine for kiddush."

Continued on page 31

Tel Aviv U establishes Mulroney chair

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Tel Aviv University is establishing a chair in government named after Brian Mulroney, Canada's former prime minister.

Itamar Rabinovich, the university's president, was in Montreal last week to attend a meeting of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University and met with Mulroney to discuss the details.

In an interview, Rabinovich said a holder has yet to be chosen for the chair, which will be activated next year.

"That's an academic decision," said Rabinovich, whose emphasis since becoming president in 1999 has been the development of new academic programs.

A Mideast scholar and former Israeli ambassador to the United States, Rabinovich said the university, which has an enrollment of some 27,000, is now placing greater emphasis on graduate studies and bio-medical subjects.

It is also offering, for the first time, master's degrees in diplomacy and conflict resolution and new courses in environmental studies and high-tech management.

As a result of the Palestinian uprising, the number of foreign students has dropped by half to 500, less than 20 of whom are Canadians, he said.

Rabinovich, the former head of the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern Studies, said a 20 per cent decrease in government allocations has forced him to cut costs. Last year's budget was $250 million (US).

"We need $270 million to operate with ease," he said, adding the university has no alternative but to develop private sources of income.

"In the last four years, we have raised $50 million a year from local and overseas donors. We would like to raise that sum to $60 million to $70 million."

As well, he said, the university needs to persuade the Israeli government that tuition for some professional graduate programs must be increased.

Rabinovich is not in the financial position to put up more buildings. "The campus is pretty much built up," he noted.

But the university, which has introduced an affirmative-action program for students in financial need, will be able to accept about 3,000 additional applications.

Rabinovich said he plans to retire in three years.

"We have term limits," he said.

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Pollard gets a day in court — please see page 29

The News in Brief

Canada

Record Hate Sentence

TORONTO — Mississauga, Ont., resident Bradley Love, 44, was sentenced in the Newmarket, Ont., court to 18 months in jail last month after pleading guilty to 20 counts of wilfully promoting hatred for sending hateful letters about Muslims, Jews, East Asians, blacks and other groups to politicians and public figures. Among those receiving letters were Liberal MPs Judy Sgro and former immigration minister Elinor Caplan, as well as York Regional Police Chief Armand La Barge, Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies and B'nai Brith Canada. It's the longest sentence ever in Canada for promoting hatred. Crown prosecutor Jaimie Klukach said Love's extensive criminal record, including convictions for assault with a weapon, intimidation and extortion, justified the heavy sentence, the *York Region Era Banner* reported. Love will also be on three years probation when he is released.

Israel

Uzi to be Replaced

JERUSALEM — Israel is phasing out its famous Uzi submachine-gun, as well as U.S.-made M-16s. The military is replacing both with a new gun that draws on lessons it has learned in the latest Palestinian intifadah. The new Tavor is shorter and lighter than the other two guns and has vents that prevent dust clogs, as well as sights that let a shooter aim with both eyes open. The first Tavors, made by Israel Military Industries, have already been issued to elite infantry units.

JAFI, WZO Cuts

JERUSALEM — About 850 workers at the Jewish Agency for Israel and World Zionist Organization have agreed to pay cuts from two to 17 per cent, and 50 staffers will be laid off. Overseas emissaries will also be cut by 10 per cent, *Ha'aretz* reported. The wage cuts will last at least two years.

Youth Threatens Sharon

JERUSALEM — Police briefly detained a Jewish youth from Hebron after he allegedly threatened to kill Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. He went to Sharon's Jerusalem residence Aug. 10 to post signs publicizing an event in Hebron's Jewish quarter. When approached, he allegedly told police: "I have no problem to assassinate Sharon." He later fled, but was caught, questioned, and released on bail.

World

Gibson Film Criticized

NEW YORK — Mel Gibson's new film will fuel anti-Semitism if it is released without changes, the Anti-Defamation League said last week after attending a preview screening in Houston Aug. 8. The ADL said *The Passion* blames Jews for Jesus' crucifixion and relies on sinister medieval stereotypes and historical errors. It said Christians and Jews have worked for years to negate the teachings about Jewish complicity in Jesus' death that are featured in the film. Gibson is a member of a Roman Catholic sect that repudiates Vatican teachings clearing the Jews of the charge of deicide.

Nazi Fashion Nixed

HONG KONG — A top Hong Kong fashion chain has pulled a new line of Nazi-themed clothing after protests. I.T. Ltd., the company that owns the chain, put up Nazi banners and flags in its stores last weekend to advertise a new line of clothes with swastikas and other Nazi symbols, Reuters reported. When Israel, Germany and some consumers complained, the company removed the flags but kept selling the clothing, until the Israeli Consulate in Hong Kong protested last week.

Apology for Cartoon

SYDNEY — The editor of two leading Australian newspapers apologized last week for a recent cartoon comparing the Israel's security fence with the wall around the Warsaw Ghetto. The cartoon showed one wall with the caption "Warsaw 1943" and another next to it with the words "West Bank 2003." Responding to complaints, Mark Scott, editor-in-chief of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Melbourne Age*, said, "As editor in chief, I am aware that the cartoon caused significant offence to many readers, and I want to apologize to them."

Court Backs Cabinet Decision on Oberlander

OTTAWA — The federal cabinet's 2001 order to revoke the citizenship of accused war criminal Helmut Oberlander should not be subject to judicial review, because cabinet acted properly and reasonably, a Federal Court judge has ruled.

Cabinet's actions were "neither clearly wrong nor patently unreasonable," Justice Luc Martineau said earlier this month.

In 2000, a Federal Court found Oberlander served as an interpreter with a notorious Nazi death squad that executed thousands of civilians in Ukraine from 1941 to 1943, but did not disclose that information when he applied to come to Canada from Germany in the early 1950s. The 2000 ruling, along with a recommendation from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, led cabinet to seek his deportation.

Lawyers for the retired Waterloo, Ont., developer argued at a hearing in June that in making its order, the government ignored existing policy on suspected war criminals and didn't give enough reason for stripping Oberlander, 79, of his citizenship and seeking his deportation.

When Ottawa first began proceedings against him in 1995, his lawyers argued, government policy called for deportation only if there was "evidence of individual criminality" in war crimes, but despite being part of the death squad, there is no evidence Oberlander participated in atrocities.

Martineau ruled that by the time cabinet moved to revoke his citizenship, federal policy had been changed to include those "complicit" in war crimes, not just active participants.

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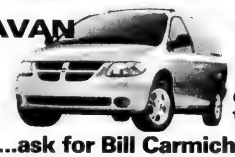

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Three major developments reshaping Mideast, Shimon Peres says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Three major developments are reshaping the political geography of the Middle East, Israeli elder statesman Shimon Peres told an audience here last week.

First, the United States has intervened in Iraq and is fighting the forces of global terrorism.

Second, the Palestinians have started the process of building a democratic society in the Palestinian autonomous areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Third, the Likud party, in a historic break with its Revisionist Zionist ideology, has accepted the necessity of partitioning the Land of Israel and the inevitability of Palestinian statehood.

These developments, Peres claimed, may yet help resolve the region's problems and defuse the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Peres, who turned 80 on Aug. 1, was in Toronto to raise funds for Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

The glittering event, hosted by Stacey and David Cynamon at their Forest Hill home, attracted about 200 donors.

In appreciation of his appearance, David Cynamon presented a smiling and relaxed Peres with a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey inscribed with his name and the number 80.

"For the man who has everything," Cynamon said jokingly.

Peres, the interim leader of the Labor party and Israel's former prime minister, defence minister, finance minister and father of its nuclear program, quipped that he has yet to win an Oscar.

In a more serious vein, Peres talked about the United States' invasion of Iraq this past March to remove Saddam Hussein and his Ba'athist regime from power.

"A year ago, we never dreamed the Americans would be our neighbour," he observed, saying the United States was in Iraq "to fight terrorism," the scourge of the new century.

Applauding the efforts by the Palestinians to build a functioning democracy, Peres described them as the only group in the Arab world close to attaining that goal.

The Palestinians, he pointed out, have an elected government and a new prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas. "They did it not for Israel and the United States, but for themselves," he said.

"The direction is right," he added.

But Peres warned that Abbas is weak and lacks the strength of the late Anwar Sadat, the slain Egyptian leader who made peace with Israel in the late 1970s.

Nevertheless, there is a chance that the Palestinian masses will support Abbas, he said.

In an implicit criticism of Israeli policy, Peres said Israel should take care not to humiliate the Palestinians.

Humiliation, he said, produces bitterness and terrorism.

Turning to the third development affecting the Middle East, Peres said that, politically, Israel was once divided between left and right.

But now that the Likud has concluded that partition and Palestinian statehood are in Israel's long-range interests, due to the "demographic problem," Israel is a much more united country, Peres noted.

In a brief survey of the Arab-Israeli dispute, Peres said, "Israel and the Palestinians are prisoners of the past. We committed mistakes and they did."

The Palestinians allowed radicals to hijack the Palestinian political agenda, while Israel erected "too many settlements" in the West Bank and Gaza.

To reach an accommodation with the Palestinians, Israel has no alternative but to "unmake" the "map of the past," he suggested, referring to the proliferation of Jewish communities in the territories.

Peres warned the Palestinians that unless they break up the various militias that currently challenge the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority and build one army and one command structure, the current ceasefire (*hudna*) may fail.

Looking fit and dapper, Peres was in a mellow, playful mood at the outset of his talk.

Recalling a visit he paid to Iceland, he said the prime minister of that Nordic, snow-bound nation had observed, "You are the chosen people, we are the frozen people."

After a pause, Peres told his Toronto audience he would rather be a member of the chosen people.

Speaking of the plans by Shaare Zedek Medical Center to construct a 32,300-square-foot emergency medical facility, Peres said, "I can't think of a more important bridge to our [Arab] neighbours than medicine."

Comparing the Middle East to "a great hospital," Peres said the region is in dire need of "a team of doctors" to cure it of its ills.

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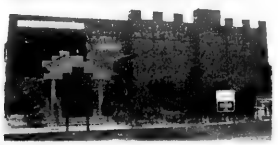

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Peace talks not on horizon for Israel and Syria: Rabinovich

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel and Syria will not resume peace talks any time soon, says Israel's former chief negotiator with Syria.

"There is no chance in the near future of talks with Syria," said Itamar Rabinovich, who held that position from 1992 to 1996 while serving as Israel's ambassador to the United States.

"Maybe in a few years down the road."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is focused on the Palestinian track, said Rabinovich in an interview last week.

Sharon's predecessors – Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, Benjamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barak – preferred a "Syria-first" negotiating policy.

By contrast, Sharon is concentrating on the Palestinians in the hope of signing an interim agreement with the Palestinian Authority (PA). "I think he genuinely wants to do that," said Rabinovich, who has been president of Tel Aviv University since 1999.

"The Syrians had four opportunities in the 1990s to reach an agreement with Israel and they squandered all of them. Now there is no opportunity."

Rabinovich was asked to state his views on the prospects of reviving the dormant Syrian peace process after both sides recently expressed a desire to start up bilateral talks again.

In May, Sharon declared, "I am ready to hold negotiations with any Arab nation, including Syria, without preconditions."

In an editorial in the state-owned newspaper *Tishreen* last month, Syria signalled an interest in such discussions. But it insisted negotiations must pick up where they broke off three years ago.

Israel dismissed Syria's willingness to renew talks as a ruse designed to ease intense U.S. diplomatic pressure on Syria to dismantle the offices and training camps of radical Palestinian factions in Damascus.

Syria's insistence that talks should begin at the point they stopped in January 2000 is not a legitimate demand, Rabinovich said. Nevertheless, he acknowledged, "You can never ignore the record of a negotiation."

Reviewing the history of Israel's on again, off-again talks with Syria since 1992, Rabinovich said the closest Israel and Syria ever came to homing in on a peace treaty was in August 1993.

Using then-U.S. secretary of state Warren Christopher as an intermediary, Rabin offered Syria a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for a comprehensive peace treaty.

Syria's president Hafez Assad accepted the offer in principle, but proceeded "to haggle over every detail," said Rabinovich, a historian who has written numerous books and monographs about Syria and Lebanon, including *The Brink of Peace*, an account of Israel's negotiations with Syria.

Assad, Rabinovich said, lacked the boldness of vision to take Rabin's gambit at face value, possibly because elements in the Syrian Ba'ath party and the security establishment were not too keen about signing a peace treaty with Israel.

Yet Rabin, with an Oslo peace deal in his pocket, was ambivalent as well, he said.

Criticizing the role played by the United States during this pivotal period, he said Christopher should have exerted more pressure on Syria to accept Rabin's so-called "deposit" without reservations.

"He didn't bang heads."

Israel's former chief negotiator says Ariel Sharon is focusing on dealing with Palestinians

In both rounds of negotiations, 1992 to 1996 and 1999 to 2000, Israel and Syria fell short of resolving the key issues, ranging from the contours of the security regime to the nature of the political relationship, he said.

Rabinovich thinks Barak would have agreed to withdraw to the June 4, 1967 lines had these basic differences been settled and had Israelis, in a national referendum, voted for a complete withdrawal from the Golan.

He is not sure whether a majority of Israelis would have voted to return to the pre-Six Day War borders. But he is certain that Assad's disinclination to engage in "public diplomacy," such as his refusal to meet Israel's prime minister at a summit, was not constructive.

Lacking any firsthand knowledge of democracy, Assad did not understand that confidence building measures were important to advance the peace process.

"It was one of his most severe limitations," said Rabinovich.

In his estimation, an Israeli/Syrian peace accord would have benefited the entire region.

Apart from normalizing Israel's traditionally testy relations with Syria, a peace treaty would have strengthened moderate Palestinians, denied Iran influence and eliminated the possibility of another Arab-Israeli war.

Itamar Rabinovich

Rabinovich fears Syria's current president, Bashar Assad, who succeeded his father Hafez after his death in June 2000, is hotheaded when it comes to Hezbollah.

"He's playing with Hezbollah like a kid playing with fire," said Rabinovich, referring to the recent round of fighting along Israel's Lebanese border, during which a 16-year-old boy in the Galilee was killed by Hezbollah shelling.

Rabinovich said Syria and Iran, both of which feel threatened by the United States, have a great deal of influence over Hezbollah, "an arm" of the Iranian government.

Cognizant of its military inferiority to Israel, Syria wants to avoid a serious clash with Israel over Hezbollah, he said.

"But Syria chooses to control or not to control Hezbollah."

If Israel does not respond militarily to Hezbollah brinkmanship, Syria and Iran will "heat up" the border area, he predicted.

Israel was right to pull out of Lebanon unilaterally in 2000, Rabinovich noted. But the withdrawal had the "air of a defeated army withdrawing" and gave Hezbollah the impression it had scored a victory over Israel.

Turning to the road map peace plan, Rabinovich said it may yet succeed. U.S. President George W. Bush "wants it to work" and Israel and the PA wish to normalize the situation on the ground.

But a final status agreement is not in the offing. "What is feasible now is an interim accord. A permanent agreement can be negotiated if an interim accord works out." As for the *hudna*, the three-month ceasefire that expires Sept. 29, Rabinovich expects it to hold if the United States exerts sufficient pressure.

"The U.S. needs to go back to active, high-level involvement."

From the editor's desk WILL RETURN

Why we say NO to Jews for Jesus

The Jews for Jesus missionary organization will be invading Toronto with an aggressive evangelistic crusade from August 25 until September 14. They will be targeting the entire Jewish community with a slick and deceptive mass-marketing campaign claiming that we can become more Jewish if we embrace Jesus and convert to Christianity! How do you spell "chutzpah"?! Some sober thoughts about Jews for Jesus:

Just as Israel is our homeland, Judaism is our religion. Jews for Jesus cynically seeks to drive a wedge between Jews and Judaism.

Their claim that we can become more Jewish by believing in Jesus is like saying you can become more of a vegetarian by eating steak. Jews for Jesus seeks to blur the distinctions between Judaism and Christianity.

That Jesus and his followers were Jews doesn't grant their movement automatic Jewish validity. After all, those who built the Golden Calf were also Jews. Christianity may have its roots in Judaism, but it quickly developed into a religion whose essential beliefs about the concept of the Messiah and the nature of G-d and how to relate to Him veered dramatically from Judaism. They finally canonized a different set of Holy Scriptures. The United States may have once been an English colony, but it would make little sense to tell British people today that they can become more British by becoming American citizens.

The claim by Jews for Jesus to be "completed Jews" is highly offensive. It implies that Jews who remain faithful to Judaism are somehow defective. Our Bible doesn't end by saying: "To be continued" or "Stay tuned for more". Christianity is not the completion of Judaism - it is a completely different faith.

While they claim to be Jews who have accepted Jesus, many of their missionaries are Gentiles, and have never been Jews.

We totally reject their tactics that include co-opting and twisting our sacred symbols and rituals and shamelessly exploiting the Holocaust, our most painful memory, in their pursuit of Jewish souls.

Many Christian leaders and denominations have condemned the unethical proselytizing of Jews for Jesus. The Long Island Council of Churches has accused them of "engaging in subterfuge and dishonesty" and of "mixing religious symbols in ways that distort their essential meaning."

Although Jews for Jesus have voluntarily separated themselves from our community, the door is always open for them to return. Thankfully, growing numbers are beginning to discover the profound spiritual treasures of Judaism.

If you have been confronted by groups like Jews for Jesus and require assistance, JEWS FOR JUDAISM is the Jewish community's resource. Please contact us to schedule a private consulatation,or if you'd like to receive a free educational tape and booklet.

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Greater Toronto Area

Church passes landmark study on ties with Jews

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

The United Church of Canada, the country's largest Protestant denomination, has approved a landmark document – now church policy – calling for improved relations with Jews and stating that anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism are "affronts to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Six years in the making, the study, titled *Bearing Faith Witness,* was approved unanimously at this month's 38th General Council meeting of the church in Wolfville, N.S. It's a far-reaching effort at conciliation with Jews, calling on the church's 2.8 million followers to re-examine their relations with Jews and to stop interpreting scriptures in ways that may lead to anti-Jewish stereotyping.

The report acknowledges a long history of Christian anti-Semitism, including within the United Church. It describes a history of interpreting Christian texts without appreciating their Jewish origins, resulting in "deeply-rooted anti-Jewish misinterpretation," and a track record of insensitivity with respect to the importance of the Holocaust to Jews.

"No other religion is as closely related to Christianity as Judaism," it states. "The Christian God is the God of Israel. Jesus and all the apostles were of Israel. Christian scripture includes the scriptures of Israel."

Former United Church moderator Rev. Robert Smith, chair of the Bearing Faithful Witness Committee, told commissioners the statement on relations with Jews was one of the significant issues to come before the General Council.

The document is an outgrowth of a petition the church's General Council passed in 1988 in response to the case of Holocaust-denying Alberta teacher James Keegstra. It called on the church to confront Christian anti-Semitism and mend fences with Jews.

The document now officially acknowledges that Jews and church members believe in the same God: "We believe that the God whom we know in Jesus Christ is the One who called Sarah and Abraham, gave the Torah to Moses, and put passion for justice into the hearts of the prophets."

It also stresses the Jewishness of Jesus, who "lives as a Jew, dies as a Jew and is raised as a Jew."

But it concedes that church members have not always acted in the spirit of Christian love: "Jesus commands us to love our neighbours, but all too often, Christians have treated Jews, our sisters and brothers, as enemies. We believe that our faith calls us to repent when the church has been unfaithful in its witness by not loving Jews as neighbours."

Dow Marmur, rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, one of the interfaith guests at the meeting, called the document a "milestone" in Jewish-Christian relations. "The United Church of Canada is making a lasting contribution to Jewish-Christian dialogue," he said.

The report could go some way in repairing decades of tense relations between Jews and the United Church, going back to the 1960s and the vituperatively anti-Israel articles in the church's newspaper, *The United Church Observer.*

Last summer, Canadian Jewish Congress withdrew from a dialogue with the United and Anglican churches after its leaders blamed Israel for Mideast violence. Those talks were restarted this spring.

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress's inter-religious affairs committee, told *The CJN* the new report is "an important document… a very significant step forward in relations. It doesn't try to excuse or hide anything."

While some church officials at the general council were said to be concerned that an expression of support for Israel's existence and security would diminish support for Palestinians and others in the Middle East, they were reminded that support for Israel is long-standing church policy.

The church approved a resolution that "strongly affirms the right of the state of Israel to exist in peace and in secure boundaries, and the right of Palestinians to a homeland state" – both within pre-1967 boundaries, subject to negotiation.

Touching on the long and acrimonious relations between the Jewish community and Jews for Jesus-type missionary groups, the study notes "a profound difference between proselytism and evangelism" and rejects "the direct and often manipulative targeting of Jews (and others) for conversion." It urges further study of evangelism "without seeking the conversion of the Jews or others."

From now on, the United Church rejects "all teaching of a theology of contempt toward Jews and Judaism [and] the belief that God has abolished the covenant with the Jewish people."

It affirms the significance of Judaism as both "a religion, a people, and a covenant community;" that both Judaism and Christianity "have developed from a common root;" and that "the love of God is expressed in the giving of both Torah and Gospel."

It encourages church members and congregations to meet with Jews and learn about modern Judaism; to be vigilant in resisting anti-Semitism; and to get involved in interfaith programming such as on Yom Hashoah.

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Greater Toronto Area

CJC submits brief to CRTC on Al-Jazeera cable TV application

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Al-Jazeera, the Arab-language satellite news service, should not be carried on digital cable services in this country because it airs "hate propaganda" and would violate a host of Canadian laws and regulations, Canadian Jewish Congress has told the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

In a 37-page brief to CRTC secretary general Diane Rhéaume, Congress says the broadcast regulator should deny Al-Jazeera a place in Canadian television because the Qatar-based channel "has demonstrated a pattern of airing virulent and dangerous hate propaganda and/or contemptuous speech, largely targeted at the Jewish people."

Earlier this year, the Canadian Cable Television Association (CCTA) asked the CRTC, on behalf of several cable companies, including Montreal-based Videotron, to allow carriage of Al-Jazeera.

> *'Jews are frequently characterized as duplicitous, corrupt, world-dominating conspiratorial force'*

Congress and B'nai Brith Canada immediately opposed the move, sparking a debate on free speech. The CRTC invited public comments on the matter last month.

The 24-hour news station is perhaps best known for broadcasting ominous statements against the West by Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

During the Iraq war, it was often dubbed the Arabic CNN and incurred the wrath of Arab countries for being too pro-Western and seeking Israeli perspectives.

Many Canadians already have access to Al-Jazeera via the "grey market" U.S.-based DirecTV satellite service.

CJC says in its Aug. 8 submission that on Al-Jazeera, "Jews are frequently characterized by hosts, guests and terrorists as a duplicitous, corrupt, world-dominating conspiratorial force; rights of Jews, individually and collectively, and their physical security are threatened; and Holocaust denial is commonplace. Suicide bombings are encouraged, while terrorist groups – including those outlawed by the Canadian government – are lauded."

Such programming would violate the Broadcasting Act, the Broadcasting Distribution Regulations, the Criminal Code and voluntary codes enforced by the Canadian Broadcast Standards Council, CJC argues. "Such hate speech is also inimical to the guarantee of free expression in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms," it adds.

CJC says it "strongly believes in freedom of expression as an essential element of democracy" but that freedom "is not absolute."

It says its opposition to the carriage of Al-Jazeera is based on its conviction that the dissemination of anti-Semitic hate speech "is contrary to Canadian values, Canadian law and Canadian public interest."

Among the many specific examples of Al-Jazeera's anti-Semitism provided by Congress are:

- A May 15, 2001 show that debated whether Zionism is worse than Nazism;
- a Jan. 22, 2002, segment in which a Saudi cleric called Jews "brothers of apes and pigs" and "the most despicable people... worms... all evil," and blamed Jews for the 9/11 attacks;
- a March 2003 sermon by bin Laden in which the Al Qaeda leader called Jews "murderers of the prophets... usurers and whoremongers," and other instances when he implored Muslims to "destroy the new Jewish crusade;"
- various instances of Holocaust denial;
- praising and championing suicide attacks against Israel;
- and interviews with U.S. figures Lyndon Larouche, known for his theories of Jewish conspiracies, and David Duke, a one-time leader of the Kû Klux Klan, in which both were permitted to discuss anti-Semitic canards.

If Al-Jazeera is green-lighted for carriage in Canada, the CRTC will have no ability to monitor, control or sanction any of its content, CJC warns. Should Al-Jazeera's content breach Canadian laws, the commission's only recourse would be to delist the service, Congress points out.

"This unsatisfactory solution, which has been rarely used by the CRTC in the past, is in our view tantamount to shutting the barn door after the proverbial horse has left the barn."

While Congress wants the applications by the CCTA and Videotron denied, it says an alternative would be to add Al-Jazeera to the digital lineup "under the strictest of conditions."

CRTC spokesperson Denis Carmel told *The CJN* he had no comment on CJC's submission. He said a decision on Al-Jazeera could be made before the end of the year.

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Looking for peace in the classroom

tacked on the corner of Prof. Sari Nusseibeh's boardroom table when a group of journalists visited last month were books dealing with critical thinking and argument-building, a skill apparently not taught in Palestinian high schools.

Palestinian students arrive at Al-Quds, the Arab university in east Jerusalem, trained in rote learning and never encouraged to question information, conclusions and points of view, Nusseibeh, the president of the university, explained when asked about the books. This becomes problematic when professors attempt to develop independent, objective thinkers who understand the merits of logical reasoning and fair analysis. The university is considering a curriculum to deal with this educational gap.

Interestingly, the Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace (CMIP), a non-governmental organization established in 1998, recently presented its findings on the new textbooks that students in Palestinian elementary schools will use this coming year. The centre evaluated 35 books now being published by the Palestinian Authority for use in various subjects.

UNESCO and CMIP criteria were used as benchmarks in order to examine, among other things, whether ideals of freedom, dignity and fraternity are being advocated in the books, and to what extent education is fostering peace.

The good news is that Judaism is now presented as one of the three major monotheistic religions. The bad news is that almost every time Jews are mentioned, it is unfavourably. They are presented as a people who would shoot peaceful travellers on the road and are described as being analogous to hyenas. When tolerance is taught, it refers mainly to Christian-Muslim relations. Jews are not mentioned.

The CMIP found that peace is discussed in general terms. Ostensibly, the texts teach that "since the State of Palestine declares that it is a peace-loving state and is bound by the principles of peaceful co-existence, it will work with all states and peoples for the realization of a lasting peace… " The only problem is that Israel is never presented as a legitimate sovereign state. Not once. In fact, the maps of Palestine incorporate Israel into a Palestinian national homeland.

Apparently, the Palestinian Authority desires peaceful co-existence with all countries except for the one it is at war with.

As for terrorism, the books state that "the Palestinian Authority formally rejects terror." However, jihad and martyrdom are encouraged and exalted. The texts also present positive references to terrorist activities against Israeli civilians.

Palestinian children never learn that Israel is a country with boundaries and national aspirations like their own. The Jewish state is presented simply as an enemy that must be fought until the Palestinian homeland is restored.

A critical thinker might understand that peace can never be achieved in the region until Israelis are convinced that their legitimate rights to exist are acknowledged.

Perhaps Nusseibeh should hurry up with his curriculum.

–A.M.

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Anti-Semitism growing

I have just read the article about the "right of return" conference and to say I am sickened is an understatement ("'Right of return' conference denounces Israel, PA," *CJN*, July 3). Who are these people to brand the State of Israel illegitimate?

In my day-to-day attempt to keep up with Middle East news, especially Israeli news, I have come across a lot of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic ranting that is very difficult to digest. But that conference and its obvious bias against Israel and its people are nothing but a hate campaign, which I was led to believe, was illegal in Canada.

It seems to me we are back in Nazi Germany. Anti-Semitism did not die with that malevolent regime. Instead, it has grown to a fearful degree.

Ric Parker
Toronto

* * *

Relentless review contains crucial error

Sheldon Kirshner's review of the film *Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in Israel* ("Film analyzes breakdown of Oslo peace process," *CJN*, July 3) fairly points out that the film's central thesis – the Palestinians breaking each of their major commitments in the Oslo peace process – is "true enough." But Kirshner then makes a significant factual mistake.

One of the most important agreements made in Oslo was for the PLO to change its charter that expresses its central purpose, the destruction of the State of Israel in its entirety, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea (see the full text at http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/mideast/plocov.htm). Clearly, the peace architects reasoned, such a foundation document cannot remain as is, since it clearly opposes a two-state solution that "peace" was based upon.

Relentless points out that, like the Palestinian Authority's (PA) other obligations, such as stopping terror and ending anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist incitement, this obligation has also remained unfulfilled.

In stating that "the PA revised the covenant, not once but twice," Kirshner has succumbed to media obfuscation of the tallest order. In 1998, a full five years after the peace process was inaugurated, then-US. president Bill Clinton went to Gaza to try and force changes in the charter, and the media had a field day declaring the PA had fulfilled its promise. But the charter was not changed. All the parties agreed to on that "historic" occasion was to submit recommendations for changes in the future. No such recommendations were ever made, and the charter remains the same today.

As a journalist, Kirshner should know better. I am sure many people were similarly fooled. They are probably so convinced the charter was changed that they will assume I am the one mistaken. There is a very easy test to determine fact from fiction: read the new charter.

As a Canadian Jew who now lives in Israel, I truly desire to see peace come to the region, for the sake of both the Israelis and Palestinians. But our love for peace must not blind us. We are still negotiating with a PA whose charter calls for Israel's destruction.

Raphael Shore
Producer and co-writer, *Relentless: The Struggle for Peace in Israel*
Jerusalem

* * *

No miscarriage of justice

In his article about the executions of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in the 1950s ("Rosenberg case still mired in controversy," *CJN*, June 26), Sheldon Kirshner quotes historians Ronald Radosh and Joyce Milton, who believe the executions were a grave miscarriage of justice.

In an article in the *New York Post* on June 13, Radosh noted that "Soviet intelligence… agents… provided the final proof that Julius was a Soviet agent" and gave the former Soviet Union "top-secret military data." Soviet documents, he said, revealed Ethel Rosenberg was an accessory to Julius' crimes. And he quoted a KGB agent, who said, "The Rosenberg network was one of the best producing groups of agents in the history of Soviet technological espionage."

The Rosenbergs were hard-core Communists during the Hitler-Stalin Pact. They scorned democracies, their family and their own lives in their fanatical commitment to the Stalinist empire.

Marvin Maurer
Toronto

* * *

Questions activist's logic

I was disturbed to read about the activities of gay rights activist Joanne Cohen and the Canadian Coalition of Liberal Rabbis for Same Sex Marriage ("Same-sex marriage ruling recognizes diversity: activist," *CJN* July 17). Cohen and the coalition have argued that same-sex marriage is good for Judaism. It boggles the mind.

Judaism has always understood marriage as a union sanctified by God. Since homosexual unions are explicitly banned by the Torah (Leviticus 18:22), how can they possibly be divinely sanctioned? The Jewish concept of marriage and the gay concept of marriage simply cannot co-exist.

Andy Rechtshaffen
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Stealth evangelism and truth in packaging

By LEN RUDNER and RABBI MICHAEL SKOBAC

The Jewish community of Toronto will soon be subjected to a new attack by an old foe. From Aug. 25 to Sept. 14, missionaries from the Jews for Jesus organization will descend upon the city as part of their "Behold Your God" campaign. This five-year initiative, targeting cities worldwide with Jewish populations of 25,000 or more, will spend more than $22 million (US) to convince Jews to embrace Jesus. The deceptive thrust of this shameless crusade will be to promote the absurd idea that converting to Christianity is the most Jewish thing a Jew can do.

Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and Jews for Judaism have worked tirelessly against this kind of misleading proselytizing for more than two decades. While we understand the desire of Christians who seek to share their faith, we have always maintained that their outreach should be conducted in an open and honest fashion. By purposely blurring the distinctions between Judaism and Christianity and cynically co-opting sacred Jewish symbols and rituals, Jews for Jesus and similar groups fail the test of ethical evangelism.

When we became aware of this upcoming missionary campaign, our organizations worked together to develop a comprehensive, proactive response. Part of that strategy included sending a letter to more than 800 evangelical churches in Southern Ontario, urging them to take a public stand on this issue and commit themselves to the principles of respect and honesty in evangelism. It should be noted that mainline Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian denominations have long ago repudiated the offensive tactics of groups like Jews for Jesus.

The response from the evangelical community has been disappointing. Of the dozen or so replies that we have received, the overwhelming majority indicated that they support the work of Jews for Jesus and will continue to do so. A notable exception was Dr. Charles McVety, president of Canada Christian College, in an important column he co-authored for the *Toronto Star*. McVety argued that one of the most serious challenges to the progress that has been made in interfaith relations is "the ongoing attempt by some Christian groups to lure Jews away from the faith of their ancestors in a manner that is both devious and deceptive." He specifically chided Jews for Jesus for manipulating language in a way that is misleading and unacceptable. As a corrective to these kinds of smokescreen semantics, McVety felt compelled to assert the obvious: "Judaism and Christianity are two different religions".

It's important to understand what drives Jews for Jesus' obsession with claiming that "it's Jewish to believe in Jesus." In truth, it is part of a shrewd marketing strategy that was developed at numerous missionary conferences decades ago that struggled with overcoming centuries of poor results evangelizing Jews. Their research revealed the existence of certain baseline axioms that are universally held even by the most assimilated Jews with virtually no religious education. In addition to the belief in one God, one of these truisms is that Jews do not believe that Jesus was the messiah. In choosing their organization's name and provocative tactics – both calculated to generate maximum exposure – Jews for Jesus has sought to square a theological circle. The group labours to legitimate what was once an impossible oxymoron, on par with "atheists for God" or "vegetarians for meat," using misleading rhetoric and mass marketing.

A frequent refrain in making their case, often repeated by their converts, is that "After all, Jesus was a Jew, and all his followers were Jews." Well, those who worshipped the Golden Calf may also have been Jews, but that didn't validate their activity. When the followers of Jesus eventually redefined the Jewish concept of "messiah" from a human king who will preside over a redeemed world to a divine saviour who dies to atone for sin, they created a new religion. The differentiation was concretized when they adopted a different set of scriptures from the Jews who continued to follow the path of Judaism.

> Jews for Jesus: an oxymoron on par with 'vegetarians for meat'

Nevertheless, Jews for Jesus realized that their approach could be effective in overcoming the guilt Jewish people normally felt when accepting foreign doctrines such as the Trinity. They have been successful to some degree in creating the impression that a Jew who has converted to Christianity is not a contradiction in terms.

Of course, they have accomplished this by carefully speaking out of both sides of their mouths. While playing up their "Jewishness" when seeking converts, they sing a different tune to their supporters. Years ago, they circulated a document titled "What evangelical Christians should know about Jews for Jesus," which was subtitled "A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT: not to be distributed to Non-Christians." In it, they state: "We define ourselves as evangelical fundamentalists... We feel that we are an arm of the local church."

In a letter sent to evangelical churches this past July, Andrew Barron, Canadian director of Jews for Jesus, expressed himself in terms never heard by the Jews he targets for conversion: "Why am I writing to you? Because I believe that as part of our family in Christ, you would want to use this opportunity to stand with us... Pray that Jewish hearts are softened to receive the gospel news as we are out in force on the streets over this special campaign time...We need the power of your pen. A letter from you to the [Canadian Jewish Congress] in which you inform them that we are your brothers and sisters in Christ... A letter that we can use to demonstrate to churches who do not have a relationship with us that we are 'kosher' and a part of the evangelical community." Barron and his organization refer to the people they evangelize as UJ's (unsaved Jews). It doesn't require much imagination to understand why this unflattering designation is only used "in-house."

Julius Ciss, executive director of Jews for Judaism, centre, and Rabbi Michael Skobac, right, education director of Jews for Judaism, confront a Jews for Jesus missionary at Bathurst Street and Wilson Avenue in the heart of Toronto's Jewish community. [S. Epstein/Ponkawonka.com photo]

A subsequent letter sent by Barron to Toronto-area rabbis can only be characterized by invoking Shakespeare: "The missionary doth protest too much!" While assuming the posture of a persecuted minority, Barron reassures the rabbis that his organization "has great respect and appreciation for the Jewish tradition." This position is difficult to reconcile with some of the startlingly candid statements from Rev. Martin Rosen, the founder of Jews for Jesus: "We have waited too long to teach that Judaism is a false religion." "Orthodox Judaism is darkness and superstition." "To be Jewish, to be really Jewish, is to feel guilty". When instructing his staff to publicly push the "party line" that "Judaism is a false religion," he advises, "After making such a statement, keep ameliorating it by saying how much you love the Jewish people."

The exploiting of Jewish ritual for evangelistic purposes is a further example of Jews for Jesus' duplicity. Its members maintain that Judaism is a false religion because it is based upon what they believe to be the illegitimate teachings of the Talmudic rabbis who added to the Bible. However, while demeaning the authority of our sages, the Jewish practices they employ mimic rabbinic traditions not found in the Bible. Examples include the wearing of skullcaps and the lighting of Chanukah candles.

One of most "un-Jewish" aspects of Jews for Jesus is their insistence that the only way to have a relationship with God is through Jesus. This position was made crystal clear on a *Larry King Live* program in January 2000 that featured David Brickner, the executive director of Jews for Jesus; Rabbi Marvin Hier, founder and dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center; Rabbi Schmuley Boteach, founder of the Oxford L'Chaim Society; and R. Albert Mohler Jr., head of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Brickner maintained, in the face of repeated questioning from King, that the two rabbis face an eternity in hell because they don't accept Jesus as their saviour. This "My way or the highway!" theology is clearly not a Jewish one – the Hebrew scriptures never teach that non-Jews must practise Judaism in order to serve God. Our sages clearly teach that "the righteous of all nations have a share in the world to come."

We must stress that our purpose here is not to judge the merits of one religion over another. It is simply and respectfully to note that the theological positions of Judaism and Christianity are not congruent, and that attempts to cloud this issue are dishonest.

The tactics of groups like Jews for Jesus amount to nothing less than "stealth evangelism" and constitute a form of identity theft. Their upcoming crusade is a frontal assault on our community, which prompted our letter of June 18 to the evangelical churches. We hope that a full consideration of the issue may still lead some in that community to reconsider their support of Jews for Jesus. Ultimately, the success or failure of their efforts will depend on what kind of Jewish homes, synagogues and communities we foster. Knowledgeable Jews who appreciate the beauty and depth of Judaism and integrate its spirituality into their lives joyously and passionately will be immune to predatory missionaries.

We invite all Toronto Jews to participate in a city-wide "Stand Up For Judaism Shabbat" on Saturday, Sept. 6, and to attend a special "Stand Up For Judaism Rally" on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 8 p.m. at the Toronto Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Avenue.

Rabbi Michael Skobac is director of education for Jews for Judaism. Len Rudner is director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Judging Harry Truman

I am sure my readers know that Harry S. Truman was a president of the United States, but you may not be aware that, back in the 1940s, he wrote very critical things about Jews in his personal diary.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

"The Jews, I find, are very, very selfish," he wrote in July 1947, 10 months before the British mandate in Palestine expired and David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence.

"They care not how many Estonians, Latvians, Finns, Poles, Yugoslavs or Greeks get murdered or mistreated as [displaced persons] as long as the Jews get special treatment."

He continued: "Yet when they have power, physical, financial or political neither Hitler nor Stalin has anything on them for cruelty or mistreatment to the underdog.

"Put an underdog on top and it makes no difference whether his name is Russian, Jewish, Negro, Management, Labor, Mormon, Baptist he goes haywire. I've found very, very few who remember their past condition when prosperity comes."

Despite these comments, which came to light only recently, Truman was the first international leader to recognize the State of Israel in 1948, thereby giving it a boost it sorely needed.

How can we reconcile this apparent contradiction?

Well, we cannot, and we also are not required to do so. Most people – whether ordinary or famous – are likely to utter things once in a while that, on second thought, they wish they had not said.

Especially when considering famous people such as Truman, it is best to judge them by their deeds and not merely by their words.

Many historians do not consider Truman to be one of the great American leaders. But his early recognition of the Jewish state represents an enormously important historical landmark, for the American president thereby publicly acknowledged Israel as a legitimate part of the international community. By doing so, Truman acquired a permanent place of importance in the history of our people.

In addition to that achievement, he deserves to be remembered for another important act during his presidency. In 1951, he fired the highly popular Gen. Douglas MacArthur, then the commanding officer of the United Nations forces, who was unwilling to conduct a limited war in Korea.

Without that action, there would have been a real possibility, if not likelihood, that MacArthur would sooner or later have become president himself.

If you would like to know more about Truman, read David McCullough's 1992 biography, or read Samuel Eliot Morrision's account of his administration (which lasted from 1945 to 1953) in Morrision's *Oxford History of the American People*.

Truman was, basically, a simple man who had a keen understanding of what America needed from him, as well as the guts to act on it. This combination assures him a place in history.

Racial intolerance is out there

I found myself trapped indoors the other day in a futile attempt to escape a recent heat wave, fanning myself with a magazine that I soon discovered was actually much better put to use as reading material.

In this recently published journal on the best Canadian magazine writing of our times, one article in particular caught my eye.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

Though it was published in 1985, it is still relevant today, especially if you live in Alberta.

The article, called "Keegstra's Children," was an extremely well-written, often chilling account of a class of students who grew up being taught by Holocaust denier and well-known anti-Semite Jim Keegstra.

For 10 years, Keegstra taught anti-Jewish conspiracy theory to high school students in the remote rural farming town of Eckville, Alta., located halfway between Calgary and Edmonton.

The theories he fed the students were really quite incredible – stories not backed up by any credible source of information, but lapped up eagerly by his students and regurgitated back on tests and assignments.

"Moles only come out in the dark when no one is watching," wrote one of his students on exam day, who was awarded full marks for her answer. "Jews only do their deeds when no one is watching. A mole, when mad, will strike back and have no mercy if disturbed. Jews strike at any time and have *no* mercy. No one knows the Jews are there until they strike."

It's absolutely flabbergasting that just a few years ago, just a few miles away from where I live, people in this modern day and age soaked this up so unquestioningly.

But Alberta is, after all, the country's most conservative province, and with its stirrings of homophobia and xenophobia comes a healthy dose of racial intolerance.

I know it's out there.

I walk into work every day surrounded by middle-aged white men, many of whom grew up in small towns before they struck gold in the oil fields and moved into the corporate sector.

Some of these men have gone on to share their business acumen as university professors.

A friend of mine looking for advice in the job interview process recently consulted a professor we both know for some career tips.

"Well, you've got two things going for you," he said to her.

"First, you're a woman, and second, you're of color. So, you definitely have a chance."

The same professor had earlier critiqued my own resumé. When he saw that I wrote for *The CJN*, he said I might want to consider leaving it off to keep my "options open."

But I'm not sure what those options might be if I have to lie about something as integral as my own identity.

While in the past, some Jews survived because they had less "ethnic" physical features and were able to pass themselves off as Christians, it makes me wonder why we still live in a world where concealing ethnicity is deemed necessary for success.

Sometimes, I hear things that are distant cousins of Keegstra's blatant anti-Semitism, but that still come from the same family tree.

"Oh, you're dating a Jewish guy? Great. They have a lot of money, you know," one of my friends informed me once.

I guess if that's the truth, my inheritance must still be in the mail.

Other gems include:

"You're Jewish? I love Jewish people! I watched *Fiddler on the Roof* three times."

"Damn Jews, they're taking over the science faculty at school, they're absolutely everywhere."

"You're Jewish? Tell me, is it true that Jews are buried sitting straight up in their graves?"

Undoubtedly, the only way to combat this kind of ignorance is to stay true to who we are.

The greatest pearl of wisdom I read in the Keegstra article ironically came from one of his own students:

"Mr. Keegstra used to say history, on its own, is of no value at all," the student said. "But if you don't know what went on, you're bound to repeat it."

Barbara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

Looking forward to September

I must admit that I am anxiously awaiting my return to Halifax and university life. As long as summer vacation involves employment, school remains a better deal.

Call me a princess, but there is more to this feeling than simple laziness. Of course, my 15-hour-a-week class schedule is more appealing than my 40-hour workweek. During the school year, I can sleep to a reasonable hour (the work world's 7 a.m. is unreasonably early for a student), and my daily schedule is flexible. There is time for working out, for random meetings, and for all the other extra-curricular activities that fill the day.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

It's not necessarily that I feel less stressed at school – there is always something hanging over my head and, if you are concerned with academic success, scholastic pressure is constant. But after my stint in the work world, the stress of school is not something I dread as much as I once did.

Those of us who were lucky enough to go to camp cherish our days there. As a counsellor, you work around the clock and barely sleep, but if you're playing with kids all day, you remain a kid yourself. Alas, you eventually learn that you need to earn more money than the few pennies you find in your pocket at the end of the summer.

University often brings you to this realization. As you edge closer to the real world, you find that you need a real job.

So you look for one that will be stimulating, one that is along your future career path and makes use of your expensive education, as well as one that will pay enough to make a dent in the coming year's expenses – that is, a job that requires a little more than serving french fries or folding T-shirts.

But reality quickly sets in. You have little experience, no degree, and too few skills to be of real use to anyone. Your good grades don't translate into a job, and, ultimately, no one wants to hire you. That is, until you play a valuable little card: your connections.

It hurts to admit it, but you can't knock it. With only a few years of an arts degree under your belt (science students have it a bit easier in this regard), it never hurts to know people, and to know people who know people who just might hire you.

The bit of fame I have garnered from writing this column (combined with my "connections") helped land me my current summer job. Known as "the writer," I am working in a law firm writing up case studies. I feel lucky to gain experience in a field I wish to pursue.

After an initial foray into the world of filing and collating, I got the opportunity to apply my writing and analytical skills. Now, I must actually wake up my brain on the subway ride downtown.

So, I admit that my entrance into the work world hasn't been all that bad. Compared to stories I have heard, including tales of weeks spent in the depths of a mailroom, I have definitely come out ahead. I am doing something of relevance and gaining valuable experience.

When push comes to shove, though, I can't wait to get back to school. I crave a good lecture on the philosophical intricacies of Hegel. There's something about learning arguably useless subject matter. While it's not quite about knowledge for its own sake, university life remains personal and exploratory. It's about how you get there almost as much as it is about what you end up with. An admitted geek, I get more out of putting an essay together than I do in receiving a grade for it.

I will have enough years in the real world and more than enough years of employment. So when September rolls around, I will bask in the pressures of academia and appreciate a schedule that, no matter how intense, seem easier to handle than this summer's daily grind. I will enjoy the seemingly frivolous learning that I find so much fun.

For now, though, it's nine to five and a paycheque. Can't forget the thrill of that paycheque.

The Kirshner File

Oligarchs control Russia's new economy

Modern Russian capitalism was born on the ashes of Soviet communism, which suppressed normal human impulses taken for granted in civilized countries such as Canada and the United States: individual initiative and entrepreneurship.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Boris Yeltsin, the first president of post-Soviet Russia, sought to build a society modelled on Western values and norms. But in his eagerness to break with the stultified and discredited past, he and his liberal reformist advisors chose to concentrate on freedom first and rules later. The new Russian-style economy they devised was thus a wild creature unfettered by effective laws and controls. It could be compared to the unruly, rapacious robber-baron capitalism of late 19th century America.

The players in this system were smart, ambitious, ruthless and secretive individuals who had been raised in cramped apartments and who had never reconciled themselves to constant consumer shortages and bread lines.

Even before the collapse of communism, they had learned to manipulate weaknesses – seizing on imbalances in prices, property and trade, buying up state assets and creating new enterprises. Almost overnight, they acquired vast personal fortunes and political influence, mixing wealth with power.

They were known as the oligarchs.

David Hoffman, the foreign editor and former Moscow correspondent of *The Washington Post*, has written an intriguing account of their rise and, in some cases, their fall. The book, *The Oligarchs* (Public Affairs), meticulously traces the careers of six of these wily tycoons: Boris Berezovsky, Vladimir Gusinsky, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, Alexander Smolensky, Anatoly Chubais and Yuri Luzhkov.

Boris Berezovsky

All but the last two are of Jewish origin. Being a thorough reporter, Hoffman not only immersed himself in the literature of that period, but interviewed all six entrepreneurs at length. Reading their profiles, a reader gets a sense of the seismic transformation that has reshaped Russia in the past decade or so.

Berezovsky, the only son of a construction engineer and a pediatric nurse, was born in Moscow in 1946. After studying at a forestry school, the Institute of Control Sciences hired him as a researcher in applied mathematics. He was a hard worker, but realized that his path to upward mobility was blocked by anti-Semitism.

Berezovsky's ascent began with a simple desire to own a car. He bought old cars in Germany and sold them in Russia at fantastic profits. He also convinced the Fiat/Zhiguli automobile factory in Russia to sell him fleets of cars on consignment. By 1994, Logovaz, Berezovsky's company, was not just Russia's largest Zhiguli dealer, but a purveyor of German, Japanese, American and Swedish vehicles.

Targeted by criminal gangs, he fled to Israel and obtained Israeli citizenship. He returned to Moscow, only to fend off an assassination attempt and attacks against his showrooms.

Through connections in the Kremlin, he bought the privatized Channel 1, Russian Public Television. Thanks in part to its fawning coverage of the 1996 general election, Yeltsin was elected president. In gratitude, Yeltsin appointed Berezovsky deputy secretary of the Kremlin's Security Council, a position he forfeited by virtue of his Israeli citizenship. Berezovsky fared much better as a businessman. His tentacles reached into a huge oil company and Aeroflot, the Russian state airline, and his expanding interests included ownership of a Moscow newspaper and a glossy magazine.

Vladimir Gusinsky

Although Berezovsky was instrumental in helping Yeltsin's hand-picked successor, Vladimir Putin, win the 2000 presidential election, the two bickered over Chechnya and Putin's proposal for stronger central control over Russia's independent-minded regional governors. By way of retribution, Putin forced him to divest himself of some of his properties. Seeing the handwriting on the wall, Berezovsky, who had in the meantime converted to Christianity, fled to Britain. Last November, Moscow asked for his extradition, having accused Berezovsky of embezzlement and financing Chechen guerrillas.

Gusinsky, Berezovsky's associate, was born in 1952, into a family whose members had been victims of Stalinist purges. Gusinsky trained as a stage director, hoping to ply his trade in a Soviet theatre. But doors were slammed shut in his face because of his Jewishness. Instead, he staged public concerts and cultural events and drove an unofficial taxi to and from Moscow airport.

Alexander Smolensky

By chance, Gusinsky started selling copper bracelets through a co-operative. The venture was a great success. Caught trading hard currency, he made the best of a bad situation by befriending KGB officers. Hoffman writes that Gusinsky had a knack for cultivating security men and politicians. In 1988, he opened a consulting business to assist Western investors in Russia. Then he turned to building renovation. But he saved his best efforts for Media-Most, a communications empire consisting of a TV station and periodicals in Russia and a daily, *Ma'ariv*, in Israel.

Like Berezovsky, Gusinsky incurred the wrath of Putin, who was none too pleased by the criticism Gusinsky's television channel levelled against him. Gusinsky's corporate headquarters were raided and he was charged with fraud. Under relentless pressure, Gusinsky – the founder and first president of the Russian Jewish Congress and a patron of Russia's Jewish community – was compelled to sell his holdings and forced into exile. Today, he divides his time between Spain, Israel and the United States.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky

Khodorkovsky, a graduate of a chemical technology institute in Moscow, made his fortune by cleverly exploiting the imbalance between Soviet banknotes and the virtual currency used by state factories. Having beaten the system, he moved into banking.

After snapping up a plethora of companies, he established Rosprom, a financial and industrial conglomerate trading in oil, metallurgy, chemicals, food, textiles, wood pulp and paper.

Still not satisfied, Khodorkovsky, now 40, seized control of Yukos, Russia's second largest oil company, with 100,000 workers and a market capitalization of $9 billion (U.S.)

In 1998, he announced plans to merge Yukos with Sibneft, a smaller oil company Berezovsky had founded. But it was not until this past April that the merger actually took place.

The merged firm, Yukos-Sibneft, is Russia's biggest vertically integrated oil company, accounting for 22 per cent of the country's production, and the world's fifth largest publicly traded oil company. Before the merger, Khodorkovsky said he hoped that his company would be among the world's 10 top oil companies within a decade.

According to *Forbes* magazine, he is the richest man in Russia today. Having followed Berezovsky's and Gusinsky's careers, he has been careful not to cross Putin. But of late, he has antagonized the Russian president, having funnelled funds to opposition political parties.

Smolensky, born in 1954, was brought up in poverty, his father having deserted his mother. After the army, he was a shop steward in a publishing house, secretly printing Bibles in defiance of the law.

He moonlighted as a baker and started a building materials co-operative before opening Bank Stolichny, the core of of his industrial empire today.

Certain Russian nationalists have tried to whip up anti-Semitism by calling into question the role of "Zionist capital" in Russia's march toward a free market economy.

Their crude attempts to incite racial hatred have largely fallen on deaf ears, even though the oligarchs, having aroused jealousy and resentment, are far from popular among the Russian masses.

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Jewish Life

Through the eyes of the *Eagle*

Roots & Remembrance

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

When Russian-Polish immigrant Hirsch Wolofsky decided to launch a Yiddish daily newspaper in Montreal in August 1907, it was clearly an idea whose time had come.

Impoverished Russian-Jewish masses fleeing pogroms, revolution and war had started settling in Montreal in record numbers. Strangers in a strange land, they read New York Yiddish papers like the *Forwerts*, but they had no effective way of knowing about their local civic and cultural surroundings.

"New immigrants who could not read the English newspapers were ignorant of what was happening in their city," observed journalist Israel Medres, a distinguished contributor to the new daily.

"For them Montreal was a closed book. The *Keneder Adler* opened that book for them. It revealed to them that they lived in a large metropolis with people of diverse languages, races, beliefs, and cultures."

A distinctly Canadian, Jewish intellectual voice in the wilderness, Montreal's *Keneder Adler* was one of several early Yiddish newspapers that helped immigrants adapt to life in Canada. The "*Canadian Eagle*," as its name translates, also fulfilled another vital function by sparking the formation of Jewish fraternal organizations, sick benefit societies, libraries, a national congress and other communal structures.

Two recent books from Montreal's Vehicule Press shed welcome light on the almost-forgotten pages of this once-influential journal. *Through the Eyes of The Eagle: The Early Montreal Yiddish Press, 1907-1916* offers English translations of a range of pieces by distinguished journalists and editors, including Wolofsky, Medres, Reuben Brainin, Isaac Yampolsky, A. M. Mandelbaum and Shalom Aleichem.

In articles such as "A Day in the Editor's Office," Yampolsky charmingly conveys some of the harried comic flavour of working under constant deadline pressure while being repeatedly interrupted by members of the public and other nuisances.

A woman enters with a child: "I am asking you to put him in the papers and bury him deep – my husband, I mean. He deserted me two years ago because I was yelling at him, he said. Do I yell? It is only my habit. I speak loudly." She doesn't leave until the editor promises to run a photo of her errant spouse in the paper's Gallery of Missing Husbands.

A rabbi enters: "I will speak in a synagogue on Sabbath, so I'd like you to write something about me."

Finally, no more interruptions. Yampolsky watches his editor write feverishly: "The pen bends under the speed and races like a fire. If anybody will interrupt him, I will throw him down the steps head first."

Yampolsky picks up a pen and follows suit; the typesetters hover, awaiting fresh manuscript pages. "We both write. Writing is like a milk cow. As long as the milk comes, we milk. When the milk stops coming, we milk it anyway."

Besides light humour, the volume offers historical material on Montreal's Jewish institutions, articles about theatre and politics, and even some fiction. The book was a pet project of the late historian David Rome, who made the selections and did the translations, and was knowledgeably edited by Yiddish scholar Pierre Anctil.

An equally absorbing Vehicule title is *Montreal of Yesterday: Jewish Life in Montreal, 1900-1920*, by Israel Medres, translated from the Yiddish by Vivian Felsen. Already favourably reviewed in these pages, the book features many articles that originally appeared in the *Keneder Adler*.

The genealogist asks: did the *Keneder Adler* publish death notices? The answer is yes. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Ottawa offers a searchable database on its Web site, www.jgso.org.

The historian asks: did David Rome leave behind any more uncompleted projects? The answer is yes. This month, Montreal genealogist Anne Joseph and archivist Janice Rosen published limited copies of an unfinished treatise of Rome's under the title, *House of Life: A History of Jewish Cemeteries in Canada*. The work should be available shortly in select libraries and archives.

Thoughts on death and sorrow

Books
Bernard Baskin

In his classic work, *The Denial of Death*, Ernest Becker maintained that North Americans had so busied and buried themselves in the everyday world that they tended to deny the basic facts of life, death in particular. Becker, who succumbed to cancer, worked on his book through his final days, almost as if living out his own thesis.

I suspect that we all focus on the hurly-burly of the everyday world and never look to our own mortal limits. We plan our projects, stretching them indefinitely into the future. We believe, every day, that "tomorrow will be another day." We act and feel as if we have all the time in the world. Of death we simply say, "It will come when it comes." We tend to put off what is truly important until we "clear the path," "put out a few fires," and take care of urgencies. But the path is never clear, and the fires keep burning, and someday there is no tomorrow.

The world spins, but we do not feel it. Time moves, and we do not realize it. No matter how meticulously we mark off the instants into days, months and years, we are still surprised when we look back at the distance that has accumulated behind us. Suddenly we are appalled that so much time has passed because we are aware of our certain destination.

There is an old parable of a king who once owned a large, beautiful, pure diamond of which he was justly proud, for it had no equal anywhere. One day, through a mishap, the diamond sustained a deep scratch. The king called in the most skilled diamond cutters and offered to reimburse them handsomely if they could remove the imperfection from his treasured jewel, but none could repair the blemish. After some time, a gifted lapidary came to the king and promised to make the rare diamond even more beautiful than it had been before the accident. The king was impressed by his confidence and entrusted the precious stone to his care. The man kept his word. With superb artistry, he used the scratch to form the stem.

Despite its forbidding countenance, sorrow possesses great potential power to expand our lives, enlarge our vision and deepen our understanding. Through the portals of sorrow, we can enter into the suffering of others. Our human compassion is kindled. Our sympathies are broadened. Grief can also help purge us of pettiness and selfishness and elicit from us powers of fortitude and patience which, but for it, would never have occured. Sorrow can thus bring us closer to our fellow humans and help introduce us to ourselves.

Thus it is quite possible to emulate those of whom the Psalmist wrote, "They pass through a valley of tears and convert it into a life-giving fountain." Our sorrows can serve as "needles with which god sews our souls to eternal truths." If we face sorrow affirmatively and creatively, we can use it to enhance life's meaning and benefit others as well as ourselves.

This truth seems to be symbolized by a strange tree that grows near Bombay. Called "The Sorrowful Tree," it has the remarkable characteristic of blooming only at night. As soon as the sun sets, the flowers begin to bloom. May not this also be our uniquely human endowment? Like that tree, we can also bring forth flowers of surpassing beauty in the dark night of sorrow.

Jewish Life

More Hebrew on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we looked at Web sites that help teach Hebrew. Today, I conclude my look at Hebrew and the Web with an easy way to surf in Hebrew – along with some other choice Hebrew sites. And with only a few weeks until the end of the Jewish year, I note the two best Jewish calendar sites on the Web.

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Of Bay St. and Rabbi Mordechai Bengio St.

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

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History and heritage are things whose preservation, I believe, is very worthwhile. Evidently, the municipal authorities in my birthplace (and the birthplace of a sizeable number of other Canadian Jews) believe otherwise.

Tangiers, in what is now Morocco, on the tip of North Africa, was once a truly cosmopolitan and international city. It was governed by France, while at the same time greatly influenced by Spain. Once, many and varied European nationals called Tangiers home. The Jewish presence in Tangiers was also quite prominent.

The names of Tangiers' streets and boulevards once reflected this kaleidoscope. Up until recently, one could look up at the names on its street signs and quickly recognize the many influences and flavours that once made up this city.

This is, unfortunately, no longer the case. All street names that refer to Tangiers' international past have been replaced with solid Arabic names. But Tangiers did not just lose the names of streets. Its real loss was in losing its Europeans and its Jews.

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Today, that busy sea port oozing with charm and character is no more. Long gone are the Europeans and the Jews. What remains is a small and dirty point on the map that is of little significance.

How sad.

As for myself, Tangiers' glorious past lives on in my mind. Irrespective of what the Arabs today might call the street of my childhood home, for me, it will always remain La Calle Goya. Likewise, my grandmother's house, where each week I romped with all my cousins on Shabbat afternoons, will always in my mind be located on La Place de France.

But most importantly, for me, the street in the Marchan neighbourhood that honoured the memory of my great-great-grandfather, the venerable leader of the "Tangerinos" Rabbi Mordechai Bengio, will, likewise, always retain his name.

For his memory lives on, as do the vivid memories of all those who lived in Tangiers during those wonderful years.

And no one can change that, for as much as people will try to erase, rewrite and revise it, history will prevail.

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Greater Toronto Area

New Friends group aims to help Israel's firefighters

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

Ottawa firefighter Lorne Shusterman was pouring himself a cup of coffee and watching TV in his kitchen on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, when a photo of the first burning World Trade Center building flashed on the screen.

An electrical fire, he thought. That building's going to come down.

Then he saw a plane circle low and smash into the second tower, and realized something far worse was happening.

More than 240 firefighters died on Sept. 11, but they saved thousands of people, going floor to floor until the fire pushed them back, said Shusterman.

"There were firefighters going in there asking for last rites because they knew they weren't coming out of there.

"I went to work because I didn't know what to do with myself, even though it was my day off," he said. "They wanted everyone manning the rigs in Ottawa, because maybe they'd hit the Parliament buildings."

As the only Jewish firefighter in Ottawa's history, Shusterman knew he couldn't stay at home and do nothing. He signed up to go on a mission to Israel, where he visited a fire station and told them that they are not alone.

Speaking at a fundraiser last week for the Friends of Israeli Firefighters, Shusterman said firefighters in Israel, who are always first at an emergency scene, desperately need new equipment.

"Their equipment should be the best, or at least adequate. They don't even have adequate."

Fundraiser Eldad Halachmi said Israeli firefighters need oxygen cylinders and suits to protect them against hazardous chemicals. As well, he said, fire stations need renovations and those on the Green Line need security upgrades, and some of the fire trucks still in use are from the 1967 war and desperately need to be replaced.

Halachmi fears Israel's fire services won't have enough manpower or equipment to respond if forest fires break out and destroy the trees planted by the Jewish National Fund, as they did in 1996.

"They don't have enough gear for everyone. When they're on shifts, then it's okay, but if they are all needed, then it's not enough equipment.

"In terms of an emergency, this is one of the top things a society in war needs," said Halachmi.

The Israeli Fire and Rescue Services, the firefighters' umbrella organization, received some money from the Jewish Agency's emergency campaign last year, but according to Halachmi, "it's not even scratching the real needs."

This year, United Israel Appeal has made the Israeli Fire and Rescue Services its top priority, and since the Friends of Israeli Firefighters was formed last year, it has collected $1.5 million from Jewish communities worldwide, including $220,000 from UJA Federation in Toronto.

The money has paid for renovations at the Kfar Saba and Ramla fire stations and bought one fire truck each for Be'er Sheva and Eilat. Evangelical Christians from Washington, D.C., also donated a fire boat for the Kinneret.

But Israel still needs 90 new fire trucks, and the price tag per truck ranges from $300,000 to $1 million (US).

"The house is burning, literally, and something needs to be done about it," said Halachmi.

Meanwhile, Shusterman said his colleagues watch TV at work and are amazed by what the Israeli firefighters are doing.

"Even the non-Jewish guys, I sit with them at work and they ask, 'How do these guys do it?'" he says.

"They're still getting 9/11 every day."

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Jewish Toronto

History in Israel for Cuba's Jewish community

By Dan Horowitz

For the first time ever, a group of young Cuban Jews has joined a *birthright israel* trip, through which qualifying 18- to 26-year-old participants experience 10 days in Israel at no cost. The project is financed by leading North American philanthropists and Jewish federations. UJA Federation campaign donations help to support the *birthright israel* program.

Six young men, two young women and two leaders recently left their native Cuba to join a Canada Israel Experience (CIE) *birthright israel* contingent. They flew first to Montego Bay, then on to London, England, before finally realizing their dream of landing in Tel Aviv.

Their grueling 30-hour trip was well worth the effort, according to William Miller, 27, one of the Cuban delegation leaders and the man who initiated contact with *birthright israel* in Toronto one year ago.

"It's incredible to be here today, talking to you in Israel," says Miller, whose grandfather Jose Miller, is the president of Cuba's Jewish community.

"A year ago, I sent an e-mail to *birthright israel* asking why Cuba was not part of the program. They told me to contact Canada Israel Experience in Toronto and I did. They had earlier sent a delegation to Cuba to learn about our Jewish community. When they received my e-mail, they were ready to help."

Funding for the Cuban participants came from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, UIA Federations Canada and the *birthright israel* organization. And the rest is history.

Cuban birthright israel *participants Annette Ramos Eli, 22 (l), William Miller, 27, and Maria Louisa Delgado Zayon, 21, recently joined a group of Toronto participants for the journey of self-discovery.*

"To be in Israel is a dream come true, not only for us, but for all of Cuba's Jews," says 22-year-old Annette Ramos Eli. "We are the pioneers for our friends and family in Cuba who someday hope to have the same experience."

The reality and emotion of the situation hit Annette hard as the plane approached Tel Aviv.

"My heart was beating so hard, so fast, I could not say anything. I could only cry with joy."

Maria Louisa Delgado Zayon, 21, echoed her friend's sentiment. "It is incredible," she says. "Cuba's Jewish community is not very big – only around 1,200 people – but it is a strong one. This experience will not only enrich our lives as Jews, but our whole community as well."

"When I saw the *kotel* (Western Wall) it did not seem real," adds Maria Louisa. "I could not believe that I, a Cuban girl, was standing there. Then, when I touched the Wall, I could not speak. There were so many people at the Wall, old and young, religious and not too religious, and that confirmed what I had always believed, that the Jewish world is very strong."

Charles Bronfman, the Canadian philanthropist who helped found the *birthright israel* program, recently delivered a message of hope and solidarity to participants in Jerusalem.

"In Israel, and in countries around the world, Jewish communities are thriving," Bronfman told the *birthright israel* contingent at Mount Herzel National Military cemetery. "We are thrilled to welcome our friends from Cuba today on *birthright* for the first time, thanks to the effort of Toronto. It is because of all of you that are here today that *birthright israel* lives. As you learn more about yourselves as Jews, and about your relationship with Israel, that will make the future for all of us that much stronger."

Dan Horowitz has just returned from a special assignment in Israel. His reports will appear in the August 28 and September 4 editions of Jewish Toronto.

legacy of life

Leon Weinstein 1908 - 1989

If ever there was a community event going on, chances are Leon Weinstein had a hand in it.

"My brother knew when things needed to be done and how they should be done," recalls Gus Weinstein of his older sibling. "His leadership capabilities were awesome. He really knew how and when to take charge."

Leon Weinstein, violinist extraordinaire, certainly had a knack for making things happen. He learned the grocery business from his father Sam, proprietor of the Red Star food store that eventually became Power Supermarkets. When Loblaw Cos. bought Power, Leon became president of the Loblaw supermarket chain. He created a President's Hotline so shoppers would have a voice and was the first to introduce ethnic foods into large grocery stores. He was a founder of Citytv and the Variety Club, and the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews. An active member of Holy Blossom Temple, Leon led UJA Federation's first mission to Israel in the late 1950s and held prominent roles with UJA, B'nai Brith, State of Israel Bonds, and Jewish National Fund.

"Leon loved people, violins, Toronto and the next Big Idea," says Moses Znaimer, co-founder of Citytv. "He was a great booster of the concept of local television as a vehicle for community involvement and volunteerism. As founding chairman, Leon lent his enthusiasm, contacts and, above all, his credibility to getting Citytv started. He was also a fabulous guy and great fun to be with."

All this because Leon loved people.

"My father had great charisma and he attracted people like magnets," says daughter Fran Goldman who, along with siblings Carol and Henry, was used to people like Danny Kaye, Phil Silvers and Jack Benny dropping by the house. "He had a wonderful sense of humour and a tremendously compassionate nature. Our home was always full of people from all walks of life because our parents created such a warm and welcoming environment."

Leon Weinstein

And people loved Leon right back, showing up at his Toronto home at all hours of the day to play music, tell a few jokes, or discuss political or social issues. Sometimes they stayed until the wee hours of the morning, but still Leon would be up at 5 a.m. so he could be among the first in line to buy fruit and vegetables for his stores.

This open door policy was something he learned from his parents Sam and Sarah, who were steeped in *tzedakah* (charity) and *chesed* (compassion) and raised their seven children to do the same. Leon wholeheartedly took up the challenge, with many of his kind words and gestures going unnoticed by his family until after his death when his wife Anne started receiving letters from people whom Leon had helped or inspired.

Leon never said no to requests for help or money, be it from the Jewish or secular communities. He gave his friend Ed Mirvish his first job, starting the man who would become Honest Ed off on a promising future in retail. A collector of antique instruments, Leon donated a 1771 Stradivarius violin to the Ontario Heritage Foundation so that Canada's aspiring young musicians would have a chance to live out their dreams. He was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) "even before anyone knew what it was," says daughter Carol Epstein, and was involved with the Toronto Chinese Business Association.

"Dad poured his heart into so many areas of his life, be it business, charity work, the violin or art," says Fran. "He was a great multi-tasker and he had a creative and energetic mind, which perhaps is why so many people turned to him for ideas. He helped start so many organizations, and he was such a *kibitzer* that people always responded positively to his requests for donations."

All this had a great impact on his family. Fran took to Holy Blossom Temple's *Bikur Cholim* (Sick and Visiting) Committee and founded the Canada-Israel Association for Child Protection, while Carol held leadership roles with numerous organizations in the 1970s including State of Israel Bonds, the Canadian offices of Bar Ilan University, Ben Gurion University, and Israel's Biotechnical Institute. She also helped her father raise funds to build a field hospital on the Israeli-Lebanese border.

"Not enough members of our community have a sense of community," says Gus, who traveled to Israel with Leon on that first mission. "Leon's wit, quickness and his sense of timing were impeccable, especially when it came to people. He took hold of the reins and made things happen."

Legacy of Life is a presentation of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto to honour the memory of those who were exceptionally devoted to the community.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
UJA Federation

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

UJA Federation Launches Campaign 2004

UJA Federation Campaign 2004 – For Israel and the Jewish World – led by Allan Silber, Richard Venn and Women's Campaign & Advocacy Chair Barbara Bregman – is officially underway, with a Community Launch August 20 at Toronto's Fairmont Royal York Hotel, featuring keynote speaker Malcolm Hoenlein, Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Allan Silber (l) and Richard Venn (r), Chairs of UJA Federation Campaign 2004, with Barbara Bregman, Chair of Women's Campaign & Advocacy.

The Campaign, which has already raised $17.4 million, follows on the heels of last year's record $65 million Israel Emergency Campaign.

Responding to a changing and insecure Jewish world, Campaign 2004 will continue and extend emergency assistance through allocations to three priority areas:

- Strengthening Israel's weakened social service network
- Combating a growing wave of worldwide anti-Israel and anti-Semitic hatred
- Providing Jewish high school and university students with the tools to defend Israel and counter intimidation on campus

"Over the last few years, we have all witnessed dramatic changes in our Jewish world," says Silber. "Our concern for Israel is compounded by strident worldwide forces preaching anti-Semitic hatred, thinly disguised as anti-Israel rhetoric," he adds, noting that anti-Semitism is quickly becoming an accepted cultural norm, particularly in Europe.

Specific areas to which Campaign 2004 donations will be allocated include payments to young people who have lost one or more parents in a terror attack; support for trauma centres, summer camps, day care facilities, after-school programs and services for Israel's most vulnerable; building partnerships with non-Jewish community leaders through the new Israel Emergency Cabinet in order to counteract the ongoing spread of anti-Israel hatred; and powerful Israel experience programs with life-long impact for young people, such as *birthright israel*.

Campaign 2004 will feature a multitude of events and speakers, including the upcoming Israel Today Speaker Series, with briefings by distinguished guest lecturers from Israel and around the world, including David Horovitz, editor of *The Jerusalem Report*, Israel Defense Forces military analyst Colonel Miri Eisen, and U.S. foreign policy expert Michael Ledeen. Monthly missions to Israel are continuing as a show of solidarity during these difficult times.

"Our community holds Israel and the Jewish world deep in our hearts," says Venn. "We are remarkable because we have the vision to look beyond our borders. We quickly recognize crisis and we confront it with generosity, confidence and determination. That's what we have to do now," he adds.

Correction

In a June 19 2003 CJN supplement, *Jewish Canada*, published by UIA Federations Canada and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, material was excerpted from a series of demographic studies published by the McGill Consortium for Ethnicity and Strategic Social Planning, and authored by Professor Jim Torczyner. UIA Federations Canada and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto inadvertently omitted the source of information taken from the Consortium study and regret any inconvenience this omission may have caused.

Profiles In Courage

Three women whose lives represent the issues on which UJA Federation Campaign 2004 will be focusing recently spoke to campaign volunteers.

Surviving Terror
Gila Aluf, Jerusalem

Gila Aluf

The courage of Gila Aluf, a recently widowed mother of five from the Jerusalem suburb of Gilo, was clear as she recounted the horrible events of just over a year ago when her husband was killed by a suicide bomber aboard a bus heading to Jerusalem.

"Unfortunately, I am now part of the big family of Israel's victims of terror because my husband was killed in a terrorist attack. Now, I am a mother and a father to our five children," she said.

"Since then, my family has ups and downs, like the waves of the sea, but it is because of the support from the Diaspora – people like you here in Toronto – that we feel we are not alone. We have a connection – as Jews – that gives us strength."

The family received financial support from the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) Victims of Terror Fund, and each of her children received a grant from the JAFI Orphan Fund, which they can access at the age of 21. These funds are directly supported by UJA Federation annual campaigns.

"These funds are so important," she said. "They give us hope. When they are 21 years old, my kids will use that money that is now in the bank, maybe for an apartment, maybe to get married. All of them will use it to make their lives better."

Fleeing Hatred
Clara Beilor, Paris

Clara Beilor

When Clara Beilor, 26, speaks about making aliyah from her native France, it becomes clear that France's loss is Israel's gain.

"I cannot tell you what an incredible feeling it is now to wake up each morning in a country where you belong, a country where you no longer have to justify being a Jew. There has not been a single day since making aliyah that I have regretted my decision," she said.

"I simply could no longer live in a country where my friends who wore *kippot* were attacked, yelled at, or spat on for no other reason that they were Jews," she noted.

Beilor credited JAFI for making her aliyah an especially successful one, but she is not so optimistic when it comes to the future of Jews in France.

"I don't think there is any life, any future, in France," she said. It's an incredible feeling to see Toronto's Jewish community with billboards and posters for UJA, which is openly raising money for Israel. In France, those signs would be set on fire."

Empowering a New Jewish Generation
Aliza Libman, Toronto

Aliza Libman

For many Jewish university students, the challenge of responding to attacks against Israel and confronting intimidation on campus is a daily occurrence – one with which Aliza Libman is all too familiar.

"Many people say that the problems of the Middle East are far away and isolated in that part of the world," says Libman, a student at Toronto's York University. "For me however, those problems are only nine minutes away – the time it takes me to get to York every day."

Libman is one of Canada's university students who has witnessed – firsthand – a significant resurgence of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism on Canadian campuses.

"Over the last year, I have noticed a significant change in the atmosphere on campus," said Libman, 19. "Jewish students are feeling more intimidated and anxious than ever when it comes to standing up for what they believe. They need the answers and training necessary to take a proud stand in support of Israel and the Jewish world." And, often, she added, faculty members are the problem.

"I can understand some professors wanting to talk about politics, but I don't agree with them dictating their beliefs to students in class," she explained. "It's wrong, it's inappropriate, and it makes people uncomfortable."

Cyclist rides across Canada for heart fund

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

These days, you're much more likely to find Jeremy Brans travelling along the winding backroads of the Canadian countryside than sitting in a Second Cup in downtown Toronto.

Sporting about six weeks worth of facial hair as he sits for an interview, the 27-year-old sheepishly admits that he's drinking his first cup of coffee in more than a month.

Brans is in the middle of realizing a lifelong dream of cycling more than 7,500 kilometres from Vancouver to St. John's, Nfld. He began his journey June 14 and aims to finish at the end of August.

Taking a one-day break in his hometown, he has just enough time for a bike tune-up and an interview.

Brans says he's had a passion for cycling since his dad first taught him how to ride without training wheels. His father, an avid cyclist, suffered a stroke more than a year ago.

By biking across Canada, Brans hopes to raise $10,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. So far he has collected $6,000. People can make pledges and track his progress on his Web site (www.whereisjer.com).

When I ask, Brans pauses for several seconds to consider what it is he loves about cycling.

"It's just so amazing that a human being can propel themselves that far without depending on anything," he finally says.

Brans had to pack light for his three-month trip. A small panier he attached above the back wheel of his bike holds his pack and tent. He said the total weight of his belongings is about 40-60 lbs.

Brans says he has also had to modify his eating habits since "the biggest fear is running out of juice."

While the average male consumes about 2,000 calories a day, Brans must eat more than triple that amount. Each day he eats six meals consisting of carbohydrate-rich foods such as pasta.

"You would think one of the the cool things about it is that you could eat whatever you want. It actually becomes such a chore," says a wiry and lean Brans.

While most people would expect the Rockies to be the hardest stretch, Brans says he found the Prairies much more punishing.

To amuse himself during the "large patches of nothingness," Brans says he began to talk with cows in nearby fields. When he rode by, he would moo and watch as the cattle turned their heads.

Besides boredom, another low point of the Prairies was being at the mercy of fierce winds. When headwinds blew against his bike, Brans said he would crawl at about 15 kilometres per hour, as opposed to the usual 25 to 30.

On days when the winds blew in his direction, Brans could do "200 kilometres without blinking."

Another thing Brans didn't expect to find was the brutally steep terrain north of Lake Superior.

"I would compare it to some of the hardest days in the Rockies," he says.

Jeremy Brans

Brans says his favourite part of his trip so far has been exchanging stories with fellow cyclers.

"I'm always happiest when I have a good chat with someone," he says.

At the end of each day, he meets up with his biking partner Tovi Heilbron to rest and talk, but he and Tovi cycle alone most of the time.

Brans usually asks farmers in the area if he can camp out on their lawns. He says he's met some fascinating people this way.

"In Toronto, you're really isolated from what the rest of Canada is really like," he says.

Brans and Heilbron experienced the kind and helpful nature of small-town Canadians when they got into an accident four hours outside of Winnipeg.

Brans was riding closely in front of Heilbron on the highway's narrow shoulder. When Brans stopped his bike suddenly, Heilbron slammed into his back tire and both tumbled onto the pavement.

While Heilbron went to a hospital get stitches on his chin, Brans hitched a ride to Winnipeg to fix his back tire, "which had basically disintegrated."

The bike shop refused to take Brans' money and almost every car pulled over to offer him a ride.

"If you ever want to hitchhike across Canada, just bring a bike and leave it on the side of the road and wave as if you're helpless. Everyone stops," he says.

After his stopover in Toronto, Brans is planning to spend a day or two in Ottawa and Quebec City. He says he is looking forward to seeing the Plains of Abraham and the Chateau Frontenac.

"It's like relearning all your Grade 8 history," he says.

Next he's following the Gaspé Peninsula out to the Maritimes.

He will return to his job as a management consultant, from which he took four months of unpaid leave, at the end of August.

For Brans, cycling is an ideal way to see the country.

"One of the greatest times of day is when the sun is kind of setting and you've got a tailwind, and you're cycling down a farm road, no cars around, and you kind of look to the side and you see the shadow of your legs pumping up and down. It's like seeing a mirror. You see the road ahead of you and you say, 'Wow. I'm going to St. John's.'"

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Senior Educator at Aish HaTorah Jerusalem

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A FAMILY SYNAGOGUE EMPHASIZING THE WARMTH OF TORAH TRADITION

OBITUARY

Gutman Adam (George Adams) ז"ל

on Sunday August 10, 2003. Beloved husband of the late Ida Baron Gutman. Father of Betty, and Dr. Jimmy Gutman. Father-in-law of Susan Schafer and Greg Kudray. Brother-in-law of Albert Baron and Sylvia Gutman. Grandfather of Evan and Bianca. Uncle of Debby, Judy and Stephen Mermelstein, Fran Parker and Shelly Cohen. Admired by thousands. Died gently in the presence of his family. Leaves behind a legacy of art, music and poetry. An accomplished and charitable mentor for the entire community regardless of color, race or creed. Our greatest thanks to the loving and caring staff of Manoir Pierrefonds. Funeral service took place at Paperman and Sons 3888 Jean Talon W. on Tuesday August 12, 2003 at 10:45 a.m. Burial at the Radomer Society section, Mount Pleasant Cemetary Duvernay. Shiva at his son's home. Donations may be made to the Montreal Symphony Orchestra in memory of Adam Gutman (514) 842-3202.

Web site provides support for bereaved parents

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Spencer Kalpin died five years ago at age 20 months, his parents Leslie and Randy searched for resources to help them deal with their loss.

"We found very little out there for parents who have lost a child, and even less for children who have lost a sibling. It's a unique type of loss," they said.

Feeling alone and without support services, they formed the BabySteps Children's Fund, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to increasing awareness around the issues of child loss and bereavement.

As well, the Kalpins, who have three children – including one who was born after Spencer's death – created a Web site, www.babysteps.com, "in the hope that no parents, sibling, grandparent, uncle, aunt, cousin or friend would ever feel alone as we did," Leslie said.

The name, she said, comes from the baby steps that form the "long and difficult road to recovery from the loss of a child."

As a source of information and consolation for the bereaved, babysteps.com brings together personal stories, pictures, books and book reviews, a memorial area and reference materials to a single reference point.

"It's intended to be a referral, information and support site, and we invite families to submit stories related to their loss. We know that the path to healing is accomplished through sharing sorrow with other people," said Randy, who owns a computer business.

"There is a lot of sadness in the world, and it helps us to know that we can do something. The BabySteps site allows people to acknowledge their loss in a positive way. We know we're getting a wide audience, because we've had people write in at least 30 languages."

He said that an "intertwined, yet separate Web site" is the on-line gift shop at www.babystepsgiftshop.com, which offers personalized baby and children's gifts, and a line of personalized chocolate bars and assorted candy.

All proceeds from the sale of gifts are earmarked for the Spencer Kalpin Memorial Foundation at the Hospital for Sick Children.

"It is a win-win situation. People are buying great gifts, and all money goes towards research.

"This isn't just another sad story. We have a purpose. We hope to reach out to a large number of people who need us," said Leslie, who has promoted the gift line at gift shows and on Rogers Cable.

The Jewish community has been very supportive of their project, she said, "and we keep getting busier and busier. It gives people a good feeling to give to charity, and it gives me something positive to works towards," she said.

Gifts, which can be shipped anywhere in North America or abroad, include a step stool or treasure chest with a child's name in removable letters, a baby or school memory picture frame, hair brushes, pillows, and a coat rack.

"It's a mixed bag," Randy said. "We're promoting the enjoyment of life, on a backdrop of bereavement and sadness."

Leslie and Randy Kalpin

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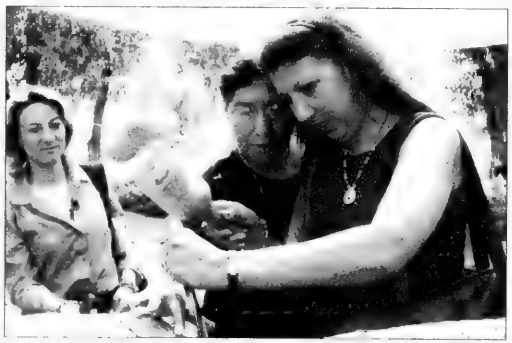

CARVING FOR PEACE: First Nations educators Madeline Little (left) and Sharon McKay carve a small section of a "peace pole," a totem pole created from a 100-year-old tree trunk at Givat Haviva, an education and research centre devoted to peace, located in Israel's northern Sharon Valley. Little and McKay were part of a nine-member delegation of First Nations educators from Manitoba who visited Israel earlier this month under the auspices of B'nai Brith Canada's Holocaust and hope program. Led by Sylvia Bereskin, a Holocaust educator and Givat Haviva supporter, the delegation visited several sites. Before they left Israel, the delegation committed to working with the Jewish community to fight discrimination in Canada. [Lydia Aisenberg photo]

ש'שאר י'נינו

גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

בָּארץ נרשמה ירידה של כשבעה אחוז במשכורת חריאלית בחודשיים האחרונים, כתוצאה ישירה של ההסדרים הכלכליים שנחתמו על ידי האוצר וההסתדרות. זה לא דבר של מה בכך במדינה שבמשך רוב שנות התשעים התקדמה כלכלית בצעדי ענק ועברה בהכנסה האישית מדינות כמו בריטניה. מה שזה אומר בצורה חד משמעית: כשנתנים לישראלים קצת שקט- הם יודעים ליצור ולהתפתח לעילא ולעילא. אבל מה- חוסר הסדר מדיני והמשך האלימות ימשיכו להזיק לתיירות ולהשקעות. יותר מזה- המשך עדיפות לאומית ליהודה ושומרון יזיק לחינוך ולרווחה ויגרום להגדלה מאסיבית של מעגל העוני.

זה לא שיש פתרון קל לבעיית הטרור- אבל עושה רושם שמקבלי ההחלטות בירושלים מפחדים לתת צ'אנס לתהליך. אני מבין ומודהה עם החשדנות כלפי הפלשתינאים, אבל ישראל חייבת לקחת צ'אנס, שאם לא כן- תהפוך המדינה למדינת עולם שלישי עם עוני בלתי מתקבל על הדעת ועם כל הקללות שבאות איתו. אבל שישאר בינינו.

The Color of Water *בת שבע קוין*

סיפורו האוטוביוגרפי של ג'יימס מקבֶּרייד הנרשם כדיאלוג בין בן כושי לאימו הלבנה. ספר שמעורר מחשבה על יחסי הורים וילדים, והדת היהודת והדת הנוצרית. האם היא יהודיה לשעבר, לֶבָנָה לעומת בעליה וילדיה השחורים. הבן עסוק מאוד בבעיית הצבע, בבעיית הזהות והשייכות- הוא שחור, אימו לבנה, הוא גדל כנוצרי, אך מניין הגיעה אימו היהודיה? היא נערה שחונכה במשפחה יהודיה אורתודוקסית הנודדת עם אביה הרב מקהילה לקהילה. היא מתארת לֶבָנָה ילדות של עוני וחוסר אחבה שחביאו אותה למצוקה גדולה. עם נישואיה לשחור- משפחתה יושבת שבעה. היא מתעוררת לחיים חדשים ומלאים בסביבה אפריקאית שחורה. היא מגדלת שמונה ילדים שחורים- כולם הופכים ללמדנים ואקדמאים, כי בלי לימודים אתה נחשב לאף אחד-אומרת האם לילדיה. ובקשר לצבעים- לאהבה יש צבע של מים, היא אומרת.

הספר נכתב בידי בן אוהב הצמא לגלות את עצמו, לדייק ולהתחבר לחיים באשר הם. נפתולי חייו מתגלים בהדרגה וקושרים את השואה והעם היהודי בחייו שלו כאדם כחה עור, נוצרי מלומד באמריקה המתעוררת.

זהו ספר ששווה קריאה למרות הכתיבה המסורבלת לפעמים. האם יכולתם גם אתם לכתוב את סיפור חייכם כדיאלוג? **Riverhead Books;Penguin NY 1996**

סרטים שיעשו לכם טוב

"גידי שלום. שמתי לב שאתה ממלץ בחום על סרטים שונים וגם יצא לי ללכת לסרטים אחרי ההמלצה שלך וזה היה בּוּל קלֹעה. אבל מה, אתה לא רואה לפעמים סרטים גרועים? נִיר יאצקי, טורונטו"

ניר, אם היה לי דולארים כמספר הסרטים הגרועים שאני רואה -הייתי רוטשילד. המדור הזה כל כך קטן שחבל על הזמן-אני נותן רק את הצימוקים ומדלג על הזבל.

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On Campus

Peace is the word for national campus group

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Earlier this year, the Israel Emergency Cabinet, under the auspices of UIA Federations Canada (UIUAFC), allocated $1 million for the 2003/2004 year to fund Israel advocacy initiatives at Canadian universities.

Students will begin to see the results as early as September, according to Lance Davis, 32, director of national Jewish campus life at UIAFC.

UIA's former young leadership director, Davis took on his newly created position in May. A PhD student in modern Jewish thought and social theory at the University of Toronto, Davis worked with Jewish Campus Services (now Hillel of Greater Toronto) from 1995 to 2000.

The new funding, he said, has empowered UIAFC "to be a central resource to the [more than two dozen] campuses across the country and to ensure that action takes place on campus vis-à-vis the Middle East conflict."

The funding, which is over and above the more than $500,000 already allocated to campuses, was a response to a rise in anti-Israel sentiment and activity at Canadian post-secondary institutions, it was announced at the time.

In addition to Davis' job, the funding is underwriting three new staff positions at Hillel Toronto and one each at its counterparts in Montreal, London, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

The money will also go toward staff training, programming for students, funding and Israel programming for student leaders, as well as a Web site that will serve as a student resource, and a Jewish campus life guidebook that is expected to be published in October.

Buildings for Jewish campus groups are also on the agenda. National Jewish Campus Life chair Barbara Bank has worked with philanthropist Albert Latner to develop student facilities in Waterloo, London and Halifax, said Davis. The latter two facilities are expected to open formally this fall.

Davis estimates that only about 5 per cent of Jewish students on campus are what he calls "hard-core" Israel advocates.

"The overwhelming majority of Jews aren't there, and to some degree they're turned off by the rhetoric on both sides. They don't want to be engaged in Israel through politics, but through other things that speak to them, such as music, art, culture and comedy – things that people would be proud to bring their non-Jewish roommate to."

With that in mind, UIAFC's national Jewish campus life department is launching its initial project in mid-September: a cross-Canada campus tour by an Israeli DJ from a Tel Aviv club and an Israeli visual artist who has videotaped scenes from Israeli life reflecting the multicultural, ethnic aspect of Israel.

"We're going to be demonstrating that Israel's a hip, cool place to be," Davis said.

The event, which kicks off in Toronto Sept. 13, will be known as a Party for Peace, reflecting the new initiative's year-long theme of peace. Davis credits local campus staff in different cities for the idea.

"We want to demonstrate that Israel is rooted in peace," said Davis.

He hopes to end the year with a cross-country "peace train" that would bring students from different campuses together, with stops at campuses across the country for programming along the way.

Other initiatives include outreach to non-Jewish student groups on campus, including a subsidized trip to Israel for non-Jewish "friends of Israel."

"Getting students [to] feel positive about Israel isn't going to make things perfect, but it's a step in the right direction," said Davis.

This will be a challenging year, he said, referring to the task of "engaging" roughly double the usual number of first-year students because of the double cohort of Grade 12 and OAC students from Ontario who are entering university next month.

The phasing out of the final high school year will have a ripple effect across the country, with more Ontario students going to university out of province. "We're expecting increases in places like British Columbia and Alberta, and as far east as Halifax," Davis said. "We've increased the allocations to a variety of schools, especially in Ontario, to give them more money to do more programs for more numbers."

Ideally, said Davis, he would like to see peace in Israel. "I want the conflict in the Middle East to feel like ancient history and for us to get down to the work of enhancing Jewish identity and creating a Jewish campus community that's vibrant and exciting."

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Aug. 25, is deadline for Sept. 4 issue and Tuesday, Sept. 2, is deadline for Sept. 11. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Saturday, Aug. 23

SINGLES WINE TASTING

Join Dynamic Singles for Grape Expectations, an opportunity to taste fine wines with singles 21-35 and wine expert **Rachel Grafstein**. 9:30 p.m. at 37 Southbourne Ave. $10, pre-registration advised. Call 416-635-5340 or e-mail rachel@adathisrael.com.

Sunday, Aug. 24

MISSIONARY SEMINAR

Learn to respond to those who challenge your faith at an all-day counter missionary survival seminar with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th Floor. Advance registration required. Call 905-761-0040. No charge for seminar, lunch available for $10.

SINGLES SOCIAL EVENING

An evening of board games for singles ages 21-35 and 40-69 at Beth Torah Synagogue, 47 Glenbrook Ave., at 7:30 p.m. Admission $6, early bird bingo 7:30 to 8 p.m. Refreshments and prizes. For information, e-mail mollie_rothman@yahoo.ca or call **Mollie** at 416-733-3634.

Tuesday, Aug. 26

OAKVILLE HEBREW SCHOOL

Shaarei-Beth El in Oakville, is holding a Hebrew school information night at 7 p.m. at 186 Morrison Rd. The evening is an opportunity for parents to meet the teachers, learn about the curriculum and find out about special events and activities planned for the 2003-2004 school year. Call 905-849-6000 for information.

CELTIC & KLEZMER

Am Shalom Congregation of Barrie presents a fundraising concert featuring klezmer musicians **Martin van de Ven** and **Brian Katz** and guest **Paul Gellman**. Opening the concert will be Celtic and folk musicians, **Dan Hadfield and Friends, Johanne Fischer** and **Liz** and **Jerry Levine**. The concert will be held at Theatre by the Bay, Heritage Park, Barrie at 8 p.m. Tickets $25. Call the box office at 705-735-9243 or Am Shalom voice mail at 705-721-6126.

Wednesday, Aug. 27

JOKERS & HUMOUR GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group will hold their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at the Antibes Community Centre. For information and registration call **Irv Helpert** 416-661-2541.

Other News

TORAH DEDICATION

A new Torah will be dedicated by **Chaya** and **Gershon Wachtel** to the Chabad Lubavitch Community Centre, 770 Chabad Gate, to commemorate the ninth yahrzeit of their son. Thursday, Aug. 28. The procession will begin at 140 Esther Cres. at 6 p.m.

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

You can help Israel by volunteering at an IDF supply-maintenance base for a minimum of two weeks. Find out more at a Sar-El (Canadian Volunteers for Israel) information night, Thursday, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. For information, call 416-781-6089 or visit www.serve.com/CVI.

FAMILY FUN DAY AT CAMP

Join Canadian Friends of Hebrew University, alumni and new leadership division for a day of outdoor adventure and entertainment for the whole family, Sunday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Camp Robin Hood. Activities include kosher bar-

Continued on page 23

67 year old loses 20 pounds

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What's New

Continued from page 22

becue, lunch, swimming, canoeing, low ropes course, volleyball, basketball, mini-golf, wall climbing, face painting, games, dancing, singing and more. Call 416-485-8000 or visit www.cfhu.org for tickets and information.

HEBREW SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Jewish Centre for Learning and Living in the Sobey's plaza at Bathurst Street and Rutherford Road in Thornhill is now accepting applications for Sunday School. Classes begin Sept. 7. Call 905-762-0566 for information about the school and bar/bat mitzvah classes.

WINCHEVSKY CONCERT

The Morris Winchevsky School will celebrate its 75th anniversary with a reunion concert, Klez-More!! The evening features Toronto musicians The Klezmer Swingtet, led by **Jonno Lightstone**, with **Tony Quarrington** and **Jordan Klapman**; **Dave Wall** and **Marilyn Werner**; and **Batsheva**. **Sharon Hampson** of Sharon, Lois & Bram will MC. Everyone is invited to join the celebration on Sunday, Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. at the Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. W. Tickets are $35, $25 for students and seniors, and include a post-concert reception. Inner Circle tickets at $75 are also available; a receipt for the charitable portion will be issued. For more information, call 416-789-5502, fax 416-789-5981, e-mail mws@on.aibn.com or visit www.winchevskycentre.org.

ESSAY CONTEST WINNER:
David Zvi Epstein, a student at Yeshivat Or Chaim, was one of 12 winners in the annual Kaplun Essay Contest. Students in grades 7 to 12 write about a given topic on a Jewish theme. Epstein is seen with Aaron Seligson, co-chair of contest and president of the Morris J. and Betty Kaplun Foundation, at the awards luncheon in New York.

SUPPORT GROUP

Are you looking after an aging parent? Sharing The Caring is a support group that meets every Tuesday evening from 6 to 7:30 p.m. beginning Oct. 7 at the Baycrest Geriatric Centre, 3560 Bathurst St. A social worker leads the discussion. No charge. For information, call **Mona Munro** at 416-785-2500 ext. 2253.

WOMEN'S GROUP

New members wanted for a women's discussion group in Thornhill. The group is made up of women 40-50ish who like to discuss a variety of topics, books and movies and meets monthly, usually on the third Thursday of the month from September to June. Reviews are led by professionals; conversation is stimulating, fun and lively. Call **Sandy** 905-889-6705 or **Betty** 905-886-3130 for more information.

BOWLERS WANTED

Join Sons of Jacob Bowling League, a 10-pin bowling league open to bowlers of all age, Monday nights, 8 p.m. at Playtime Bowl. For information, call **Harry** after 6 p.m., 905-737-3860.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting will take place on Thursday, Aug. 28, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. The meeting will include the installation of the new executive and guest speaker, **Susan Jackson** of UJA Federation, speaking about The Spirit of Volunteerism. Call **Tammy** at 416-635-2800 for information.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Aug. 21, movie; Aug. 28, free discussion. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday in August; Aug. 28, Casino Niagara; Sept. 14, dance with a live band; Nov. 18-21, Soaring Eagle Casino. Bridge every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. Bingo every Tuesday at 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

Seniors Bowling meets every other Saturday night and has openings for new bowlers. The mixed league meets from September to June. For information, call **Sydney Fox** at 416-633-7305.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Sunday Afternoon Tea Dance with **Tom Weiss and His Esquires**, Sunday, Aug. 24 from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Members $3, non-members $6.

Jews on Broadway, a concert with **Gloria Valentine** and **Nina Shapilsky**, Monday, Aug. 25, 7 p.m. Members $3, non-members $6.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Aug. 26, sing-along; Sept. 2, political lecture; Sept. 9, Israeli movie; Sept. 16, concert. For information, call **Anna**, ext.110.

WAGMAN CENTRE
55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

It's never too late to look after your bones. If you are a senior living with osteoporosis, register for the fall session of POWER, a 7-week wellness program that covers exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes start on Oct. 20. Registration is $70. For information, call ext. 2588.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

The community is invited to free swimming on Sundays for the month of August, 12 to 5 p.m. Both lane and recreational swimming will be available.

Lifesaving Society's Water Smart Contest, Who's Your Buddy? An art contest for children under 7 and a writing contest for 8-14 year olds. Prizes in each category. All entries must be submitted by 4 p.m., Sept. 19.

Look for fall programs for adults and children at the almost renovated JCC. Registration begins Sunday, Aug. 31.

Adults programs include: Hebrew Marathon, Beginner Hebrew, Yiddish for Beginners, The Modern Jewish Short Story, Klezmer 101. Or join one of the JCC choirs.

Children programs include:

Ages 3 months to 5 years – Infant Centre, Creating Together and Now You're Two.

After school Program, ages 5 to 13 years, starts Sept. 2.

Call the JCC or go to the Web site for registration and information.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

Come see the new pool! Short-term memberships available.

Register for fall programs at the Koffler Centre. New classes are available in visual art (including photography and calligraphy), music, dance and drama. For information, call **Perlie**, ext 269.

Koffler School of Music is holding auditions for the Nashir Children's Choir, formerly Koffler Renanim, with **Allan Friedman** and **Debra Aronson**. To book an audition, call ext. 228.

Koffler Music registrations open for fall classes private piano, flute, recorder, violin, guitar and saxophone classes for kids; percussion, adult band; adult sing-along; Royal Conservatory Group Classes, age 0-6; and Suzuki piano, violin and cello. Call ext. 228

Register now for fall drama classes at Leah Posluns Theatre School. Call ext. 464 for information or ext. 231 to register.

DIG/DUG at the Koffler Gallery with the seven exhibiting artists: **Isaac Applebaum, Adam Brickell, Adrian Fish, Simon Glass, Katherine Knight, Arthur Renwick** and **bh yael**. Moderated by guest curator **Vid Ingelevics**. Admission is free. DIG/DUG is a two-part curatorial project featuring lens-based installations developed by the artists for this presentation. Unfolding an "archeology" of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, the artists' projects are inspired by the building and grounds as a physical site, and as a social environment whose history is reflected in its programs and facilities.

NEW JWI EXECUTIVE: Jewish Women International recently installed its new executive for 2003-2004. Pictured, from left, are: Sharon Dagan, vice-president; Janice Goldstein, vice-president; Rhona Ash, president; and Eleanor Mayne, vice-president.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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Coast to Coast

Why don't journalists report the facts?

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

How difficult is it for journalists to unambiguously establish basic facts?

Several years ago, at a CBC forum titled "Journalism and the Politics of Identity," the highly respected Canadian writer and academic Michael Ignatieff expressed the reporter's obligation well when he cautioned journalists against equating objectivity with including balanced statements from both sides of a conflict.

"Refuse the relativization of truth," he argued. "There are facts, they can be established, they can be discerned, they can be presented."

In reporting on Israel's recent limited military action against Hezbollah bases in southern Lebanon ("Israel strikes Lebanon after town shelled," *Toronto Star*, Aug. 11), Associated Press (AP) reporter Gavin Rabinowitz was very fair, emphasizing that Israel attempted to exercise restraint in the face of mounting Hezbollah attacks across the northern border. Nevertheless, like many other journalists, Rabinowitz referred to the Shebaa Farms area ("Har Dov" in Israeli terms) – the scene of Hezbollah artillery fire on Israeli troops on Aug. 8 – as "disputed" land. But as Rabinowitz's very next sentence reveals, there is no dispute: "Shebaa Farms *is* part of the occupied Golan Heights seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war." (Emphasis added.)

Indeed, the international community, through UN certification, has established that Shebaa Farms is not Lebanese territory, thus depriving Hezbollah of any valid rationale for attacking Israeli troops. The fact that Hezbollah, along with Lebanon and Syria, claims Shebaa Farms to be part of Lebanon proves only that Hezbollah, backed by Syria and Iran, is desperate to find a reason for its violent activities, not that Shebaa Farms is "disputed."

Reporting for BBC World (seen on CBC Newsworld) on Aug. 10, James Rodgers said: "The renewed hostilities on the Israeli-Lebanese border began on [Aug. 8] after seven months of calm. Hezbollah shelled Israeli army posts in Shebaa Farms, an area which they claim is Lebanese territory." Missing was any reference either to what Israel claims or, more important, to what the UN, has determined to be the case.

Even the *National Post*, in an article cobbled together from AP, Reuters and Agence France-Presse ("Israel Bombs Hezbollah in Lebanon," Aug. 11), included the following: "[On Aug. 8], Israel and Hezbollah exchanged artillery fire over a disputed area near the confluence of the Syrian, Lebanese and Israeli borders…" Again, no mention was made of the fact that the UN has declared this region – a very small area – to belong to Syria, not to Lebanon.

Speaking of facts, in his otherwise excellent report from Syria, the *Globe and Mail*'s Alan Freeman ("Syria's foreign policy caught in bygone era," Aug. 11) writes, "Damascus still refuses to condemn such groups as the Palestinian Hamas, or Hezbollah, which controls southern Lebanon, even though the Americans see them as terrorists."

Freeman doesn't mention that far from failing to condemn Hezbollah, Syria is actively promoting it, in flagrant violation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 (March 19, 1978). UN Resolution 425 calls on the Lebanese government to take control of the south and also calls "for strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries." Israel complied fully by unilaterally withdrawing from its southern security zone in Lebanon in May 2000. Syria, which occupies Lebanon, remains in violation of Resolution 425 to this day – while, ironically, presiding over the UN Security Council this month as its president.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Israeli youth orchestra visits Ottawa

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Close to 400 people jammed the concert hall of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre for a sold-out performance by the Kfar Saba Youth Orchestra during their visit to Ottawa earlier this month.

Before heading to Montreal on its North American tour, the 50-piece ensemble of teenage musicians performed at three different venues during its first-ever visit to the nation's capital. A Sunday afternoon performance in the amphitheatre of the National Gallery preceded the SJCC concert later that evening.

Under the direction of conductor Rafi Primo, the musicians performed a varied repertoire of classical, folk and popular songs, including *My Yiddishe Mama* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

After the concert, plaques of appreciation were given to Primo and Evgeni Weinbrand, the orchestra's second conductor, who was "discovered" by Primo while working as a security guard in a parking garage in Tel Aviv. He had been a high-ranking officer in the Russian army as well as an orchestra conductor.

Kfar Saba, a town of about 75,000 people, is northeast of Tel Aviv. The youth orchestra is run by the Kfar Saba Music Foundation, which provides music education in the city's schools and supports its youth bands and music groups. The orchestra has performed throughout the world, including at the White House.

Their visit was sponsored by the Vered Israel Cultural & Educational Program, the Friends of the 39th Ottawa Scout Troop, the Embassy of Israel and the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation. The musicians were billeted with local families.

Naturalization records for 1915-32 now online

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

People doing research on relatives who became Canadian citizens in the early 20th century now have an online resource that is part of a federal government Web site.

The Canadian Genealogy Centre has launched a new database that contains references to about 200,000 immigrants from 84 countries outside the British Commonwealth who applied for and received status as naturalized Canadians from 1915 to 1932. The information is searchable by surname, given name and country. A search can also be done using possible name variations.

The database was created in partnership with the Jewish genealogical societies of Montreal and Ottawa (JGS). The Canadian Genealogy Centre, a joint service of the National Library and National Archives of Canada, provides electronic access to the country's genealogical resources.

The Montreal JGS was responsible for the digitization of the new database and the Ottawa group funded it.

Montreal JGS president Stanley Diamond said the data was collected through annually published government records known as the Secretary of State sessional papers, which were previously almost unknown to the public. Some 4,000 pages in total, they were available in only a few libraries in crumbling unindexed volumes across the country. Some of them are in microform, which is laborious to use.

Diamond described the records as a "gold mine" for genealogists and other researchers, particularly those with Jewish ancestors. The JGS estimates that about 40 per cent of the 200,000 persons listed are Jewish.

"This was the period of the highest rate of Jewish immigration. Although religion is not included, the countries of origin, like Poland and Russia, and the names we've seen so far, make us confident that 40 per cent is not too high," he said. Those emigrating from Great Britain or elsewhere in the Commonwealth did not need to be naturalized before 1947.

Most of the digitized pages include, in addition to the name of the applicant and country of origin, names of wives and children, date the certificate was issued or the oath of allegiance taken, occupation, residence and certificate number and series. With this last information, an Access to Information request can be sent to Citizenship and Immigration Canada for the entire naturalization file on the person, including any RCMP security investigations.

The reports are useful to those whose ancestors came earlier than 1915 as well, Diamond points out. Five years' residency was required to apply for naturalization.

"We have found that many waited 10, 15 or even 20 years to apply," said Diamond. "My uncle Sam, who came to Montreal in 1898 at about age nine from Poland, didn't became a citizen until 1923 – 25 years later – when he was moving to the United States and needed it." Naturalization was not mandatory.

The process that led to the database project began in 1997. Diamond was alerted to the existence of the sessional papers by political science professor Mel Himes, who had found them in a McGill University library. Although he is a veteran genealogist, Diamond had not heard of them, but he was excited by the news.

"Up to now, there were no publicly available documents related to Canadian naturalizations. All one could do was send in a request to the government and hope for a positive reply. Often genealogists are told the papers cannot be found, or they are frustrated because they do not know their ancestor's original name or spelling."

Alan Greenberg, a retired McGill computer science professor and Montreal JGS executive member, was asked to do a preliminary spreadsheet of some of the data and saw the possibilities.

The National Library put Diamond in touch with its systems librarian, Donna Dinberg, who is also a volunteer with the Ottawa JGS. She knew about the papers through Lawrence Tapper, a longtime archivist at the National Archives and founding president of the Ottawa JGS in 1995.

Tapper recognized the records' value to genealogists, but at the time, the technology to make them usable online was not readily available. In March 1997, Dinberg and Tapper proposed to the National Library that it collaborate with the JGS in making the information accessible to the public. The library liked the idea but did not have the manpower to undertake the project.

Diamond learned that the government did not publicize the print volumes because they are liable to be damaged by frequent handling due to their fragility. The two genealogical societies understood this fear and did not broadcast the news of their "discovery" either.

The genealogical societies decided to take on the project themselves, not realizing the technical challenges. Scanning the microforms proved disappointing. The scanned paper version was also unsatisfactory, and expensive.

Finally, the Montreal JGS, through Greenberg, reached an agreement with McGill's rare books and special collections division, which had recently purchased state-of-the-art, camera-based scanning equipment that would not injure the delicate book bindings.

Costs would be reasonable because students did the actual scanning in the summer of 2001. Diamond's wife Ruth did the indexing of first and last names.

The genealogical societies agreed that the data and images would be a gift to a Canadian institution. Then they had to find a host Web site.

At the same time, the National Library and Archives were setting up the Canadian Genealogy Centre, which was launched this past March. When they were approached about the new database, they were enthusiastic; this was the type of co-operation with community groups they were looking for. The agreement reached last September was, in fact, their first with a genealogy society.

"Knowing that our efforts will be of benefit to genealogists of all backgrounds for years to come gives us a sense of pride and fulfilment," Diamond said. "We hope others will be inspired to find hidden or not easily accessible resources and to follow our path."

A second phase of the project, to digitize the records from 1933 to 1951, is now under discussion, Diamond said.

The Canadian Genealogical Centre Web site is www.genealogy.gc.ca.

Lebanese ambassador's comments anger community leaders

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Community leaders are pressing Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham to take action against Lebanon's Ambassador to Canada after the envoy made what Canadian Jewish Congress calls "reprehensible comments" about Jews for the second time in less than a year.

Raymond Baaklini recently told a weekly Arabic language newspaper in Montreal that the media's "exaggeration" about Lebanon's arrest of Canadian missionary Bruce Balfour, who is charged with collaborating with Israel, was due to the fact the Canadian news media is controlled by pro-Israel owners.

Last December, Baaklini similarly commented that Ottawa outlawed the terrorist group Hezbollah because of pressure from a "Zionist party" that he said "controls 90 per cent of Canadian media."

Graham met with the ambassador in January after CJC requested that an appropriate reprimand be administered, "but at that time, Baaklini did not retract his comments about Jews, and only regretted that his comments caused offence and that they created a controversy," CJC said last week in statement.

"It is unacceptable for a foreign envoy to make disparaging comments about a particular community in a host country," said Moshe Ronen, chair of CJC's board of governors.

"Mr. Baaklini must stop overstepping his diplomatic boundaries immediately and abide by Canadian norms of civility in public discourse," Ronen said.

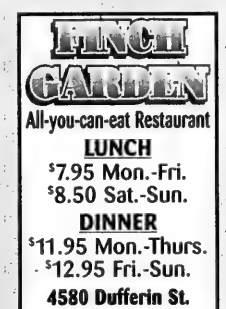
Graham must "make it crystal clear that if Ambassador Baaklini cannot refrain from making prejudiced allegations, he is unwelcome to represent his country in Canada," Ronen said.

Rochelle Wilner, president of B'nai Brith Canada, called on the government to expel Baaklini.

"These comments mirror the ones he made last winter... Even if he doesn't use the word 'Jewish' this time round, we all know what he's talking about," Wilner said in a statement.

"It's obvious that [he] learned nothing from his meeting after the last time he made offensive comments like this. He's had his chance. Now it's time for him to go back to Lebanon," she said.

Representatives in Graham's office could not be reached for comment by *The CJN*'s deadline.



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- The current Israeli recession is the worst in Israel's history. Nearly 300,000 Israelis are out of work, government benefits have been cut and most Israelis report a reduced standard of living.

- The number of violent anti-Semitic incidents around the world rose by 36% last year.

- Many Canadian university students face constant anti-Israel intimidation on campus.

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2 Stepped up efforts to combat a worldwide wave of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic hatred, through the new national Israel Emergency Cabinet.

3 Education and training for our next Jewish generation to answer those who preach anti-Israel hatred.

For further information, contact us at 416.631.5705
www.jewishtoronto.net

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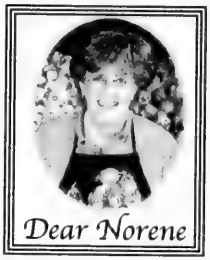
What will tomorrow hold if we don't act today?

About Food

Writer Judy Gruen and I had our first culinary connection when she called from California several months ago to order a copy of my cookbook *MealLeaniYumm!* She was looking for easy, healthy recipes in her quest for thinness and a friend had recommended my book to her. When she told me she was writing a book called *Till We Eat Again: Confessions of a Diet Dropout*, I asked her to send me a review copy.



What a terrific read! Written in diary form, it is a hilarious account of her struggles with trying to lose 15 pounds for a college reunion. Judy pokes fun at herself and the diet industry, describing her adventures with various health food and exercise fanatics, personal trainers, exercise videos, Weight Watchers, exercise boot camp, boxing classes, health clubs such as Flab-No-More, belly dancing and… strip aerobics.

"I really did virtually everything I wrote about, with the exception of the strip aerobics, which I was too chicken to do!" Judy says.

"Everything else I really did, and I couldn't have written about it otherwise."

Till We Eat Again: Confessions of a Diet Dropout will make you laugh out loud at the crazy things people do when trying to lose weight. Thank goodness laughing burns calories – I lost three pounds by "laughing my weigh" through Judy's weight-loss adventures! You can get your own copy through www.judygruen.com or www.amazon.ca.

Till We Eat Again doesn't contain recipes, so I asked Judy to share one of her favourites for my column. She adapted this delicious salad from *Jane Brody's Good Food Book*. The original recipe called for 3 cups of cooked rice, but Judy substituted soba (buckwheat) noodles. She omitted the dry mustard and radishes, increased the oil and vinegar and added Chinese five spice to the dressing.

Judy says, "I like this kind of recipe because you can easily substitute other vegetables of your choice. I am also likely to add diced red pepper and jicama, for color, texture and flavour. My kids love baby corn, so I might toss that in. You can make this recipe your own by playing with the contents, but the dressing really is what makes it special. So don't be chicken and enjoy."

ORIENTAL CHICKEN AND PASTA SALAD

Salad:

2 cups cooked slivered chicken breasts (tip: marinating breasts first adds flavour)
16 oz. soba noodles (available in health food stores; or you can substitute your favourite pasta)
1 cup sliced celery
1 cup bean sprouts
½ cup sliced scallions
¼ lb. snow peas, blanched for one minute, then cut diagonally
1 tbsp. toasted sesame seeds
1 cup watercress or other hearty greens

Dressing:

3 tbsp. reduced-sodium soy sauce
3 tbsp. rice vinegar or white wine vinegar
2 tbsp. Oriental sesame oil
2 tbsp. salad oil
1 tbsp. minced fresh ginger (fresh ginger has a special kick)
2 cloves minced garlic
½ tsp. sugar
¼ tsp. ground black pepper
¼ tsp. Chinese five spice powder

Combine all dressing ingredients. Add cooked slivered chicken and let stand at least 30 minutes.

Add all other salad ingredients, except for the greens. Toss salad. Add greens just before serving, and toss again. Serves four generously.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

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More than 5,000 celebrate at Birthright Israel gala in Jerusalem

By DANIEL HOROWITZ
Special to the CJN

JERUSALEM — The festivities actually began an hour before the big event last week as 5,500 Birthright Israel participants began filing into Jerusalem's International Convention Centre for a spectacular party.

Loud chants of "Israel, Israel" echoed across the convention centre parking lot. The auditorium itself was an overwhelming sea of blue and white as Jewish young adults from 21 countries, including 500 from Canada, celebrated their stay in Israel. The Canadians hoisted a huge maple leaf flag when their delegation was announced.

This summer has been the most successful ever for Canadian participation in Birthright Israel. Between May and the end of August this year, 1,600 young people from Canada will have joined a Birthright Israel experience, which offers free trips to Israel to students who have never been to Israel before on an organized tour.

The Birthright gala featured Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; Natan Sharansky, the Israeli cabinet minister responsible for Diaspora relations; Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, the philanthropists who founded Birthright Israel; Jewish Agency chair Sallai Meridor and the music of Gaya, one of Israel's hottest bands, which contributed to the electric atmosphere inside the room.

After extending his condolences to the families of those who were killed in two suicide bombings that day, Sharon acknowledged the presence of Birthright's first-ever Cuban delegation, made possible by Canada Israel Experience, UIA Federations Canada and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

"I had some worries on my mind before tonight," Sharon said. "But seeing all of you, I have no worries. I am still optimistic because of you. For many, this is your first visit to Israel, but I am sure that it will not be your last."

"Israel is not only an Israeli project, it is a worldwide Jewish project," Sharon added. "All of you are responsible for what happens here in the future, and what happens here will affect Jewish life around the world."

"It was a sad day in Israel today, but your presence here tonight shows what Israel is all about, that we will never give up. Am Yisrael Chai," Meridor said.

"This is just incredible. It's an absolute outpouring of Judaism. Everyone in this auditorium tonight is rejoicing in being Jewish. This celebration – just like Birthright Israel itself – surpassed all expectations. Tonight shows that all Jews belong in Israel," said a barely audible Daniel Rotman, 19, from Toronto.

"I got shivers just by being here tonight," said an overwhelmed Rinat Coren, 21, also of Toronto. "The feeling of celebrating my life as a Jew with thousands of other proud Jews is really too much to put into words."

Dan Horowitz is senior communications co-ordinator for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

More than 5,000 Birthright Israel participants, including 500 from Canada, celebrated together last week. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the young crowd that they make him feel optimistic about his country's future. [Israel photo]

Pollard to get a day in court in latest twist of famous spy case

By EDWIN BLACK
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sept. 2, 2003 will be a big day for Jonathan Pollard: that's the day the American Jewish spy is going to get another day in court.

Pollard's lawyers will have 40 minutes in a U.S. court to explain why they should be permitted to continue efforts to rescind the life sentence he received 18 years ago for committing espionage for Israel.

Years of tenacious motions by attorneys Jacques Semmelman and Eliot Lauer either have been vigorously opposed by government attorneys or allowed to languish in the court.

Now U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Hogan has granted Pollard and his attorneys – who are working on the case pro bono – a hearing.

Semmelman and Lauer will get 30 minutes to argue why they should be permitted to appeal, the government can take a half hour to respond, and then Pollard's attorneys will be granted 10 minutes for the last word.

So pivotal is the hearing that the judge has ordered federal prison officials in Butner, N.C., to shuttle Pollard to the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., for the event.

Prison officials said they are uncertain whether U.S. marshals would fly Pollard to the nation's capital or drive.

"Normally, we drive them for a mere six-hour trip," a prison spokesperson said, "but a high-profile prisoner like Pollard might be flown."

He added that arrangements would be made for Pollard's kosher meals.

Despite mounds of legal briefs and well-researched citations, Pollard's hearing boils down to two issues:

- Was the ex-naval intelligence officer convicted in March 1987 on the basis of a misleading secret 46-page affidavit?
- Was he denied due process by a defence attorney who declined to file a routine appeal after Judge Aubrey Robinson stunned Pollard and threw a crowded courtroom into pandemonium with an unexpected life sentence? The life sentence violated the prosecutor's plea agreement to not ask for life in exchange for Pollard's co-operation.

Then-U.S. secretary of defence Caspar Weinberger submitted the secret affidavit at virtually the last minute at Robinson's personal request.

In the affidavit, Weinberger wrote: "It is difficult for me, in the so-called 'year of the spy' to conceive of a greater harm to national security."

The message, backed up with some 20 classified documents, was clear: Give Pollard a life sentence – regardless of the written plea agreement.

Fifteen years later, Weinberger conceded that "the Pollard matter was comparatively minor. It was made far bigger than its actual importance."

Pressed on why this was so, Weinberger replied, "I don't know why – it just was."

Attorneys Semmelman and Lauer have been filing motion after motion to see the supposedly secret documents so they can adequately appeal.

But their efforts have been denied on the grounds of national security, even though they have been granted the necessary security clearances. Semmelman is a former U.S. attorney. The documents concern sources and methods used two decades ago, before the proliferation of personal computers.

The second question asks whether Pollard was denied due process on account of "ineffective assistance of counsel," according to the motion.

Pollard's attorney at the time, Richard Hibey, has been widely criticized for inaction. He failed to object when prosecutors violated the plea agreement and asked for life, failed to call for an evidentiary hearing on Weinberger's secret affidavit, and then – to the surprise of most observers – declined to file the routine notice of appeal in the 10 days allotted.

For years, Hibey has dodged all questions on his representation of Pollard.

Despite the hearing, there are few prospects for a Pollard release in the immediate future.

Even if Semmelman and Lauer were granted the opportunity to appeal – consistently denied because Hibey failed to file the 10-day notice – it might take another year or two for any decision.

Pollard already has served far longer than the average for people convicted of spying either for enemies of the United States or its allies.

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Aliyah from Argentina slows down as country's economic crisis eases

By FLORENCIA ARBISER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUENOS AIRES — At the beginning of the year, Adriana Faerman filled out every application at the local office of the Jewish Agency for Israel, planning to leave her native Argentina for Israel.

The painter, sculptor and photographer had decided that aliyah was the right move for her and her three children. But a few weeks ago Faerman, 44, changed her mind. She decided to stay in Argentina.

She's not alone. A record 6,325 Argentine Jews made aliyah last year. More than 2,600 did so during the first half of the year.

But this year, only 485 made aliyah during the same period.

The reason, experts say, is the expectation that financial conditions may improve in Argentina, a country that may be emerging from nearly two years of economic free fall.

"In a country of immigrants, many did what their grandparents had done from despair: search for a better land," said Patricio Abramzon, a political scientist who is finishing a master's degree in international migration.

Abramzon also is a consultant to Jewish institutions and co-ordinator of workshops at the local office of the Argentine intelligence services.

"There is an opening and hope that things might improve," he said. "The psychosis is over."

Two months ago, Nestor Kirchner was elected Argentine president in democratic elections, a sign of stability. And official unemployment has fallen to 15.6 per cent, down from 20 per cent a few months ago.

Employment consulting companies say that demand for employees has risen by 30 per cent to 50 per cent.

The realities of day-to-day life are still tough. Nearly 55 per cent of Argentines still live below the poverty line. But there are signs that things may be improving.

There no longer are lines of people who wish to emigrate in front of the Italian and Spanish consulates.

Some of the country's 200,000 Jews, mainly members of the middle class, are reopening their businesses.

The rate of aliyah, though decreasing, in fact is returning to the levels that existed before Argentina's economic crisis.

Until the crisis, approximately 1,000 people moved to Israel from Argentina each year. The only notable exception was during the 1960s, when the activities of an anti-Semitic group known as Tacuara helped push the number to more than 2,000 per year.

Though the numbers are falling as the economic crisis subsides, the Jewish Agency is not giving up, says Lalo Slepoy, who is in charge of aliyah from Latin America for the Jewish Agency.

With its database of potential immigrants growing from recent Israel fairs, the Jewish Agency is making 600 telephone calls to Jewish families each day, inviting them to different Israel-oriented activities: an Israel night, an evening of movie and discussion, a play about a family contemplating aliyah.

In addition, the agency is starting a program in September to provide four months of training in Hebrew language and specialized professional skills. Those who attend will receive a certificate and are expected to emigrate to Israel by the end of the year.

The special benefits Israel is providing to Argentine olim will continue until the end of the year: In addition to plane tickets, language classes and a year of financial subsidies, Argentines will receive home loans and money to ship their belongings to Israel.

Despite the beginnings of renewed optimism in Argentina, the effects of the economic meltdown still are clearly evident.

The number of Jews taking advantage of an integrated social welfare net provided by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; a local welfare foundation called Tzedaka; the community's central Jewish institution, the AMIA; and other community relief agencies has risen to more than 36,000 from 9,000 in 1999, before the economic collapse.

Beneficiaries receive food tickets, medicine, rent money, scholarships and job training.

According to JDC statistics, more people are entering the system than leaving it. Last May, the social assistance program received 763 new people, while 451 left it.

On a recent visit to Argentina, Sallai Meridor, chairman of the Jewish Agency, said at a news conference that a fall in aliyah also could be linked to the fact that many people hurried to move at the end of 2002, fearing that special benefits would be cut.

One in four N. American immigrants to Israel since 1989 has left

By AMIRAM BARKAT
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — One out of every four immigrants from North America who arrived in Israel since 1989 have left Israel for good, according to a *Ha'aretz* analysis based on Interior Ministry border control statistics regarding immigrants.

Though the statistics are not exact (they do not include people who left on government postings or others who live elsewhere but return every few months), it appears that the highest number of immigrants who leave are from North America: Canada (26 per cent), the United States (23 per cent), followed by South Africa (20 per cent), Britain (19 per cent) and France (16 per cent).

The rate of departing immigrants from South America is only 11 per cent, and among Ethiopians it is close to zero. Only about seven per cent of the 937,777 immigrants from the former Soviet Union who have arrived since 1989 have left the country, according to the statistics.

The high rate of departure among North American immigrants is surprising, as they come here out of choice and identification with the country.

Ian Kaplan, 32, is an immigrant who seems he's here to stay. He came to Israel from Philadelphia nine years ago, completed his army service and is now successfully employed in management of regional environmental projects. But he says, "If I weren't a little crazy, I probably wouldn't hold on here either."

Prof. Charles Liebman of Bar-Ilan University, winner of the Israel Prize for his research of American Jewry, commented, "When I heard about these statistics for the first time I was surprised, but when I thought about it a little more, it seemed logical. Some of the immigrants are very naive. They hear that there are economic problems in Israel but they're sure they'll get over them."

Liebman, who himself immigrated to Israel in 1969, tells about an acquaintance who immigrated to Israel and left twice. "Every time he went back to the United States, he promised to return when he made enough money."

Liebman believes that a smaller number of religious immigrants leave, and a smaller number of those living across the Green Line where, he says, "the social frameworks are very well organized."

"When a person comes to Israel for ideological reasons, his survival ability is greater," says Prof. Moshe Lisk, a sociologist at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

"But when a convenient opportunity exists to return to a country of origin where the quality of life is high, sometimes ideological motivation is not a life-long inoculation," he says.

Ian Kaplan agrees. "I tell my friends, 'Forget where you came from. If you expect the service and the standards you knew at home, you'll never make it.'"

BOMBING AFTERMATH: Rescuers survey the scene of a suicide bombing by Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade at a shopping centre in Rosh Ha'ayin that killed a 43-year-old man last Tuesday. Another man was killed in a Hamas bombing later that day in the West Bank town of Ariel. They were the first major terror attacks since a June 29 Palestinian truce. [Israel photo]

August 11

• Twenty-six Israeli Druze were released from custody, but police said they will file charges against them after clashes Aug. 10 outside the prime minister's residence. Scores of demonstrators and police were wounded as hundreds protested Israel's plan to unify local Druze authorities.

August 12

• Two Israelis were killed in separate suicide bombings in Rosh Ha'ayin in Israel and the West Bank town of Ariel. Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade claimed credit for the Rosh Ha'ayin attack, and Hamas did so for the Ariel attack. In response, Israel temporarily halted the release of 77 Palestinian prisoners. While condemning the attacks, PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas said that they were provoked by West Bank anti-terror raids by Israel, and that he didn't think they violated the Palestinian ceasefire.

• Israel will re-route its security fence, *Ma'ariv* reported. Without its "eastern finger," which had included Ariel in the West Bank, it will run closer to the Green Line.

August 13

• Israel said it demolished the home near Nablus of the suicide bomber who struck Rosh Ha'ayin the previous day. Israel also said it is freezing prisoner releases and land transfers to the Palestinian Authority.

August 14

• Senior Hamas and Islamic Jihad operatives have resumed planning terror attacks in defiance of the ceasefire, Shin Bet security service sources said.

August 15

• Israel said it would transfer security control to the Palestinians in Jericho and Qalqilyah on Monday and within 10 days in Ramallah and Tulkarm. The deal will be delayed if there is a terror attack or if the Palestinians don't meet security obligations.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Special Report

Community copes with massive power failure

Continued from page 1

As soon as the power went off Thursday, staff at Sobey's supermarket in Thornhill rushed to save the store's inventory from spoiling.

Workers closed refrigerated display counters and brought refrigerated trucks to store meat and some dairy products. Prices were reduced on meat and ice cream Thursday night, but most of the prepared food had to be thrown out.

An-hour-and-a-half after the power came back on at 5:30 a.m. Friday morning, the store opened as usual, with staff working as quickly as possible to barbecue chickens, make salads and side dishes and freshly baked cakes. Lineups were long, with customers waiting up to an hour.

"You couldn't even get into the parking lot," said Chris Corringham, a food clerk. "The batteries and candles were sold out instantly."

Though business was better than a normal Friday, Corringham said, "you can't consider to imagine the amount of food we lost."

Smaller businesses also lost a great deal. Thursday is normally a very busy day for Hartman's Kosher Meats on north Bathurst Street in Toronto, as staff prepare meat and salads and side dishes for the Shabbat rush.

It was "terrible," owner Joe Hartman said. "I can't believe that in 2003, this can shut down half a continent."

By the time his power came back on early Friday afternoon, Hartman knew he had to get rid of the prepared food and meat in his displays that day because it wouldn't last.

"I gave away all the food," Hartman said Friday. Except for the meat in the freezers, "the store is empty," he said.

Hartman hired trucks to ship meat to food banks and told anyone who came to the store to call their friends and take some home.

Although he lost thousands of dollars, he tried to remained optimistic. He said he was lucky that he was able to ship frozen meat to the caterer for his daughter's wedding Monday.

"As long as I'm healthy, it's OK," he said.

The Hartman wedding wasn't the only simchah affected by the power outage. Rachel Fegelman and Mark Zelunka, who met earlier this year while studying with Aish HaTorah in Israel, didn't plan to have an impromptu barbecue or an a capella choir as part of their wedding last Thursday night, but like many others inconvenienced by the blackout, they found that people made the best of a difficult situation.

In fact, it was "incredible," Zelunka told *The CJN* on Sunday. "Everybody pulled together."

The newlyweds' outdoor ceremony, held at Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation in Thornhill, began almost on schedule, with some extra time given to the 250 guests to allow them to make their way through the heavy traffic.

By that time, more than two hours after the lights went out, barbecues were already set up outside, and the main course – chicken – was on the grill.

The 26-year-old groom, a rabbinical student, said the celebration was "the most fun you could imagine… it was very beautiful and very inspiring for both of us."

The floral centrepieces "happened to have candles, so the room was just aglow with candlelight," said Zelunka's mother Michelle.

Synagogue members dropped off flashlights and directed traffic, while singer Avichai Zehavi of the Nafshenu Orchestra called members of the Toronto Kol Chaverim Choir, of which he is also a member, for backup, and the band's piano player went home to get an accordion.

Aubie Diamond, a Thornhill-based physician and member of the Toronto Kol Chaverim Choir, was among the dozen or so choir members who showed up to sing. He said he'd "never seen such a *lebedik* wedding."

Bandleader Yisroel Idels said the volunteers "saw this as a mitzvah." He'd always wondered, he added, "what it was like for klezmer-type bands playing a couple of hundred years ago in Jewish shtetlach, and we actually experienced that… We sort of transported ourselves back to the 1800s. It was just a wonderful wedding. Everyone had a wonderful time. We went around table to table playing."

Among the other Jewish weddings taking place Thursday was that of Debbie Cohen, a teacher at the Downtown Jewish Day School, and Eli Savage, associate director of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Student Life, at Thornhill's Le Parc banquet halls, which had a back-up generator.

Zac Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto, said almost all the lights were on, and there was no air conditioning, but other than that, everything was normal. "It was very *freilach*."

Rabbi Charles Grysman, spiritual leader of Zichron Yisroel Congregation in Thornhill, officiated at a funeral on Friday and wrote his eulogy by candlelight, but said on Friday that his synagogue per se had not been affected.

In North York, Jim Heifetz, past president of Beth Tikvah Synagogue's brotherhood, decided to attend minyan on Thursday evening in case they were short of the requisite 10 men. "The davening was outside because there was no light, and the janitor took a flashlight and got some books out."

Rhona Ash, whose daughter married Jonathan Magder at the Royalton Banquet Hall on Thursday evening, said the wedding could not have been more beautiful if they planned the blackout.

The couple was married under a chupah lit by candlelight, she said, and the food was cooked outside on barbecues illuminated by headlights.

"No one panicked, everyone stayed, and guests said they had the time of their lives," said Ash, president of Jewish Women International, Toronto.

Using some generated power, the hall was lit, the band was able to play, and guests partied until at least 11:30, she said.

"Everyone pitched in, and no one got upset. It was truly a miracle," she said.

The blackout did not stop campers at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre's Centre Camp in Toronto from carrying on with their planned sleepover, said the centre's Cory Freedman.

"Some campers did go home, but the ones who stayed had a great time," she said.

A representataive of Camp Shalom, a Young Judaea camp located on Lake Muskoka in Gravenhust, Ont., said campers "bunked down early on Thursday" and by Friday afternoon, their power was restored.

— With files from Carolyn Blackman and Leila Speisman

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First conference held on spousal abuse

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A recent conference on domestic violence in the Jewish community, sponsored by Jewish Women International, closed with three women blowing the shofar.

"That was the wake-up call for Jewish communities to acknowledge that domestic violence is a huge issue, and that it is present in every strata of society," said Penny Krowitz, executive director, JWI Canada, a member of the planning committee, and a speaker at one of the workshops.

Sponsored by JWI

The conference, Pursuing Truth, Justice and Righteousness: A Call to Action, held last month in Baltimore, Md., was the first of its kind. It brought together more than 400 people worldwide – 16 were from Canada and about 26 from Israel – including psychiatrists, social workers, lawyers, rabbis, shelter workers, survivors of abuse, and representatives of social service agencies and Jewish federations.

"The idea was to give people a chance to share information, network and strategize about how to move forward in order to save women's lives," Krowitz said.

Workshop topics included working with youth to change the paradigm, how Jewish law views spousal abuse, the role of the Jewish community in creating a co-ordinated community response and the role of the rabbi in creating a community of safety.

As well, several survivors spoke out "with stories that kept us awake at night. One women said she had to give up her children because they sided with their father," Krowitz said.

In Canada, she said, many organizations have worked on the issue of spousal abuse, but there have been no co-ordinated efforts.

"Our goal is to create a local coalition. We want to bring together rabbis, professionals and other community people – anyone interested in moving forward with an agenda. We can say that we need to change laws, for example, but then we need lawyers at the table.

"We want to provide more education about what constitutes healthy relationships. We should be proactive, not only reactive. Spousal abuse is so pervasive and it is such a huge problem, that we must work in coalition. There is strength in numbers."

Developing a plan of action could involve such simple things as alerting women who work in a mikvah about how to recognize an abused woman. "There is such a gamut of entry points that we need to involve as many people as possible," said Krowitz.

The conference went far beyond what she expected, she said. "I had a great vision when it was being planned, but what I did not anticipate was the energy and the passion. It was palpable in the room.

"There was no hierarchy. Everyone talked to everyone else, and there was a hunger to share information, successes and heartaches.

"It was moving and compelling in terms of the core Jewish value of making the world a safe place. People were so committed to making difference that it became clear that we needed to work together. Listening to even one survivor was enough to say we would do what ever we had to do," Krowitz said.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I have been reading a lot in the media about the prevalence of obese children and the lack of good nutrition they receive. I am concerned that my family, like most others, is falling into a pattern of convenience foods due to time constraints. Can you advise me on how to clean the junk out and still offer kid-pleasing foods to my eight-, five- and three-year-olds?

A. I am glad to hear you are commited you to improving your family's eating habits. Childhood obesity is growing at an astounding rate and it is due to poor food choice, excessive portions and lack of physical activity. Here are some suggestions your kids will love.

Fill your cupboards and fridge with some of these foods: yogurt, frozen yogurt, low-fat chocolate milk, light frozen treats such as ice cream sandwiches and fudgsicles, baked nachos and salsa or black bean dips, canned vegetable, minestrone soups or light cup-a-soups, hummus, tzatziki or other yogurt dips, whole grain crackers, pita and flatbread, almonds and walnuts and fresh fruit that the kids will like. You can also make your own cereal snacks by combining several cereals and adding some seasoning, and then storing them in an airtight container. Make sure to buy less sugar cereal and buy instead multi-grain cheerios, raisin bran or corn bran.

Other snacks to have on hand include air-popped popcorn and sliced vegetables, which you can buy ready cut, and then wash and store in a ziplock bag. You can bake low-fat banana bread or low-fat bran muffins (easy to do from a mix). After school, try a piled high bowl of fruit topped with chocolate sauce, light whipped cream, a dollop of frozen yogurt, low-fat sour cream or even sprinkles. You can make a fruit smoothie or milkshake using skim milk, frozen yogurt and fruit. In the fall, try baked apples with a teaspoon of maple syrup or applesauce.

Think outside the box, too. Great nutritious after school snacks can be a turkey sandwich, scrambled eggs and a piece of whole wheat toast, a leftover piece of chicken from last night's dinner or a bowl of cereal and milk.

Most importantly, set a good example. You are their role model. If they see you enjoying these foods, they will accept them more willingly. Get rid of the junk. It is hard to convince your child to eat cantaloupe if the cupboards are full of chips and cookies or if they see others in the house eating them. If you concerned that your child is obese, talk to your child's doctor or a dietitian and begin a new eating program together.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, please send them to The CJN.

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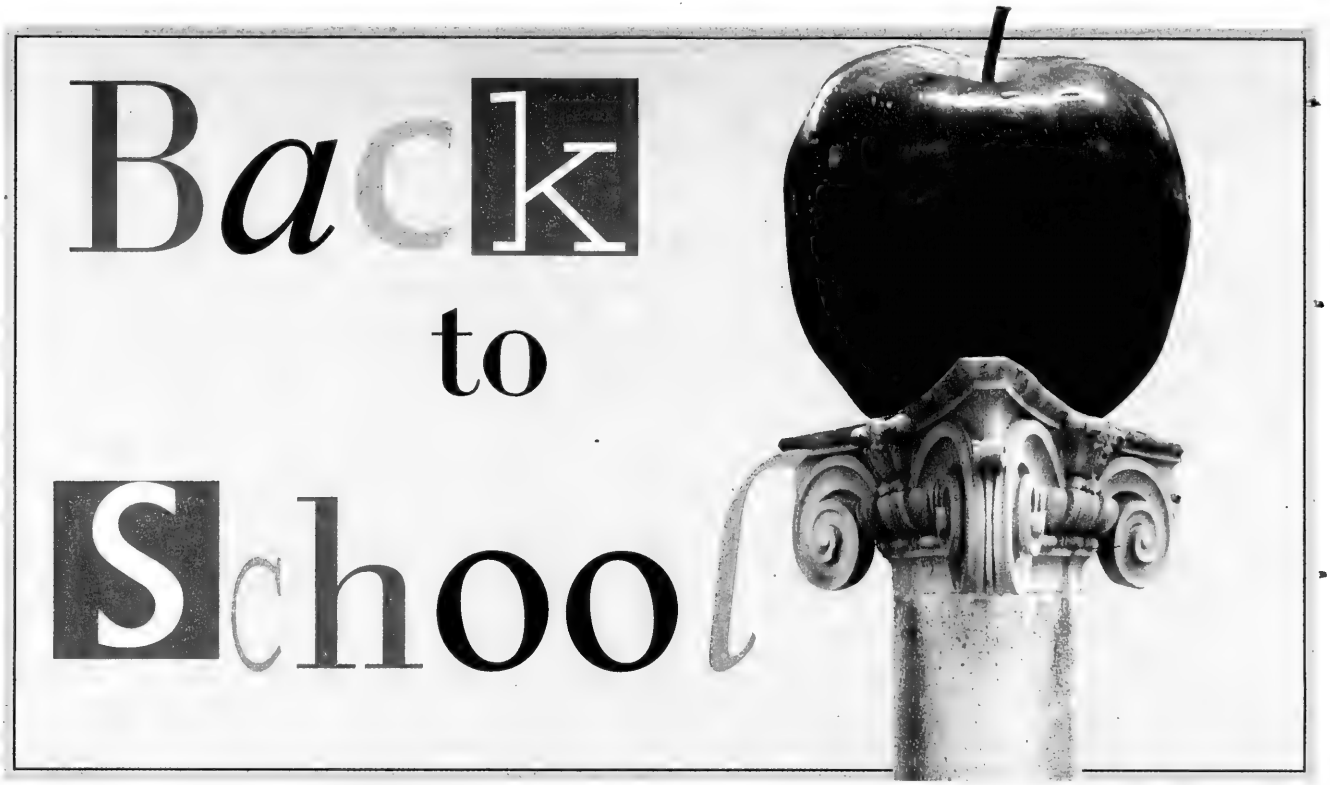

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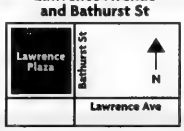

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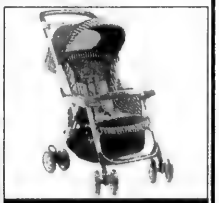

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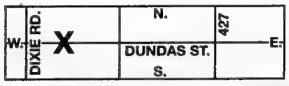

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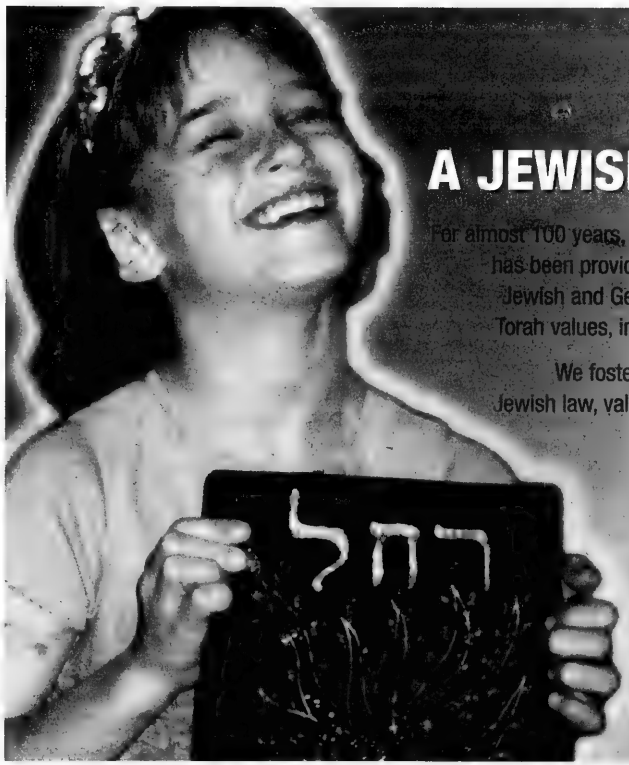

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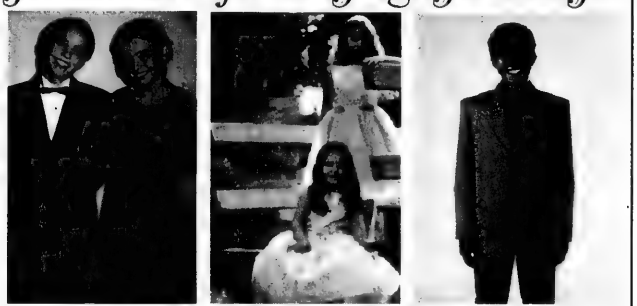

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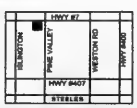

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By Linda Shapiro

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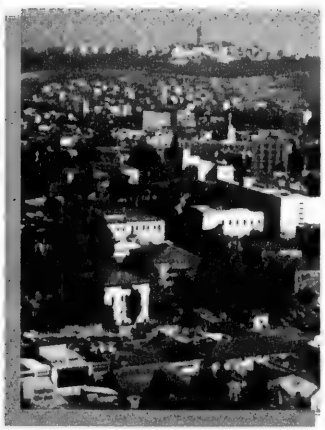

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Every Canadian is indebted to Louis Applebaum

New book offers excellent summary of cultural czar's career

By **BILL GLADSTONE**
Special to The CJN

Louis Applebaum, the Toronto-born composer and cultural czar who died three years ago, offers a good illustration of the McLuhanesque observation that culture is invisible and that, as water is to fish, culture is the medium in which we live.

From the '40s through the '80s, Applebaum stood astride our cultural landscape like a colossus. He helped to found the National Film Board, the Stratford Theatre Festival, the Stratford Music Festival and the National Arts Centre. He composed acclaimed soundtrack music for CBC television productions and Hollywood films, and was a foremost influence on the Ontario Arts Council, the Canada Council and other primary arts institutions, especially in his musical realm.

Walter Pitman's recently-published paean to him, the 512-page tome *Louis Applebaum: A Passion for Culture* (Dundurn, $39.99), is further evidence of Applebaum's importance in shaping our national culture. How many such icons could merit a biography of this size?

Ironically, despite his towering stature within the arts community, Applebaum may not be all that well known to average Canadians. Although generations of theatre-goers at Stratford have heard his fanfare of trumpets at intermission, most of us probably cannot name or recall a theme from any of his compositions. A blurb for the book acknowledges this peculiar fact by describing Applebaum as "the man who was beloved by his fellow artists and the icon to whom every Canadian, knowingly or not, is indebted."

Pitman, a former MP, MPP and director of the Ontario Arts Council, gives us an insightful and painstakingly researched dossier on his subject.

Born in 1918, Applebaum grew up within Toronto's Jewish community, studied with legendary music teacher Boris Berlin, and attended Harbord Collegiate, where he befriended Johnny Wayne, Frank Shuster, Sam Sniderman and other incipient cultural notables. He studied music at the University of Toronto and played piano in revues by Wayne and Shuster, who begged him, "Lou, for God's sake, learn to play on the white keys!"

He also spent a year at Juilliard, an extraordinary leap for an extraordinarily gifted child whose parents had regarded a piano chiefly as "parlour furniture."

Awakening to the possibilities of radio, movies and television and the mass audiences they attracted, Applebaum joined the National Film Board in 1940 and worked with John Grierson, Norman McLaren and other pioneers on more than 100 films, including numerous propaganda pieces against Nazi Germany. In the late 1940s he went to the United States, where he scored many Hollywood films and associated with Aaron Copeland, Igor Stravinsky and other brilliant lights. He returned home in 1949.

Approached by theatre director Tyrone Guthrie in 1953 to write music for two Shakespearean plays for the nascent Stratford Festival, Applebaum was taken aback upon learning that the proposed Elizabethan-style thrust stages would literally squeeze out an orchestra: there was room only for a small ensemble, a physical reality that "had enormous implications for music at Stratford for all time."

Applebaum's dream of a parallel music festival took years to find an audience. He later toured with several acclaimed Stratford productions of Gilbert and Sullivan musicals.

The book devotes equal attention to Applebaum's accomplishments at the CBC and his powerful role as a cultural bureaucrat, pulling the strings in aid of artists and arts education from behind the scenes.

The book presents a thorough portrait of Applebaum's early years and his largely Jewish milieu. Pitman offers the observation early on that Applebaum, like his contemporary John Weinzweig, "never became a 'Jewish composer'" — both artists being essentially unlike Srul Irving Glick, who arose among the next generation of composers and typically let Judaic elements and motifs define his work.

The book offers an excellent summary and analysis of Applebaum's career, with enough details to satisfy historians (and perhaps overwhelm casual readers), along with a few deep glimpses of the man. Applebaum, we learn, "had written music throughout a long career, yet he had never had the luxury of casual composing, with weeks or months to create, revise, and revise again a large work that might become his magnum opus."

He once shocked a colleague who asked if he ever composed spontaneously to express his feelings or ideas. "Why would I do that?" he responded sharply. "Who would pay me to write that piece?"

Louis Applebaum

After reading *Louis Applebaum: A Passion for Culture*, one wishes its subject had found time to leave us just such a magnum opus as a means of making himself and his legacy less invisible to the average Canadian.

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Arts & Travel

The quintessential Middle Eastern delicacy is the subject of Toronto resident Avner Levona's documentary *Falafel*.

Falafel as a metaphor for Israel

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

They say home is where the heart is. But for many people, thoughts of home are more closely connected to their stomachs.

That is particularly true for Israelis living or travelling abroad. They are known to pine for falafel. This Middle Eastern specialty, a deep fried meatless "meatball" made from ground chick peas or fava beans, is served in pita bread and garnished with vegetables, hot sauce and *tahini*, a sesame seed-based sauce.

Avner Levona, an Israeli graphic artist and photographer living in Toronto, created a documentary film about this popular street food, aptly titled, *Falafel*. Released in late spring, *Falafel* was screened at the 2003 Atlanta, Toronto and Vancouver Jewish film festivals and is scheduled to be shown in the 2003 Miami Jewish Film Festival in December.

The film can be viewed on the Web at www.falafel.ca. The site also has links to other related Web sites for die-hard falafel aficionados.

"*Falafel* is a metaphor for my nostalgia for Israel," says Levona, explaining that falafel epitomizes what he and other Israeli immigrants miss about their native land.

"Every child in Israel is exposed to falafel and they continue eating it throughout their lives. It's the great equalizer. Rich or poor, everyone in Israel eats falafel."

His childhood memories are filled with images of falafel sold by Yemenite Jews operating out of four-by-four-foot portable steel booths. "They had small gas burners and sold fresh falafel to all the kids. Half a pita was popular during my school days. When I used to go to a movie after school, I got money for juice and a falafel."

Levona prefers Israeli to Canadian-made falafel. "In Israel they give you three falafel balls in a pita and fill it up with salads. Some places have as many as 20. Also popular is the fried potatoes. That's like the cherry on the cake. It's unique to Israel. I really miss that."

What is evident in his film, is that the Israeli culinary experience is seasoned with other flavours that one can't find in Canada – the sounds and smells of home. The scenes of falafel vendors in Tel Aviv evoke those nostalgic images.

And while the culinary offerings and ambience of Israeli falafel shops in Canada may never measure up to their Israeli counterparts, many Israeli immigrants regard these Canadian eateries as homes away from home, according to Levona. "When Israelis eat falafel [in Toronto], they get to talk Hebrew to each other. They talk about politics and anything that bothers them.

"Even if they go alone to a restaurant here, they always find another Israeli to talk to. It's very casual and very comfortable and very much like being back at home."

Falafel reflects Levona's own identity crisis as an immigrant, which he says typifies the experiences of other transplanted Israelis. Initially, he attempted to change his accent and manners. "I tried to blend in, but I eventually realized I am what I am.

"I realized that I liked being Israeli and I wanted to celebrate it. *Falafel* symbolizes that celebration."

The film is peppered with humourous anecdotes about falafel. Many scenes were shot at a kosher falafel shop in Toronto, where Israelis and Canadians recount their personal experiences with this highly esteemed dish.

One Russian Israeli now living in Toronto tells about her first encounter with falafel shortly after arriving in Israel: Her childhood memories "the half moon of bread and faces dripping with *tahini*" remain very vivid for her today.

After designing the posters for the Toronto International Film Festival in 2000 and 2001, Levona was inspired to create his own film. "A year ago, my goal was to have a film in the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. I did all the work in my spare time on shoe-string budget."

His best friend, Israeli photographer, Moni Blech, filmed the Israeli scenes. "We always wanted to creating something together," says Levona. "So we collaborated on this project. I sent him a small movie camera and one month later I got the Israeli footage."

He says he was thrilled when the film was accepted. by the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. "It's wonderful to be recognized by the community you live in."

Levona will be donating all the money from the film to an Israeli charity and he will also make copies of the film available for fund-raisers for other Israeli causes. He can be contacted at avner@levonadigital.com.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

TORONTO YIDDISHIST TO ATTEND OXFORD PARLAY ON YIDDISH AFTER THE HOLOCAUST

Toronto Yiddishist **Shirley Kumove** leaves this week for a conference at England's Oxford University on Yiddish After the Holocaust, where she is slated to give a presentation titled Catching Arrows: Translating Yiddish Folk Sayings.

Sponsored by Oxford's department of Jewish and Hebraic studies, the gathering is attracting academics, writers, translators and other scholars from across North America, England, Europe and Israel.

Kumove, author of two books on Yiddish folk sayings (*Words Like Arrows* and *More Words Like Arrows*), said she will discuss a variety of cultural influences, ranging from television to popular authors, that have nudged Yiddish into the mainstream culture over the last 50 years.

Writers like **Saul Bellow**, **Bernard Malamud**, **Philip Roth** and **Grace Paley** "have helped to extend our vocabulary and make certain kinds of phrasing in Yiddish acceptable in English," Kumove said. "For example, a phrase that we take for granted, 'the bottom line,' was originally a Yiddish expression, *di untershte shureh*."

As far as other projects go, Kumove has been translating some Yiddish poetry, as well as author **Yehoshua Perle's** 1930 novel *Yidn fun a Gants Jor (Ordinary Jews)*. She recently sent the fully translated manuscript to a publisher.

She plans to attend all four days of Oxford's Yiddish shmuez-fest, which runs Aug. 26 to 29.

* * *

What's Doing at Israel's: Lainie Cohen is the author of *Crooked Smile: One Family's Journey Towards Healing*, a book about her son's car accident and its devastating effect on her family.

Toronto bioethicist **Laurie Hardingham** has called *Crooked Smile* "a must-read for everyone faced with a loved one who has a serious injury resulting in disability, and for professionals who work with those families."

Cohen, an educator and psychological consultant, reads from her book at Israel's, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments, no admission charge. Wednesday, Aug. 27, 8 p.m. 416-256-1010.

* * *

Recent CD of Note: Montreal's high-energy Polish-Jewish-Gypsy-French ensemble **Jeszcze Raz** has a name that looks hard to pronounce but actually sounds smooth as silk once you get the hang of it (it's pronounced yes-chay-raz).

Also sounding as smooth as silk, the eight-piece band's recent CD *Balagne* offers a robust blend of influences and the sort of musical charisma that has prompted sales of more than 12,000 copies in Quebec alone.

"Balagne" means bordello in both Hebrew and Polish, two of the four languages used on this eclectic album, which was a contender for a Juno last year.

Apparently **Paul Kunigis**, Jeszcze Raz's lead musician and vocalist, is happy to oblige journalists asking for interviews in Polish, English, French and Hebrew; at times, he seems to sing Hebrew with a slight Parisian-French accent.

Kunigis has assembled a fine and pleasurable listening experience, albeit one that may be disturbing for some listeners because the Holy Name is pronounced on the title track. The CD is available in record stores.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The annual Hear Here funfest features rides, games, performers, a petting zoo and other attractions for children, with proceeds going to benefit hearing-impaired children. Green Acres Outdoor Education Centre, 11123 Kennedy Rd. (north of Major Mackenzie), Markham. Free admission. Sunday, Sept. 7, 11 to 4 p.m. rain or shine. 416-364-2264.

• **Michael Rubinoff's** "sensibly priced" production of *Evita* continues at the Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre, until Aug. 30. $25 to $40. 416-366-7723 or www.stlc.com. Web site, www.evitathemusical.ca

* * *

At the Galleries

• An exhibition of surreal and abstract paintings and a variety of sculpture and art boxes by artists **Sharon Barr**, **Reza Bassiri**, **Robert Carley**, **Melanie Day**, **Mauri Huittinen**, **Larry Humber**, **Ruben Zellermayer** and **Linda Andrews** is on view until Sept. 6 at the Juten Gallery, 1236 Kingston Rd. 416-691-4999.

• Opening and Closures is an exhibition of new works by Toronto painter **Marjorie Moeser** and ceramist **Irit Lepkin**. The assembled pieces of these two confident image makers reflect mature artistic concerns with surface textures, luminosity of colour, over- and under-glazing, sharp contrasts and other variables. Women's Art Association Gallery, 23 Prince Arthur Ave. Opening Thursday, Sept. 4, 5 to 9 p.m. On view until Sept. 7.

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Rabbi Witty 'flabbergasted' by large response to lecture series

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Rabbi Irwin Witty, director of the Latner Jewish Public Library, says he has been "flabbergasted" by the large response the library has received after sending out thousands of flyers promoting Treasures in Jewish Literature, a new literary lecture series scheduled to run from fall to spring.

Alan Ackerman will give the opening talk Oct. 28 on Michael Chabon's Pulitzer prize-winning novel *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, published in 2000. Ackerman is an associate professor of English at the University of Toronto and an authority on American literature and the 19th-century stage.

Other titles in the series are: *A Dybbuk & Other Tales of the Supernatural*, adapted from a translation of Shloime Ansky's well-known original published in 1916; Isaac Bashevis Singer's *Satan in Goray* (1935), a novelistic treatment of the 17th-century messianic movement that centred around Shabbetai Tzvi; *Maus I* and *Maus II* (1993), Art Spiegelman's famed graphic novels of the Holocaust; and Dina Rubina's *Here Comes the Messiah* (2000), a look at Russian emigré life in Israel.

The books were selected by committee for their "meaningful Jewish content," Rabbi Witty said. Five copies of each title will be available for loan from the library beginning in mid-August. The *Maus* talk, the last in the series, is scheduled for April 27.

Like Ackerman, the other presenters are past and present literary professors: Andrea Most and Anna Shternshis of the University of Toronto, and Elaine Newton, formerly of York University. Rabbi Witty, also formerly of York, will deliver a talk March 16 on *Satan in Goray* – a book, he said, that "reflects the long tradition in Judaism of awaiting the messiah with bated breath."

Each event includes a review of up to an hour, followed by comments, questions and light refreshments. The series is being presented as a book review club and a series ticket costs $50, with single tickets available for $15 at the door. Sessions take place Tuesday afternoons between 1:30 and 3:30 p.m.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time we've put on such a program," said Rabbi Witty, a former long-time executive director of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education. "Mind you, I can only speak for the last 25 or 27 years, whereas the library has been in existence for about 60 years."

He said the book review club is one of several projects the library is initiating to "make a reality of our mandate to be a centre of Jewish knowledge and learning."

To purchase tickets or for further details, call the library at 416-635-2996 or email elaynef@sympatico.ca.

Polish film considered one of the best of all time

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Every once in a while you run across a film that deserves mention even though it may not fit into the category of "Jewish" films. This is the case with *The Decalogue*, although Episode 8 does deal with a Holocaust survivor trying to understand the motivation and reasoning behind her personal experiences.

It is considered one of the great films of all time and consists of ten individual films that use the Ten Commandments as the inspiration for each of the stories.

The film was originally created for Polish television in the late '80s by Krzysztof Kieslowski, who directed and co-wrote it.

The Decalogue was unavailable for many years. It was released in the United States in 2001 but only for a short time because of a complicated situation regarding distribution rights.

Now the film is receiving a full video and DVD release by Facets Multi-Media in the United States and Morningstar Entertainment in Canada.

On video it comes in a 5-volume VHS set and the DVD version is on 3 discs with some very special extras, including an on-screen preface by Roger Ebert, an extensive interview with director Krzysztof Kieslowski, a visit to the set of *The Decalogue* and an appreciation of Kieslowski, who died in 1996, by his colleagues and collaborators.

The DVD set also contains a booklet with Kieslowski's own reminiscences, a recent interview with co-screenwriter Krzysztof Piesiewicz and a complete cast and credits list.

The Decalogue is the crowning achievement of Kieslowski's career. He established his reputation with such films as *The Double Life of Veronique* and *Three Colors: Blue, White, Red*. But it is this film that secured his reputation as a director and screenwriter.

Each of the episodes of *The Decalogue* is set in the present and each was shot in the same high-rise apartment building in a middle class section of Warsaw. Although the stories are based on the morals and ethics established by the Ten Commandments, there is no direct reference to the corresponding commandment underlying each story.

Viewers are allowed to reach their own conclusions and ponder the messages behind that story.

Each of the episodes is a complete film on its own. Each one employs a different cinematographer and uses different actors. Each film is a complete morality play that stands on its own merits but all of them together make for a truly monumental achievement.

Examples of the morality aspects include Episode 5, where a young man murders a taxi driver and is arrested, tried and hanged. Kieslowski uses this to question the differences between a murder committed by one man and a state-sanctioned execution.

In Episode 8, a child Holocaust survivor, now living in the United States, returns to Poland to question the woman who refused to hide her during the war. She is interested in learning why someone would agree to shelter a child and then turn her away, knowing that death was almost certain.

The Decalogue created great critical and popular reaction when it was first released in Europe and certainly caused a stir among the few people who saw it in North America.

Now, for the first time, *The Decalogue*, is available in Canada for everyone to see and enjoy.

The film was produced in Polish and comes with English subtitles.

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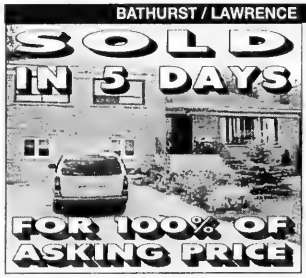

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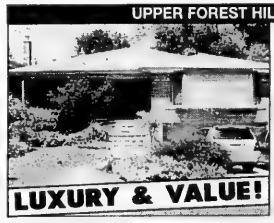

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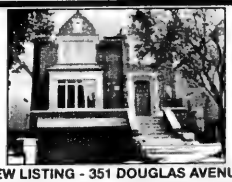

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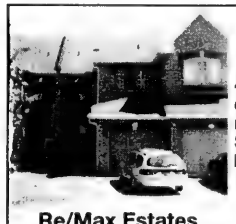

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW YEAR MITZVAH! New Orthodox Rabbi from Israel leads small Russian community in Detroit. In great need of a Passenger VAN & Computer. US or CA tax receipt. Blessings! Ishaposhnik@hotmail.com. 416-410-4434.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

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330 OBITUARIES

BANIKIN, Minnie – on July 31, 2003, late of 255 The Donway W.
SHAPIRO, Meer – on Aug. 1, 2003, late of 5 Fisherville Rd.
SWEIGMAN, Mary – on Aug. 1, 2003.
LUBIN, Ida – on Aug. 5, 2003, late of 5879 Bathurst St.
MELES, Eleanor – on Aug. 6, 2003, late of 157 Searle Ave.
ESTIS, Bella – on Aug. 6, 2003.
BENARROCH, Rica – on Aug. 7, 2003, late of 4383 Bathurst St.
GOODMAN, Gordon – on Aug. 7, 2003, late of 6 Clarville Cres.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

GREENBAUM, Sylvia – on July 21, 2003, late of 605 Finch Ave. W.
WINBAUM, Harold – on July 22, 2003, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W.
WAXMAN, Shirley – on July 22, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
LEVINE, Lillian – on July 22, 2003, late of 131 Torresdale Ave.
FORMAN, Richard – on July 23, 2003, late of 3181 Bayview Ave., P.H.
SAX, Gertie – on July 23, 2003, late of 2 Covington Rd., P.H.
LITVAK, Irving – on July 28, 2003, late of 66 Collier St., #15D.
HILLMAN, Max – on July 24, 2003, late of 3600 Yonge St., #339.
ANKER, Bernice Ruth – on July 23, 2003, late of 260 Heath St. W., #120.
VOGEL, Faith – on July 23, 2003, late of 79 Beaumont Place.
ADAMS, Helen – on July 25, 2003, late of 2121 Bathurst St.
WAGMAN, Harvey – on July 26, 2003, late of 34 Coulson Ave.
FORMAN, Dr. Edward – on July 26, 2003, late of 355 St. Clair W., #170.
SHERMAN, Willie – on July 26, 2003, late of 31 Westover Hill Rd.
ACKERMAN, Morris – on July 26, 2003, late of 37 Stormont Ave.
ERNEST, Mary – on July 27, 2003, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
CANTOR, Fay – on July 28, 2003, late of 25 Flaming Roseway.
CUMMINGS, Bob – on July 27, 2003, late of 662 York Hill Blvd.
BRULL, George – on July 27, 2003, late of 225 St. George St.
WEINER, Morton – on July 28, 2003, late of 25 Candy Courtway.
ARLIN, Rose – on July 31, 2003, late of 7420 Bathurst St., #10.
DUBINER, Jack – on Aug. 2, 2003, late of 260 Heath St. W., #1002.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

PEARL CAPROFF ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Aug. 24th, 11:00 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Sunnyside Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

NELLYE DONIN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 24th 11:00 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

986 Wilson Avenue

Shaarei Shomayim Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MORRIS KUTTAS ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 24th 10:00 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Dufferin St. north of Major M. Community Section GGGG

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MAX REINSTEIN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 24th, 11:00 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst south of Steeles

Shedlover Young Men's Society

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

GEORGE STEUERMAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 24th 10:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

Bathurst St., south of Steeles

Beth Emeth Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

LESLIE GLUCK ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 24th at 11:30 a.m.

Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park

(adjacent to Pride of Israel Synagogue)

Shaarei Shomayim Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

SAMUEL LAITMAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 31st at 11:00 a.m.

Dawes Road Cemetery

#3 - Drildzer Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ETHEL (ETKE) SZOSEN-FOGEL ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, August 31st at 12:00 noon

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Shedlecer Lukower Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late

MILDRED (MICKEY) BISGOULD ז"ל

wishes to express their sincere appreciation to family, friends and colleagues who were so very supportive during their recent bereavement.

Your generosity was overwhelming.

David, Marilyn, Harvey, Elaine, Bev, Allen, Howard, Monique, Ilena, Henry, Lesli, Elisa, Rafi, Andrea, Zev, Randi and the great-grandchildren.

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Coast to Coast

Pianist's life would make a great movie

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Carmen Or, who defected from the Soviet Union when she was 14, has had a life that could be the subject of a made-for-TV movie.

In fact, the concert pianist says she was once approached about turning her story into a two-part miniseries, but she decided against it because the tale lacked a romantic sub-plot.

"I wanted the story to be true to my life, and with no romance. What kind of story would it make?"

She has since married opera singer Eduardo Del Campo, so "who knows. Now there is some spice to the story."

Now 38 and living in Montreal, Or was in Toronto last spring for a concert sponsored by Toronto Hadassah WIZO. The local group is part of the worldwide WIZO network, "the organization that welcomed me when I defected."

Or was at a musical competition in Switzerland when she fled. "I just decided not to go back [to Russia]. I went to a rabbi in Geneva, and he put me in hiding. I was then put on a plane to Israel and WIZO welcomed me with open arms. They became my surrogate family."

Or, who left her parents and grandmother back in the Soviet Union, says she had been very sheltered at home. "I practised seven hours a day, and was never given a task beyond playing.

Carmen Or

"It was on an impulse that I decided to defect. I didn't ponder the decision, and although I didn't see my mother, [opera singer Eugenia Croltor] for 10 years, I never looked back. My mother, who now lives in Montreal, lost her job at the opera house because of me, and she was refused a visa to go to Israel."

Once Or arrived in Israel, WIZO provided her with shelter and bought her a piano.

"They provided me with all my needs. If I went to a competition, they would find me somewhere to stay. For 10 years they were my only family. Most people had one mother; I had a few. I am testimony of what WIZO is all about. It is important to tell the success story of one of their children.

"I was a kid who came to Israel with no family and no money. WIZO gave me the opportunity to play with orchestra leaders such as Zubin Mehta, Leonard Bernstein,Sir George Solti, Riccardo Muti and Klaus Tennstedt."

She performs for WIZO audiences across Canada because, she says, "I want them to know what their generosity means. They not only saved my life, they made my dream of playing on world stages come true."

When her husband performs, however, "I am a wife. We always travel together and take care of each other. We never work at the same time.

"We decided from the beginning of our marriage [they were married after knowing each other for three weeks] that we would have separate careers."

Concordia U's Norman Ravvin carves out a niche in Canadian Jewish studies

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Last September's disturbances at Concordia University, when violence by Palestinian students and their sympathziers prevented former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu from fulfilling a speaking engagement, may well have created the impression that Jewish studies has no place on that Montreal campus.

Perish the thought, says Norman Ravvin, chair of Concordia's Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies and a professor in its department of religion.

Despite the troubled atmosphere at Concordia, the institute – which supports a wide range of projects of local, national and international interest and offers an eclectic variety of courses and public lectures and seminars – is thriving.

During the past year, the institute, funded by Bronfman family philanthropies, introduced new courses on Jewish literature, the Holocaust and the impact of politics on Canada's Jewish community.

And, he is pleased to report, the institute's second publication, *Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Short Stories*, won Montreal's Segal Prize for Literature.

In partnership with Red Deer Press at the University of Calgary, the institute is publishing a major biography of the late Montreal novelist Mordecai Richler. The author is journalist Joel Yanofsky and Ravvin is the editor.

Plans are also afoot to host a conference on Yiddish next spring, and to publish the *Canadian Jewish Studies Reader*. Edited by Ravvin and Richard Menkis of the University of British Columbia, the book will include an article on Birobidzhan, the Jewish autonomous republic in the old Soviet Union, by University of Prince Edward Island political scientist Henry Srebrnik.

Ravvin, whose main fields of study are Canadian and American literature and critical theory, taught at the University of New Brunswick from 1997 to 1999 before arriving in Montreal.

Prior to being hired by UNB, where he gave graduate and undergraduate classes in creative writing, he was an instructor and teaching assistant at the University of Toronto.

Ravvin, whose scholarly work has focused on, among other topics, the Holocaust and Yiddish, has steered the institute in certain directions.

He established the publishing program with Red Deer Press, as well as a visiting scholar program that attracts senior and junior professors.

He has also introduced new courses every year so that Canadian Jewish studies can be viewed in different contexts.

And in line with his belief that the institute should maintain bonds with Montreal's Jewish community, he has sponsored public talks on Jewish literary subjects and joined the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre and Museum and the National Jewish Archives Committee.

Norman Ravvin
Concordia U. photo

Ravvin, who is married to anthropologist Shelley Butler, began concentrating on Jewish studies after delivering a paper on Eli Mandel at the annual conference of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies, of which he is now president.

The discipline is still attracting new blood, said Ravvin, who turned 40 on Aug. 26. "In a sense, I'm the second generation of cultural workers in the field."

Jewish studies in Canada, he said, was pioneered by scholars such as Ira Robinson, Hesh Troper, Frank Bialystok, Irving Abella and Mesh Butovsky.

In carving out his own niche, Ravvin has written essays on Holocaust literature, postwar Canadian and American fiction, ethics, religion and Yiddish.

"All of these topics are somehow related in my mind," he explained. "Ethics, in particular the work of Emmanuel Levinas, provides a context for thinking about the Holocaust. And we consider Yiddish as part of the heritage largely lost during the Holocaust."

In addition, Ravvin has published monographs on such writers as Bruno Schulz, Edgar Allan Poe and Leonard Cohen.

"They have inspired me both as a writer and as an explorer in literary culture," observed Ravvin. "Schulz for his exoticism and fancy, Poe for his wildness and doomed life, Cohen for having marked out a unique spot for a Canadian Jewish imagination in the local mainstream."

In 1997, McGill-Queen's University Press published Ravvin's book, *A House of Cards: Jewish Writing, Identity and Memory*, in which he analyzed a parade of North American writers, from Chava Rosenfarb and Philip Roth to Saul Bellow and Mordecai Richler.

A member of the editorial board of *Parchment*, the Canadian Jewish literary review, Ravvin believes Richler has a secure place in the pantheon of Canadian literature.

"Clearly, he has become a popular icon, and will remain an important Canadian literary figure. His books have not influenced me as a writer, but his presence on the scene and the particularity of his views are hard to avoid."

Born in Calgary, the son of Albert and Nan Ravvin, he has written two novels, *Cafe des Westens* and *Lola By Night*, which will be published in October.

"My first novel was an attempt to mine Jewishness in Calgary with a heavy overlay of memory of the Polish past of one family. It was a risk-taking book, full of attention to light and sound and smell. You only write one like that."

Lola by Night, which is set in Vancouver and Manhattan, turns on a Spanish woman who stumbles upon secret facets of her father's life after his death. "She becomes someone new in the process of recovering what's past."

A man of many interests, Ravvin is also currently writing an essay on Theolonious Monk, the legendary pianist and composer from the "cool" school of jazz.

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Gilbert's wisdom helps Roddick win Montreal tennis title

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to the CJN

MONTREAL — Nine years ago, tennis coach Brad Gilbert guided Andre Agassi from a number 30 ranking to number 1 in 12 months.

Agassi's quest, which included six Grand Slam titles (including the Australian Open, the French Open, the U.S. Open and Wimbledon) over his eight-year coaching relationship with Gilbert, began when Agassi won the Canadian Open title in 1994.

This year, Gilbert again guided his student to the Canadian Open championship, now called the Tennis Masters Series Montreal title,which was held recently at Jarry Park Tennis Stadium.

Gilbert's student is now 20-year-old American Andy Roddick, ranked fourth in the world. Gilbert's ability to transform Agassi from a promising star to the most dominant player in the game makes many believe he could do the same with Roddick.

"It is entirely possible that Roddick can become a number 1 player with Gilbert coaching him," said former Canadian Davis Cup captain Peter Burwash, who commented on the matches for CBC-TV.

"Brad is a master at scouting opponents and analyzing the weakness of their games. Gilbert will take Roddick's gift of an explosive serve and turn him into a more strategic player. Gilbert has long been acknowledged as having one of the best tennis minds and as a great coach."

Gilbert started working with Roddick following the French Open in June, when Roddick lost his first-round match. In the past three three months, Roddick has won two titles with a 24-

Brad Gilbert

2 record, with Gilbert as coach.

"I sought Brad out and it was the best decision I have ever made in my life. He has helped me think for myself and recognize the importance of the mental game," Roddick said after winning the Montreal title.

"I wanted to work with a player at the beginning of his career who can win Grand Slam titles. Andy is a great talent and I felt that he was ready to take the next step to improve his ranking," Gilbert said.

"Andy is committed to learning and pushing himself. I tell him little things, such as 'Concentrate on every point and don't give your serve up. Play every point with a sense of urgency. Never celebrate winning a point. Celebrate only when the tournament is over,'" Gilbert added.

Roddick's most challenging match in Montreal took place in the semi-final round when he defeated current Wimbledon champion Roger Federer 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (3) in three dramatic sets. Up to that point, Roddick had not defeated Federer in four meetings.

"I was more prepared for Federer because I had Brad coaching me," said Roddick. "I definitely have turned a corner working with him, and it's translating into victories."

Gilbert made his tennis theories public in his bestselling book *Winning Ugly* (1995). The 42-year-old Californian played on the men's pro tennis circuit from 1982-95 and was ranked fourth in the world in 1989.

Gilbert was never blessed with a powerful serve, volley or backhand. He earned his high ranking and 20 tournament titles by strategically placing shots to his opponent's weakness. For example, Gilbert's net shots neutralized Boris Becker's powerful serve in defeating the former great German tennis player three times.

Gilbert made history during his days as a player. He is part of the historical 1990 U.S. Davis Cup winning team that, for the first time ever, had three Jewish players on a cup-winning team.

Gilbert and his family have been strong supporters of Jewish philanthropies throughout his life. Gilbert's 20 titles include two titles in Tel Aviv. Locally, Gilbert has appeared at multiple functions for Maccabi Canada, giving tennis clinics at the Cote St. Luc Tennis Club and the Snowdon YM-YWHA whenever he competed in Montreal.

Before embarking on his pro career, Gilbert earned a silver medal for finishing as a finalist in the 1981 Maccabi Games in Israel. His sister Dana won the gold medal for winning the 1978 Maccabi Games before embarking on a four-year stint on the women's pro circuit. His brother Barry still competes at the Maccabi Games, as part of the men's senior tennis team.

After Gilbert's success in helping Agassi become a champion, the expectations on Roddick will be high, especially now that he has won in Montreal.

Gilbert is married to Kim and has three children, Zack, Julian and Zoe. Their home is in San Rafael, Calif.

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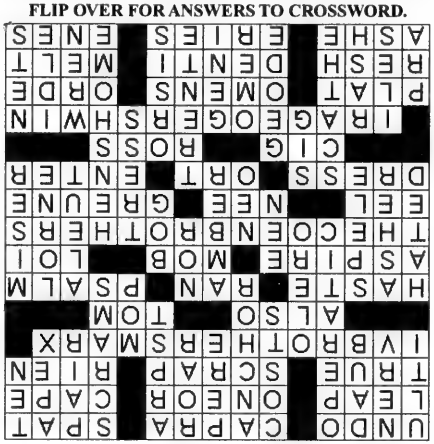

Football MVP tries hand at rugby

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Evan Shapiro was so keen on playing high school football last year that he accepted a scholarship to suit up for a Catholic school. But he didn't fit in as the lone Jew at De La Salle College and has yet to compete in a game at the high school level.

The Richmond Hill resident, who recently turned 16, transferred to Thornhill's Westmount Collegiate two weeks into the year to be with his friends, but he suddenly found himself without a football team to play for. He is considering changing schools again in the fall, to attend Markham District High School so he can get back on the gridiron.

A 5-11, 170-pound running back, Shapiro is a two-time MVP for the Markham Raiders of the Central Ontario Minor Football League, and he was twice named the club's defensive player of the year while plugging a hole at the linebacker position.

The multi-talented athlete says it was a challenge playing on both sides of the ball.

"It was tiring, but a lot of fun," said Shapiro, whose father Garry won a provincial championship playing high school football in Quebec.

Without football on his slate, Shapiro decided to take up rugby this past year and said it gave him the same kind of feeling. He led the team in tries, anchored scrums and played a big role in helping Westmount capture the York Region Tier Two title.

Shapiro was also Westmount's junior basketball team captain and its MVP, averaging 20 points a game in the four contests he played. Despite missing half the season with an ankle injury, he was still voted a league all-star.

"I stood out in the games I played, and they were the only four the team won," he said. "[The York Region] coaches [who voted] recognized that."

With rugby season conflicting with track, he was unable to participate in yet a third sport for his school.

Shapiro was a track and field star at the August 2001 Junior Maccabi Games in Philadelphia, winning eight gold medals and one bronze. When organizers cut track out of this summer's eight-country competition, he elected to attend Camp Tamarack in Muskoka instead.

Shapiro left in early July for his final year as a camper, intent on keeping himself in shape should he opt to change schools and play football in the fall.

"I'll do what I can," he said before leaving, admitting he hadn't put too much thought into making another transition.

"I'll go to the weight room with a friend who also plays football and go for runs around the camp."

ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

לצחוק קצת...

אקסטרה סמול מאת: ליעד שהם

ויתי בימי ההזדונה... ניסיתי לרכוש את ספרו העכשווי של ליעד שהם. קראתי את בקורת הספרים ושמעתי שכדאי. בשלוש חנויות ספרים בירושלים אזל המלאי. עשיתי הזמנה ואכן באתי אל סיפוקי. אקסטרה סמול איננו ספר "גדול"; זו לא ספרות טובה של ממש אבל הספר מעורר צחוק (מהבטן) ונוגע באמיתות קלילות שמדברות אל כל אחד מאתנו.

וכי באמת, ממה כבר יש להתפעל היום? מה יכול כבר לעורר צחוק בריא מהבטן? ספרו של שהם בהחלט עונה על הציפיות. בסגנון קליל, שנון ומשעשע שהם כותב על עצמו ועצמנו. עם יד אחת על הדופק האישי והיד השניה מפשפש בעניינים על סדר יומה של מדינת ישראל, חלא היא מדינה אקסטרה סמול. מי שמחפש העמקה והתפלספות - זה לא זה. מי שמבקש כנות והברקה ללא שמץ של יומרנות אך עם הרבה הומור - זה הספר. (אפשר לקרוא מהחתחלה ועד לסוף בשעה.)

ליעד שהם גר בגבעתיים ועובד כעורך דין בתל אביב. הוא גם כותב; אקסטרה סמול הוא ספרו השלישי. הספר, שכאמור הפך לרב מכר, כולל רצף של סיפורים שאינם אלא מיגוון של היבטים בפסיפס החיים במדינת ישראל של היום.

"אני זוכר במפורש" כך נפתח הספר, "שרשמתי בטופס, שהיוולד ניו זילנדי זה אצלי בעדיפות הראשונה. למה? שואל קצין המיון רשם הבחור ניו זילנד! חרי תמות שם משעמום. זה בדיוק מה שאני רוצה, השבתי לו, להעביר את החיים בתור ג'ינג'יק, ולראות ירוק וכבשים כל הזמן." וכך נמשך הדיון בין הכותב לקצין המיון; אם אי-אפשר ניו זילנד אז אולי צרפת, או אנגליה ואולי אמריקה? נו, ומה בכל זאת לגבי ישראל? "זו אמנם מדינה אקסטרה סמול, אבל אל תתבלבל מגודלה הפיזי" מסביר הקצין, "לאנשים שיושבים בה אין שום רגשי נחיתות. אם כבר, אז להיפך. הם חושבים שהם אימפריה, עם נבחר... כדאי לך. לא יהיה לך שם רגע אחד משעמם. ישראל זו יחידה קרבית ממש." וזהו. ישראל היא המדינה.

בין שאר הדברים המאפיינים מדינה זו, וכמו לישראלים רבים אחרים, יש למחבר סבתא שנכנסת לטראנס של דתיות בפסח ובימים כיפור. "כל השנה היא לא שומרת כשרות, אבל ביום כיפור ובפסח היא יכולה לתת פייט לרב הראשי לישראל בכל מה שקשור לשמירת מצוות."

את אחד הקטעים המבדרים ביותר בספר מגדיר המחבר: "בית המקדש השלישי". בית מקדש זה נבנה לא מזמן ליד נתניה, ליד צומת פולג: איקאה! את ההכנות לקנייה באיקאה מתאר שהם כהכנה למבצע צבאי; "התבקשתי (יותר נכון צויתי) למדוד את הרוחב, האורך והעומק של כל דבר בדירה שלי, לעיין היטב בקטלוג, לסמן בדיוק מה שאני רוצה (עם אלטרנטיבות) ולהתייצב... ולהקדים את הפקקים ואת כל האנשים שנוסעים לאיקאה." את הפופולאריות של החנות לרהיטים איקאה הוא מסביר כך: "היא משלבת כמה מהדברים החביבים עליהם (על הישראלים) ביותר: קניות, מחירים נמוכים, ואפשרות לדפוק את הערבים, שעד ייסודה של איקאה היו בעלי המונופול על היהודי זול בארץ חמדת אבות..."

בין לבין הציחקוקים על חשבונה של החברה הישראלית, הקורא חש באהבתו של המחבר את המדינה על כל החוסרנות והוולגריות שבה.

"זקנים כאן קודקוד" הוא קטע מצויין, ספק טראגי, ספק קומי המספר על גיוס יחידת מילואים. במכתב שנפתח במילים: "חייל מילואים יקר" מצווה הנמען להתייצב לא יאוחר מאשר תוך שלוש שעות מרגע קבלת הצו, במקום שהוא במרכז הארץ. התרגיל גובל באבסורד; "אתם תעלו עכשיו לאוטובוס, שיסיע אתכם למטווח שנמצא איזה חצי שעה נסיעה מכאן, ושם תירו בנשק שלושה כדורים. בסוף המטווח תחזרו לכאן, ונשחרר אתכם." הצעת הייעול של המחבר שבמקום לגרור מכשיר-קשר מסורבל, עם אנטנה בגובה של מטר וחצי ישתמשו בפלאפון מתקבלת בתרעומת שכן צבא זה צבא!

הספר לא רק מבדר אלא נוגע לא אחת במקום שכואב. אמביוולנטיות זו נחשפת יפה בקטע על יום העצמאות. ביום זה המחבר מסביר שהוא מעדיף להישאר בבית. מדוע? מפני שהמאמצים לחגוג אירוע משמעותי זה סופם בהתנסויות בלתי נעימות של כמעט למות בדוחק, עמידה בפקקים, מגל אומלל בפארק הירקון ו"יכל שנה אותו דבר, מיליון אנשים ואי אפשר לראות כלום." בכל ישותו הוא מאמץ את עמדת סבו האומרת "שבשבילי זה נלחמנו בלטרוף". אכן, הוא במפורש "חובב גדול של קוממיותנו" אך יום העצמאות זה "יום העצבנות" שלו.

אקסטרה סמול, לא ספר חובה אבל נחמד ומומלץ.

THREE POTATO SALAD

3 medium russet potatoes, peeled and cubed
3 medium unpeeled red potatoes, cubed
1 large sweet potato, peeled and cubed
1 medium onion, chopped
1 cup mayonnaise
2 tblsp. sugar
1 tblsp. white vinegar
1 tsp. salt
3/4 tsp. dill weed
1/2 tsp. pepper

Place all potatoes in large pot; cover with water. Cover pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook 20-30 minutes or until tender. Drain and cool.

Place potatoes in large bowl; add onion. In small bowl, combine remaining ingredients. Pour over potato mixture and toss gently to coat. For best results cover and keep in fridge overnight for flavours to blend. Servings: approx. 15.

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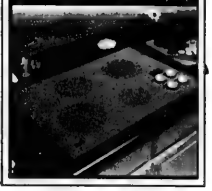


Money Matters

Rabbi Jay Kelman

What are the ethical obligations when selling one's home?

Jewish law rejects the notion of *caveat emptor* (buyer beware) and places an onus of disclosure on the seller of merchandise. The seller of a home – or any other object, for that matter – must reveal any "hidden" defects of the object, even those of a non-material nature. These would include an inefficient furnace, holes in the floor under the carpet, a roof that would likely need replacing soon or even that the house creaks. If the lack of disclosure is of such a magnitude that a reasonable buyer would have walked away from the deal – for example, the home contains asbestos – the buyer can render even a closed deal null and void. Of course, the vendor must ensure the home is in at least as good condition on the day of the closing as on the day the offer was accepted.

The seller cannot shirk his responsibility of disclosure by simply advising the buyer to have an inspection done. But a prudent home-buyer should still have an inspection done, because, except for those extremely serious and rare non-disclosures, the buyer has no recourse if the vendor lacks ethics. The buyer is expected to have a basic understanding of the marketplace and to perform some degree of due diligence. Obvious deficiencies in a home need not be pointed out as it is the buyer's responsibility to notice them. These might include lack of proper lighting or air-conditioning or holes in the ceiling.

While Jewish law regulates the amount of profit one can make in the necessity sector (for example, food, rent), no such provision exists in the real estate market. Thus, auctioning one's home to the highest bidder would present no moral issue. However, our Sages have ordained that one must first offer one's neighbour the right of first refusal on a home. This ordinance – applicable only when the buyer pays fair market value – prohibits one from taking advantage of the natural desire of someone to expand his property and thus charge them a price higher than the norm.

Comments may be addressed to info@torahinmotion.org.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

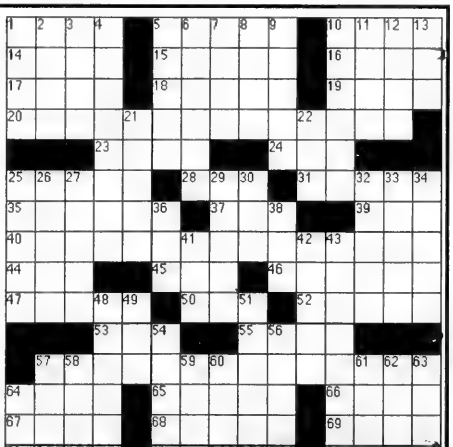
(Answers to the crossword are on page 50.)

The Canadian Jewish news

All in the Family
(Jewish siblings doing good!)
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Reverse an action
5. Director of It's a Wonderful Life
10. Tiff, quarrel
14. Jump
15. _____ the other
16. Ann or Fear
17. Emet or vrai
18. See 10 Across
19. Nothing, in Nimes
20. They made "Animal Crackers" (use the Latin numeral for the number of siblings that starred in this film)
23. Too
24. The piper's son
25. This makes waste
28. Moved fast
31. One of many written by David
35. Desire to attain
37. Corleone had one
39. Law, in Lyons
40. They made "Fargo"
44. Snake-like fish
45. Born as
46. Historic district of New Braunfels, Texas
47. Kind of code
50. Leftover bit
52. Walk on in
53. Short for something smoked
55. Antarctic explorer
57. They wrote "Of Thee I Sing" (note: one first name is abbreviated)
64. Property layout
65. Prophetic signs
66. Wingate, the British officer who quietly trained the Haganah
67. Hebrew letter
68. Frice starter is good for your teeth
69. Both anger and ice can do this
70. Arthur of the courts
71. Native Americans who gave their name to a lake
72. Ess ending makes for Hebrew ascetics

Down
1. Mate starter makes for 'the most'
2. Chutzpah, in English, shortened
3. Apply paint or plaster punchingly
4. Adjective for Aida
5. Charges or losses
6. Weigh or drop this
7. French father
8. Leonine expression
9. Urb. road named after Dadaist in London and Casper, Wyo.
10. Beats it
11. Couple
12. Zenith
13. David's basic army unit
21. B follower makes for great Ravel
22. Shaggy head of hair
25. Despised
26. One of Israel's 12 tribes
27. Cave prefix
29. Forever _____
30. Conjunction
32. Alaskan islander
33. Bonanza's Greene
34. Tight fister
36. Poetic contraction
38. Kind of wetland
41. Gothic starter
42. Fall of hair
43. Coop, residentially speaking
48. Denounce, witheringly
49. Freud, to friends
51. Thirty, in Tr`eves
54. Rock with crystalline interior
56. Bro'____, sibling options
57. Islands in the Seine
58. Skin ailment
59. Hebrew counting or weight unit
60. Al starter makes him sociable
61. Songbird
62. Inactive
63. Jason Kidd's team
64. Line starter makes a tasty treat



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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

No compromise with terrorism, Malcolm Hoenlein says. *Page 3*

Food, Scrumptious Food

Loving Spoonfuls celebrates grandmother's cooking. *Page 27*

Community Focus

Optimism helps us to meet our challenges. *Section B*

Arts & Travel

Charlie Pachter retraces his footsteps at the CNE. *Page 34*

Health & Lifestyles

First female president of dental fraternity. *Page 36*

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Forensic experts sift through the carnage from the bus bombing in Jerusalem last week, trying to find ways to identify the victims. Twenty-one people were killed, six of them children, and more than 100 injured by a Hamas terrorist. In response to the attack, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) moved tanks toward Ramallah and Nablus. On Thursday, the IDF killed Hamas leader Ismail Abu Shanab in Gaza and on Sunday, they eliminated senior Hamas leader Ahmed Shatiwi. ***Please see related stories on page 29.*** ***[Isranet photo]***

British arrest Iranian wanted for 1994 AMIA bombing in Argentina

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — A former Iranian ambassador to Argentina, wanted there in connection with the 1994 bombing of a Buenos Aires Jewish community centre in which 85 people were killed, was arrested last Thursday in England.

Police in Durham, northeast England, arrested Hadi Soleimanpour, 47, at his home there on an extradition warrant, police sources said.

Soleimanpour was to appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in London last Friday, Metropolitan Police headquarters in London said.

Police said the warrant issued Thursday at Bow Street alleges that "on or before" July 18, 1994, Soleimanpour conspired with others to murder people at the Asociación Mutual Israelita de la Argentina, the Jewish Community Center AMIA and Delegation of Argentine Jewish Associations building.

The Iranian government has several times denied any responsibility in the AMIA attack, in which a car bomb killed 85 and wounded more than 200.

Argentine federal judge Juan Jose Galeano, who is investigating the attack, had requested the arrest of Soleimanpour, who was Iranian ambassador to Argentina at the time of the explosion.

Soleimanpour has been in the United Kingdom since February 2002 on a student visa and was studying at Durham University, police sources said.

Continued on page 31

Shabbat: Shoftim
Candlelighting: 7:42
Havdallah: 8:47

Greater Toronto Area

Jews of France struggled to bury heat wave dead — please see page 31

The News in Brief

Canada

Day of Unity

VANCOUVER — The Ohel Ya'akov Community Kollel of Greater Vancouver is presenting its third annual "Day of Unity" on Sept. 1, Labour Day, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Fraser River Park in South Vancouver. Backed by almost 30 other local Jewish groups representing a cross-section of the community, it will include a kosher barbecue, as well as rides and other entertainment.

Israel

Temple Mount Visits

JERUSALEM — The Temple Mount was opened to non-Muslim visitors last week, and several hundred Christian and Jewish visitors toured Judaism's holiest site. The move to open the site, which has been closed to non-Muslims since the latest intifadah began in September 2000, was made without the approval of the Waqf, the Islamic trust responsible for the site.

Jets Buzz Bashar

JERUSALEM — Israeli fighter jets buzzed the palace of Syrian President Bashar Assad, Israeli television reported Aug 15. The flyover followed recent shelling of northern Israel by Hezbollah in Lebanon and was intended to warn Assad to rein in the guerillas, the report said.

World

Lebanon Tries Canadian

BEIRUT — A Canadian missionary charged with spying for Israel has told a military tribunal his visits to Lebanon were part of a project to replant its biblical cedar forest, judicial sources said last week. Bruce Balfour, 52, has been in jail since his arrest at Beirut's airport July 10 on what the sources said were charges of working with Israel to spy on Hezbollah guerrillas and the Lebanese army. Balfour and another Canadian were charged in absentia earlier this year. Balfour was detained when he tried to re-enter Lebanon.

Death Sentence

RABAT — Morocco has sentenced four men to death for their role in May suicide bombings that targeted several Jewish sites. The men were convicted last week of plotting to be among the 12 suicide bombers in the attacks, which killed 32 bystanders. No Jews died in the attacks, which targeted five sites, four of them connected to Jews.

Iran Warns Israel

TEHRAN — Iran is warning Israel not to attack its nuclear facilities. "The Zionist regime proved to be adventurous in the past and doesn't abide by any principles," an Iranian spokesperson said in Tehran last week, in an apparent reference to Israel's 1981 attack on an Iraqi nuclear facility. Israel has increased its pressure on the European Union and the United States to stop Iran's nuclear weapons program after Iran recently tested a missile capable of hitting Israel.

Think Tank Closed

NEW YORK — Jewish groups are welcoming reports that an Arab think tank known for promoting anti-Semitism has been closed. The Anti-Defamation League and the Simon Wiesenthal Center are praising the United Arab Emirates for closing the Zayed Center, which has provided a platform for anti-Semitism and Holocaust denial. It also hosted lectures by western heads of state and diplomats and recently gave a controversial grant to Harvard University's divinity school.

Blackout Vandalism

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — The University of Michigan's Hillel building was defaced with a swastika and obscenities during the recent blackout. Police believe vandals took advantage of the Aug. 14 blackout to paint the graffiti, Hillel director Michael Brooks said. Police officials consider the episode as an isolated incident.

Cemetery Desecrated

BERLIN — A Jewish cemetery in central Germany has suffered major vandalism. Workers arriving last Monday found 56 gravestones overturned in the cemetery at Kassel, which has stones dating back to the 16th century. A police spokesperson said the vandalism was the worst he had ever seen and must have been committed by several perpetrators, likely over the weekend.

Alter *The Passion*: SWC

LOS ANGELES — Rabbi Marvin Hier, head of the Simon Wiesnthal Center, last week wrote actor and director Mel Gibson asking him to make changes to his yet-to-be-released film *The Passion*. It depicts the last 12 hours of Jesus's life and Jewish leaders have said it wrongly reinforces stereotypes that Jews were responsible for his death. The centre said its endorsement of changes to the film "has generated an unprecedented wave of hate mail and calls."

New ORT Centre

MUMBAI — A computer training centre for Jews opened recently in northeastern India. The ORT Manipur Computer Center mainly serves the B'nai Menashe, a group of Indians

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Ahenakew Offered Ticket to Auschwitz

EDMONTON — A Holocaust survivor has offered ex-national native leader David Ahenakew a one-way ticket to Auschwitz, saying he rejects his apology for saying if it hadn't been for Adolf Hitler, the world would be owned by Jews.

Edmonton businessman Issy Burstyn, 73, made the offer last week after reports Ahenakew made new comments to a Toronto magazine that one race controls the media.

"When a group of people, a race of people, can control the world media, then there's got to be something done about that," Ahenakew said in an interview published recently in *This Magazine*. He didn't specify which race he was referring to.

"I want him to see Auschwitz for himself," Burstyn told the *Edmonton Sun*. "Maybe he will realize that if he was in Poland in 1942, he would have been 'fried' there, too."

The *Sun* could not reach Ahenakew for comment.

Last December, Ahenakew, 68, told a Saskatoon reporter that Hitler was trying to "clean up the world" when he "fried" six million Jews in the Holocaust, and that the world would be owned by Jews if not for Hitler. He later apologized.

In June, he was charged with inciting hatred against an identifiable group.

"I don't think he will go," Burstyn said. "Maybe if he did go he would understand what it is like to have your entire family destroyed, as happened to me."

The one-way ticket would cost about $900.

The Canadian Jewish news

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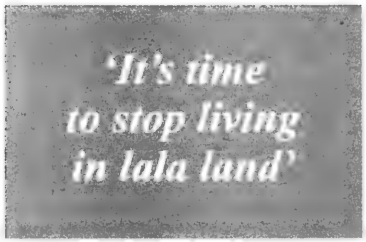


By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

"There can be no compromise with terrorism. It's a cancer that has to be rooted out in its entirety, or it comes back and does greater damage," said an impassioned Malcolm Hoenlein at the community launch of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Campaign 2004 last Thursday at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

The New York-based executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations, a noted Middle East commentator, scrapped his planned remarks on "The Rocky Road Map to Peace" to focus on the events of the previous day, when 20 people – including six children under the age of 7 and a mother who had recently volunteered to donate a kidney – were killed by a suicide bomber on a Jerusalem bus leaving the Kotel.

"What crime did these people commit?" Hoenlein asked. "The terrorists want us to think we did something wrong."

Only last month, Hoenlein said, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat said that praying in Jerusalem constitutes Zionist aggression. Arafat's contention that Jews have no historical ties to Israel is an affront to Judaism and Christianity, he added.

Arafat gave the green light for the terrorist attacks, said Hoenlein, who called last week's bombing "a watershed event" and said our lives and priorities have to be different as a result.

"Israel's war is our war," he said, "because it's a war for the same values – for democracy, for freedom and for liberty."

No one is safe, he warned. Islamic fundamentalism – not Islam per se, he noted – "represents a world-wide danger."

For those who try to understand the motivations of suicide bombers, Hoenlein asked, "Did we ask the Nazis what crime was done to them? Did we ask fascists what crimes were done to them? At the core of Islamist ideology is Nazism."

It's time to go after states such as Syria that make terrorist attacks possible and to "remove the restraints on Israel," so it has the right to defend itself like every country in the world, said Hoenlein, referring to such measures as targeted killings and the building of a security fence.

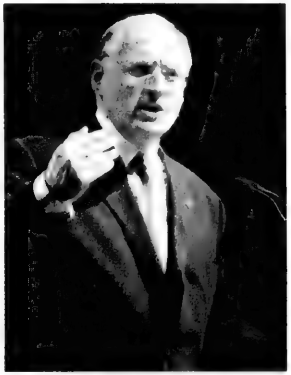
Since the *hudna* [truce] was reached between Palestinian terror groups, the IDF has prevented almost 300 attacks, he noted, yet three PA ministers recently said they would not confiscate arms.

"There has to be new leadership," said Hoenlein, adding that Arafat – not PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas – is still in charge.

"It's time to stop living in lala land," Hoenlein said. "It's time to stop making concessions. It's time to say to Abbas, 'Put up, or get out.'"

Hoenlein urged the audience of more than 1,000 people to make the world a better and safer place for future generations by reaching out to young people affected by anti-Semitism on campus, as well as by visiting Israel, buying Israeli products and writing letters.

"You have the ability to change things if you want it," he said.



Malcolm Hoenlein

This year's campaign is an extension of last year's Israel Emergency Campaign, which raised a record $65 million, said Allan Silber, who is co-chairing Campaign 2004 with Richard Venn.

The campaign raises funds for Israel, overseas and locally. It assists, among others, Israelis injured in terror attacks and those affected by unemployment and poverty, as well as students affected on campus by what Hoenlein called "the most blatant anti-Semitism since the 1940s."

Almost $20 million has been raised already, said Venn.

The launch, chaired by Michael Diamond and Wendy Posluns, also included the Toronto debut of the Israeli musical group Yachad.

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Greater Toronto Area

End-of-summer thoughts

As August falls away from the 2003 calendar, here are some thoughts to thin the sound of the page slipping sibilantly into history.

* * *

Earlier this month, the Palestinian Authority (PA) complained it would not be able to engender sufficient popular support for its commitments under the road map peace plan unless Israel stopped and reversed its work on the security fence. That the security fence was nowhere mentioned in the road map agreement was overlooked by most international media – including Canadian – as they predictably picked up and parroted the Palestinian complaint.

From the editor's desk

That the PA *did* say it would not even attempt to dismantle the terror network, which was the first and pre-eminent commitment upon the PA mentioned in the road map, was also overlooked by most international media, including Canadian.

Because media coverage steered the spotlight away from the road map and toward the security fence, a great deal of advice for the government of Israel about that fence appeared in all the local newspapers.

One particularly brief letter to the editor to the *Globe and Mail*, which was published on Aug. 9, is a paradigm of the propaganda and distorted history that is constantly used to blame Israel.

"Your editorial states that 'Israelis have an absolute right to be free of terror.' Perhaps it could be helpful to add that *Palestinians have an absolute right not to be expelled from their homes in Israel for more than 50 years because of their race, or not to be illegally occupied in the West Bank for more than 35 years.*"

In just 38 words, the letter-writer repeats three wholly incorrect statements and in the process, stains Israel with an especially loathsome epithet.

• The truth must be repeated over and over and heard at least as often as the lie. Some Palestinians were expelled during the war in 1947-8, but most were not. The vast majority of Palestinians who were displaced left their homes of their own volition or at the urging of their own leaders, or in circumstances that characterize all situations of war, namely chaos, fear and survival.

• The use of the term "race" is factually, historically, anthropologically and morally inappropriate. Its only purpose is to create the odious allusion of Israel as a racist state.

• Even if, for argument's sake, one accedes to the use of the term "occupation" in reference to Israel's presence in the West Bank, it cannot correctly be called "illegal." Israel's presence in the West Bank after 1967 arose by virtue of a defensive war it fought to save its life. Prior to that war, the territory was claimed and ruled by Jordan, not by any Palestinian national movement or by a Palestinian leadership. Nor did the Jordanian government rule the territory in trust for any Palestinian national movement. Three times Israel has publicly pleaded to negotiate a return of territories it captured during that war, but each time the Palestinian leadership rejected its plea:

1. The infamous three noes of the Arab world in Khartoum after the Six Day War in 1967;

2. The refusal to allow then-Egyptian president Anwar Sadat to negotiate autonomy at Camp David with then-Israeli prime minister Menahem Begin and then-U.S. president Jimmy Carter;

3. The refusal by PA President Yasser Arafat at Camp David and at Taba to reach an agreement brokered by then-U.S. president Bill Clinton with then-Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak.

Every Israeli government, at least since 1993, has expressly said it wished to end the "occupation" in the West Bank. A majority of Israelis want their government to do so. But the truth is, the Palestinian leadership refuses to negotiate the end of the "occupation" of the West Bank because it will mean giving up their claims to the rest of the territory they consider to be occupied: all of Israel.

* * *

It was hard not to notice last week that the Canadian government did not issue a formal statement condemning the Jerusalem bus bombing. The omission was particularly egregious in light of the fact that it issued a formal statement condemning the heinous bombing of UN headquarters earlier that same day in Baghdad.

When asked by *The CJN* about the omission, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Isabelle Savard said the minister had been informed of the Baghdad bombing early in the morning and had all day to prepare a press release. But "there was no press release about Jerusalem because the minister and the prime minister strongly condemned it in a scrum when they arrived in North Bay for caucus [meetings]."

There is simply no comparison in either the symbolic and substantive policy weight or in the extent of distribution of a statement issued orally during a press scrum or one issued formally as part of a ministry's policy apparatus.

What implicit message is sent to the terrorists and their supporters by our government's different treatment of two equally brutal terrorist acts?

* * *

CLARIFICATION

The CJN may have inadvertently misled its readers with the wording of the caption under the photo that accompanied the essay on the Perspectives page last week. We asked Jews for Judaism to provide a photo that illustrated a typical street confrontation with Jews for Jesus proselytizers. They provided a photo for educational purposes of a re-enactment of such a confrontation. Our caption incorrectly suggested an actual confrontation. ***MBD***

SeeJN

ALL-PARTY MISSION: The second annual Canada-Israel Committee-Parliament Hill staffers mission recently returned to Canada after a week-long stay in Israel, during which the staffers were briefed on the current political situation by officials and politicians and they visited key sites, including the Lebanese border, Jerusalem and Ramallah. Pictured on Mount Scopus, overlooking Jerusalem, are, from left, Rhonda Walker-Sisttie, aide to Tory Senator David Tkachuk; Ryan Hordy, aide to Liberal MP Roy Cullen; Pierre Poilievre, aide to Canadian Alliance MP Stockwell Day; Aaron Gairdner, aide to Opposition leader Stephen Harper; Ofir Gendelman, Israel's new vice-consul in Toronto; Peter Wigen, aide to Liberal MP Joe Volpe; Hélène Tremblay, aide to Bloc Quebecois MP Caroline St. Hilaire; David Cooper, assistant director of government relations for the Canada-Israel Committee; and Geoff Hall, aide to NDP MP Joe Comartin.

Otzma recruits doctors for emergency service in Israel

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

Steve Friedman outside Tel Hashomer hospital in Tel Aviv

As the threat of war in Iraq loomed, Steve Friedman confirmed his plans to go to Israel as more than just a tourist.

He was heading there to volunteer as an emergency-room doctor at Tel Hashomer Hospital in Tel Aviv, and the threat of another Gulf War only deepened his resolve.

Despite the ominous warnings of missile attacks from Iraq, nothing happened in the 10 days he spent at Tel Hashomer. It was quieter than the emergency room at Toronto General Hospital, where he works.

"It was business as usual," he says. "The biggest threat was crossing the street."

Friedman's volunteer stint was more than just a one-time, one-man deal. He is part of a new program called OTZMA Volunteers for Life, which recruits foreign doctors and integrates them into the Israeli medical system. In a time of need, these volunteers will be brought in to replace Israeli doctors who are called up for army duty and to lessen the workload for doctors remaining in the hospitals.

The program has already attracted 225 doctors, but would like at least 2,000. In order to be prepared, OTZMA doctors are expected to volunteer in their Israeli hospitals once a year.

Malka Shostack, OTZMA logistics co-ordinator, says that in the event of catastrophe, a call will go out to the volunteer doctors. Within 48 to 72 hours, surgeons, anesthesiologists and emergency doctors such as Friedman will board a specially chartered El Al flight and be whisked off to Israel to take their places in Israeli hospitals and treat casualties.

"In the first three to four days, the need is very specific, but later on, every specialty will be needed," says Shostack.

Before going to Israel, Friedman, a graduate of Montreal's Herzliah High School, tried to learn the Hebrew words for various body parts, symptoms and medical tests.

"It's not like going to Herzliyah and learning about Shmuel Aleph and Shmuel Bet. Shmuel Bet never went to the emerg with a heart attack and needed a *lachatz dam* (blood pressure) taken," says Friedman, who was the first OTZMA doctor to get an Israeli medical licence.

The program stresses building relationships with the hospitals so that foreign doctors can be trusted in a crisis. The Tel Hashomer emergency department director once left Friedman to run the department on his own – something that wouldn't have happened if the director didn't trust him, he says.

"You're not going to be some guy walking in out of the blue into any situation."

The highlight of his stay, Friedman says, was forming professional relationships with the Israeli doctors.

"It's rewarding because you're actively involved in Israel beyond reading *Ha'aretz* online and contributing to community actions," says Friedman. "You're actually treating patients. My signature is on the charts."

As a souvenir, Friedman brought back one of the unused gas mask and vials of nerve gas antidote that are distributed to every Israeli.

Toronto cardiologist Eric Gangbar also joined the OTZMA program. If a crisis occurs, he will be among the second group of doctors that flies to Israel, where he will head to Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital for duty in its cardiology department.

The biggest hurdle, says Gangbar, who recently returned from the OTZMA orientation week in Israel, will be to adapt to the Israeli medical system. And although English is widely spoken in hospitals, Gangbar says he wants to brush up on his Hebrew.

Shostack hopes OTZMA will never need to call on its volunteers. "Hopefully we'll never need that, but you need to be prepared."

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Working at Koffler part of Brinder's family history

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Marni Brinder, the cultural programming and fundraising co-ordinator for the Koffler Centre of the Arts, may have started her job less than a year ago, but she feels as if she's been there all her life.

"Actually, I have been around here ever since I can remember. My grandmother, Rose Brinder, was head of the Koffler School of Visual Arts, and she would often take me to work when my mother was working.

Spotlight

"As well, I went to the nursery school, I worked at Centre Camp for 10 years, and my two brothers worked at Centre Camp this summer. There has been a Brinder here for at least 25 years. It's a family enterprise," says Brinder who has a master's degree in English literature from McGill University.

"Let's just say that this is a fairly new job, but the surroundings are definitely familiar. When I was interviewed for this position by [Koffler Centre director] Diane Uslaner, we both felt like it was meant to be," she says.

Brinder spent much of her first several months on the job, planning Koffler's second annual fundraising gala, Stars of the 21st Century, which took place last spring at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

"Among other things, I put together a corporate fundraising package, co-ordinated various committees and the volunteers, and sent out literature. Working on that project quickly immersed me in the job," she says.

"Dancers from the Bolshoi Ballet, National Ballet of Cuba, the Munich Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre and Canadian Ballet Theatre took part in the show.

Marni Brinder

"Having such names added prestige to our name, and also helped bring culture to the community. Some people volunteered just to be part of the event," says Brinder.

As the cultural arm of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, the Koffler Centre is comprised of the schools of visual arts, music and dance, the drama department, as well as the annual book fair and book awards.

"Part of our mandate is to enhance the Jewish content of Koffler, and to that end we've begun a mezuzah project, which involves affixing mezuzot to every door in the centre.

"I'm contacting artists and asking them to create mezuzot out of various media such as wood, glass, plaster or clay. The project truly reflects our mandate, because it is a blend of art and Judaism."

It was "bashert," she says, that this job was open just when she graduated. "I feel as if it was something that I was working towards. To walk into a new job and feel like a colleague right away is a great feeling."

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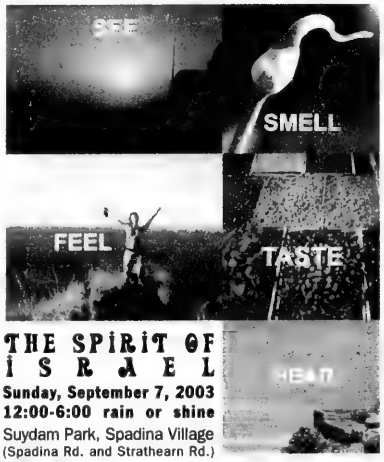

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Organizations implement post-blackout measures

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN and FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporters

Sandy Keshen, executive director of the Reena Foundation, said that just over two years ago, when people across the world were concerned about a possible Y2K crisis, Reena spent a great deal of time and effort to put emergency procedures into place.

It paid off on Aug. 14 when the lights went out.

"Thanks to that initiative, staff across our system were well prepared to deal with the loss of hydro and coped splendidly. Managers contacted all supervisors, who in turn contacted all front-line staff currently on a shift and those who were expected to take over," Keshen said.

"In spite of their obvious concerns about their own family members and difficulties getting to or from the group homes, no location was unattended for even a brief period."

Sol Fleising, Reena's director of finance, said that a children's home located in Maple is located above an artesian well and is kept dry year-round by two sump pumps.

"We learned an important lesson [the day of the blackout] – sump pumps need more than love and affection to keep running," Fleising said. "After about four hours without power, the water started to back up into the basement and by 4 a.m. was about five inches high.

The Vaughan Fire Department pumped out most of the water, and Reena staff pumped the rest and mopped the floors, while "our client Josh [stayed] up well past his bedtime, calm and cool as a cucumber," he said.

A letter from Baycrest Terrace, signed by its resident council, thanked staff and volunteers for the "wonderful care, help and treatment. [They] did their utmost to ensure our safety and well-being during the blackout."

Staff arranged for some residents to sleep on the main floor, the letter said, and they helped others get upstairs to their apartments.

Staff and volunteers also ensured that residents had nourishing meals delivered to all 11 floors, and gave residents advice as to how to keep comfortable. "[Everything] was done calmly, efficiently and in good spirits."

Old Y2K plans and conservation measures help them cope

Ve'ahavta, the Jewish humanitarian organization, had a team of 43 people volunteering in the rainforests of Guyana, South America. Guyana is one of the poorest places in the Western Hemisphere and frequently has no electricity and/or plumbing, said Avrum Rosensweig, the organization's director.

When he reached Ve'ahavta leaders in Guyana and learned they had full electricity and plumbing, his response was, "We have neither."

In the aftermath of the blackout, when Ontarians were being asked to conserve power, Jewish organizations contacted by *The CJN* said they were minimizing their use of air conditioning and electric lights.

Wendy Lampert, one of more than 100 employees at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, who works at the Lipa Green Building, said last week she didn't know how much the temperature had been lowered in the building, but said she was wearing summer dresses that she "would be freezing in on a normal day. The building is much warmer than usual."

Sheldon Maerov, executive director of Beth Tzedec Congregation – the largest Conservative congregation in North America with 2,800 member families – said last week that, to conserve energy, window blinds were closed wherever possible, lights had been turned off, the grass hadn't been watered, and air conditioning was being turned on only in rooms that were in use and only just before they were needed.

"We try to conserve here anyway," he said. "Water and hydro are major expenses in a building this size."

At Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation of Toronto, an Orthodox congregation in Thornhill with 750 member families, maintenance staff "did a walk-through" once the power returned on Friday, Aug. 15, said Simon Rucker, co-chair of the shul's house and maintenance committee.

"Almost to a lightbulb, they determined where we could reduce energy consumption while still maintaining a safe environment.

"We've always been very careful about the level of energy we're using," he said, referring to the 90,000-square-foot synagogue. "We've replaced most of our incandescent bulbs with fluorescents, and on a regular basis we turn off air conditioning when it's not needed."

As of last Friday, though, they had not needed to use the barbecues they brought out for a blackout-night wedding.

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Where is the Palestinian mainstream?

The terrorist assault on a room full of Jews sitting down to a Pesach seder at the Park Hotel in Netanya two years ago marked a turning point in the way Israel deployed its forces in defence of its citizens. The assault by Hamas terrorists last week in Jerusalem on a busload of Jews, many of them infants and children, appears to have marked a similar turning point in the manner in which Israel will henceforward defend its people against the horrific brutality of the Islamists' terror network.

After the cabinet meeting last Sunday, Israel Defence Forces chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon left no doubt about the course and the nature of Israel's future operations against the planners and the implementers of the deliberate targeting of children. "Whoever supports such activities will not go unpunished," Ya'alon said. "All Hamas militants are potential targets," he continued, "and from our perspective all members of the organization are part of the radical core… If we see that the Palestinian Authority does not deal with this core, we will be forced to do so."

No country on earth, whose laws and values are founded upon the sanctity of and reverence for human life, could object to Israel's decision. Like all peace-loving countries, Israel has an obligation to protect its people and thus, like all such countries, the accompanying right to do so.

The method by which the Israel Defence Forces will undertake the defence of its citizens must, of course, be commensurate with the threat its citizens face. That threat, namely suicide bombing, has never been seen before in the frequency and on the scale with which it has been unleashed against Israel in the last three years.

And the nature of that threat is such that there is no apparent policy that can effectively deter it. For the threat of death is no threat at all to the attacker. Indeed, the attacker's death is part of the weapon's potency. The only effective policy against suicide bombers is pre-emption. Israel must strike at the bomber and the bomber's network before the suicide belts are strapped on.

Not to be overlooked in Ya'alon's statement, however, was his urgent call upon the Palestinian Authority to eliminate terror. The obligation falls first upon this group of Palestinian leaders to prove themselves worthy of being considered a government-in-waiting for the country that is yet to be born. Ya'alon understands the melancholy truth, as do most Israelis, that there will never be true peace between Israelis and Palestinians unless and until the Palestinian mainstream utterly rejects and casts out the terrorists from their midst. In their evil, ghoulish campaign against Israelis, the terrorists are also brutalizing their own people, by increasingly stigmatizing an entire society and consigning it to languish in near perpetual penury.

Where is the Palestinian mainstream?

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Says ABA therapy works

Thank you for helping raise awareness about the exorbitant costs, both financial and emotional, families incur trying to raise autistic children ("Autism therapy for kids a financial burden, court told," *CJN*, July 31). The constant battle for funding, educational supports and integration can wear down the strongest of advocates.

Families are grateful there is funding for ABA (applied behavioural analysis) therapy for children between ages two and five who qualify, but that does not solve the greater problem: all of these children will turn six and enter a school system that is underfunded and ill-equipped to handle the onset of the enormous number of children being diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.

Private schools are in a position to handpick their applicants, and once they see "diagnosis: autism," we are not accepted into the fold. Who on earth could afford a private school and an education assistant to attend with the special needs student? No one I can think of.

The Jewish community is not very welcoming to children with autism. I have been turned away too many times to count. Zareinu Educational Centre is a wonderful institution for those who need a segregated environment, but for other children ready to enter the "real world," integration and support are key to successful inclusion. The public education system must by law accept all students, regardless of abilities. But the law is less stringent in requiring the system to truly "educate" the children. And so, our battle continues.

ABA therapy is a wonderful approach to bring these beautiful, innocent children "back to us." It works, it can be done. They can learn. We must give them a chance to shine.

Lillian Wagman
Toronto

* * *

Disagrees on targeted killings

In general, I like reading much of what Sheldon Kirshner writes.

But this time around, he is very much off the mark ("Israel's policy of targeted killings is a two-edged sword," *CJN*, Aug. 7). There is no evidence at all that without targeted killings by the Israel Defence Forces, there would be fewer Israeli casualties. This kind of thinking means accepting Palestinian allegations that Israel is to blame for its misfortune. I am afraid that the contrary is correct, that without the targeted killings or other counter measures, the Israeli casualties would be much higher. The Palestinian terrorists would not have to worry at all and they could concentrate all their energies in planning and executing terror attacks.

It reminds me of the forceful argument the Jews of Belgium and France made in 1942, that every member of the Jewish community requested by the Nazi authorities to present themselves for work camps must do so. They made the work of the Germans in collecting the Jews much too easy.

Their main argument then was that the Nazis would punish us for the noncompliance of a few.

The argument made by some German refugees, that the Nazis will take everyone they will be able to put their hands on in any case, was countered that these refugees must have had some questionable or unclean past.

Kirshner fell into a similar trap in accepting Palestinian propaganda as evidence.

I am afraid nothing is further from the truth. A hands-off attitude would encourage terrorists to increase their killings of Jews.

Joseph Schwartzberg
Toronto

* * *

Re: Joseph Berger's letter Aug. 7

Jewish scholarship has progressed considerably since the obsolete mid-1970s Reform responsum Berger cites in a recent letter to *The CJN* ("Same-sex marriages not traditional," CJN, Aug. 7). The 1993 policy statement of the Reconstructionist rabbinate, as well as recent responsa of the Reform rabbinate, which cite traditional sources, allow for diversities of theological opinion and urge the inclusion of gays and lesbians in Jewish settings. Berger cannot admit to theological diversity or distinctions between secular and religious legal status. He confuses ethical same-sex sexuality with ancient concepts of sexual coercion, and inaccurately conflates concepts of sexual behaviour and enduring sexual identity.

Neither secular nor liberal Jewish settings dare suggest that gays are welcome as long as they are closeted and silent. Berger's allegation that gays disclosing their sexual orientation in traditional settings are guilty of proselytizing is deeply unjust and injurious to the dignity of congregants seeking honest and respectful pastoral care and affiliation. Imagine your reaction were any secular setting to accuse Jews of sedition merely for disclosing their commitments.

Neither gays nor liberal Jews suggest all people should live or believe as they do, unlike Berger and others. Who is proselytizing and fomenting harmful ignorance and exclusion?

Joanne Cohen
Chair, Advisory Board
Jewish Gay and Lesbian Fund
Jewish Foundation of Toronto
Toronto

* * *

Conversion in non-Evangelical form

Evangelical Christians target the Jewish community through a variety of methods. Well-known is the methodology mentioned in the article "Stealth evangelism and truth in packaging" (*CJN*, Aug. 21). Less well-known is the theological manipulation of socially conservative religious Jews.

One should be puzzled over the recent homophobic rhetoric currently circulating among some Jewish Canadians, as well as the derision by some displayed toward "secular humanism." While many religious Jews may not believe in secular humanism for their own lives, allowing themselves to be used in a campaign against gay marriage and other emblems of the secular state is indicative of a fundamentalist, literalist interpretation of Torah. While we must watch out for evangelicals' "stealth" methods, we must also watch for theocratic ideology that plays into their hands.

Jordy Cummings
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Arafat still calling the shots

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Following last week's killing of senior Hamas official Ismail Abu Shanab, we can expect an escalation in military activity, with Israel and Hamas trading blows.

And the person with the most influence over how long this period lasts is not Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, but Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat – who the day before Israel's hit on Abu Shanab, rejected a request that he transfer control of two major PA security services to Abbas and his security chief, Mohammed Dahlan.

Arafat also postponed a discussion of the plan submitted by Abbas and Dahlan for taking action against Hamas and Islamic Jihad after last week's suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

Israel's security cabinet, which discussed the response to the Jerusalem bus bombing, took the expected escalation into account. If the escalation continues, Abu Shanab will clearly not be the last Hamas leader in Israel's gun sights. There are also likely to be large-scale arrest operations throughout the West Bank.

The decision to broaden the scope of arrests was made after Israel discovered that on the same day that a Hamas bomber from Hebron blew up the bus in Jerusalem, members of an Islamic Jihad cell from the West Bank had been en route to a suicide bombing in Haifa, but were arrested by Israeli security.

There is no doubt that Hamas, which has declared an end to the ceasefire, will now try to act against Israel on various fronts. The ludicrous part is that Hamas considered both the Jerusalem attack, which killed 20 people, and another, less deadly suicide bombing last week to be consistent with the terms of the ceasefire.

During the weeks of truce, in which neither the Israel Defence Forces nor the PA security services took action against Hamas, the organization built up its strength and capabilities. Now, it will undoubtedly try to fire Qassam rockets and mortar shells at Israeli towns, to set off roadside bombs and lay ambushes on the roads in Gaza or to attack Israeli settlements. And, of course, more suicide bombings will be forthcoming. Hamas will also try to recruit Islamic Jihad and Fatah cells to join it.

The burned-out bus after the suicide bombing. **[Israel and Israel Sun photos]**

The statement issued last week by Dahlan's spokesperson, which said Dahlan had been planning to take action against Hamas, but froze his plans because of the killing of Abu Shanab, has been met with scorn in Israel. Why did he not act before? Why did he repeatedly say he has no intention of acting against the terrorist infrastructure?

Dahlan's organization did absolutely nothing in the day-and-a-half following the Jerusalem bombing – which is what led the IDF to act.

Mahmoud Abbas and Yasser Arafat

The security plan that has supposedly just been "frozen" has actually been in the deep freeze for a long time, even though Israel had warned Dahlan repeatedly that his inaction would eventually lead to disaster.

Last week, the PA's Preventive Security Service in Gaza proved that it can act when it wishes: after a booby-trapped bicycle was placed near the service's offices, the service immediately arrested the Islamic Jihad members who were responsible. Two of those arrested were even wounded in an exchange of gunfire during the operation.

When, after the Jerusalem bombing, the United States and Israel pressed Abbas and Dahlan to act against the terrorist infrastructure, they first asked for time to convene the PA cabinet. Then they said they had to bring the plan to the PLO's executive committee, headed by Arafat. But Arafat would not approve it, saying it required additional discussion. And all of this happened before the assassination of Abu Shanab.

At the same meeting, Arafat was asked to hand over control of two major security organizations, the National Security Service and the General Intelligence Service, which he has retained despite the fact the PA's reform plan calls for all the security services to be under Abbas' control. Arafat replied that this demand also needed to be studied. As usual, he did not refuse the request outright, but neither did he give it his approval.

It is impossible to predict how long this latest period of escalation will last. The Americans will surely try to shorten it, through both diplomatic activity and pressure. Israel has informed Washington that it remains committed to the diplomatic process, but it sees no chance of this process succeeding without action against the terrorist infrastructure.

America's stance on the terrorist infrastructure has hardened since the Jerusalem bombing, but it has yet to reach the stage of ultimatums – and for this, Washington deserves criticism.

Before the Aqaba conference, the Americans told Israel that Dahlan would need a lot of time before he would be able to start fighting terror. Israel agreed that Dahlan would need some time to organize, but warned that Hamas would exploit the ceasefire.

When Israel told the Americans that three to four weeks ought to suffice as preparation time before Dahlan could begin taking action, the Americans responded that they would dictate the time limit – a response that generated some sharp exchanges between U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and IDF Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon when the latter visited Washington, D.C.

Mohammed Dahlan

Now, after the Jerusalem bombing, the United States is beginning to issue more forceful demands that the terrorist infrastructure be eliminated immediately. Powell also called on Arafat to immediately transfer responsibility for all the security services to Abbas – something that, under the reform plan, he should have done long ago.

That is a way of pointing the finger of blame at Arafat – but it also confirms that Arafat is the man who makes the decisions, while Abbas, incapable of doing anything on his own, must wait on Arafat's word.

Israeli forensic experts poring over the scene of the bus bombing.

Opinions

Showing up

During my first year in the rabbinate, an experienced colleague gave me some wise advice. To paraphrase the famous Jewish sage Woody Allen, "Showing up is 80 per cent of life."

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz in Montreal

Actually, he underestimated the percentage. For a rabbi, 99 per cent of life is showing up: to brit milahs, shivahs, etc. Remarkably, what I actually do at these events isn't that important, as long as I show up. Perhaps it's because many people feel these aren't religious events without a rabbi (a notion more Catholic than Jewish). Or it may be the magic factor. Some people actually believe a rabbi's presence brings luck, as if the rabbi were some sort of two-legged amulet.

The mindless appearance is not the exclusive domain of rabbis.

Politicians have to be visible during election campaigns, performing the unremarkable tasks of shaking hands and hugging babies (in this regard, a rabbi is a sort of religious politician as well). Celebrities, in order to remain celebrities, also have to stay in the public eye, waving blankly to the paparazzi. But in actuality, the mindless appearance is significant for everyone, famous or not.

Talk is overrated. Western society assumes every encounter requires non-stop conversation, otherwise things are considered "awkward." (Think of how you feel when you're in the elevator with a stranger.) But this is not a universal feeling. In *A Geography of Time*, Robert Levine describes his experiences in India, where people "drop by one another's homes, only to sit and remain silent, sometimes … for hours." When Levine asked his friends whether they considered these moments of silence uncomfortable, they couldn't understand why *he* would consider silence awkward.

While the West is obsessed with verbal interactions, in India, the company counts for more than the conversation. Simply sitting together is a worthwhile pursuit.

Personally, my sympathies are with the Indians. Companionship in its own right is valuable. As the Talmud says, "It is better to sit as two than to sit alone."

I don't look down on profound, intimate conversation. But conversation is not the only route to friendship. Sitting together satisfies our existential need for companionship. When Adam searches for a companion in the Garden of Eden, he isn't looking for banter or insights or a soulmate. He just doesn't want to be alone. He is waiting for another person to show up.

People often feel uncomfortable going to shivahs. They feel they have nothing to say, and think it's pointless to go and sit quietly. The truth is, there is nothing to say. The act of visiting is a gesture of concern that is more eloquent than anything one could say. Showing up is all that matters.

Showing up requires no skill, yet it is immeasurably meaningful. Thank God it's 80 per cent of life.

Israel's citizenship dilemma

Citizenship has been one of Israel's greatest challenges in its dual self-definition as both a Jewish state and a democracy. The Law of Return grants automatic citizenship to immigrants who are Jews, spouses or children of Jews, and to people with a Jewish grandparent. (In the last decade alone, approximately 250,000 non-Jewish Russian immigrants have entered Israel and have become citizens of the state.)

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Non-Jews who marry resident Israelis can apply for residency permits and later, for citizenship. Historically, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza who married Israeli citizens (usually from among the 1 million Arab citizens living inside Israel's pre-1967 borders) were eligible for the same procedure. As a result, in the last decade, 140,000 Palestinians from the territories have received residency permits on family reunification grounds.

But according to a new citizenship law passed last month, West Bank and Gaza Palestinians will no longer be eligible for Israeli residency if they marry an Israeli citizen. The law applies retroactively to May 2002. Applications submitted after that date will not receive permits, and temporary residency granted before that date will not be upgraded to permanent status.

In practice, this means that the provision applies not just to future marriages, but also to tens of thousands of such mixed families that already reside in Israel. Now, they will either have to live apart, or the Israeli spouse will have to forego the benefits of residence and work in Israel and move to the territories.

To put it very bluntly, Arabs have now been singled out as a distinct group within the general category of non-Jewish spouses of Israelis. And Israelis who are Arab (and are usually those who marry Palestinians) are singled out in the limitation this places on their ability to live in Israel with spouses of their choice. In effect, the new law takes what should be individual considerations on a case-by-case basis and applies them across the board on ethnic grounds.

The bills' sponsors argued it was necessary in light of the security risk inherent in such new residents. In committee hearings on the bill, the security services documented some 20 proven incidents of direct or indirect involvement in acts of terror by members of the group in question.

The second "demographic" argument for the bill resonated with many more Israelis, who hope that limiting formal entry of Palestinians will further protect the Jewish character of the state. Some Israelis believe that Palestinians from the territories often use marriage as a ploy to enter Israel and describe what has been happening as a "creeping right of return".

Both arguments have serious merits, but as generalizations, they're simply incorrect. Acquiring residency permits is already a tortuous procedure that allows for extensive security checks on a case-by-case basis. As it is, permits can be denied or revoked on security grounds at any time. And the assumption that tens of thousands of Palestinians go through fictitious marriages just in order to infiltrate Israel can only be described as conspiratorial thinking.

It isn't often that Arab members of Knesset, the Labor party and the U.S.-based Anti-Defamation League (ADL) all agree. In the Knesset, Israeli Arab MK's were predictably outraged in their denunciation of the law. But when the Labor caucus stormed out of the Knesset committee meeting and later voted against the bill on the floor, more Israelis took note. MK Rabbi Michael Melchior led the opposition, warning against the law's negative connotations and arguing forcefully that there are other ways to screen prospective residents and citizens.

The ADL, though sensitive to the charge that it was being critical of Israeli policy, nevertheless felt compelled to rebuke the passage of the law. ADL national director Abraham Foxman said he hoped it would be repealed when reviewed a year from now (the law has a one-year, renewable term).

In a lecture two years ago, Ami Ayalon, the former head of Israel's internal security service, posed a critical question to his fellow Israelis: "Our real dilemma is the balance between security, peace and the nature of Israeli democracy. Which of these are we prepared to compromise in order to protect the other elements of the triangle? What is our national order of priorities?"

It's a question only Israelis can answer for themselves.

Self-critical without self-loathing

Is Israel an apartheid state, undergoing "fascistization," fooled into fighting by the Israel Defence Forces which, like "every army… wants war, at least every once in a while"? Is Yasser Arafat a peacemaker, with his Palestinian Authority "a group of mainstream moderates who supported the historic compromise with Israel?" Is it true that the Palestinians, "by any reckoning, can only be seen as victims," that "the occupation has ruined every good part of Israeli society" and that a Holocaust "guilt complex" silenced most Europeans, while "at least part of Europe" has heroically denounced Israeli "war crimes"?

Gil Troy in Montreal

Sadly, such myopia comes from some of Israel's "best and brightest," who proclaim themselves "voices of refusal and dissent." In a recent anthology, *The Other Israel*, two-dozen Israeli academics, attorneys and activists denigrate their country, spewing malice and bias.

As liberals and democrats, North Americans, and especially North American Jews, instinctively cheer lonely dissenters. Those of us who see the complexities of the Middle East conflict, who mourn the suffering of innocents on both sides, want to applaud contemporary prophets seeking "a just peace."

Unfortunately, these essays lack fairness, balance and accuracy. *The Other Israel* is an exercise in selective perception and mass delusion that minimizes Palestinian terror, otherwise known as "resistance." Joseph's Tomb in Nablus is described as "abandoned in the fall of 2000 under fire," rather than desecrated by a Palestinian mob. We learn that "Since Sept. 29, 2000, the Israeli army has waged a 'dirty war' against the Palestinian Authority" with no mention, in that essay or most others, of suicide bombers or the hatred Palestinian institutions foment. Perhaps most disturbing, in 206 pages overflowing with compassion for Palestinians, Jewish suffering is coldly pooh-poohed as a political posture.

This one-sidedness suggests a bovine instinct to mimic progressive trends and a disgust for one's own people. To explain such fecklessness, many consult the textbook of Jewish pathologies – the self-hatred born of statelessness, the provincial Israeli intellectual's need to curry favour in intellectual circles. Yet considering many western intellectuals' contempt for their own nation and civilization, and so many intellectuals' tendency to back the wrong horse – from being soft on Josef Stalin to "contextualizing" Osama bin Laden – a broader western pathology is also at work.

Fortunately, such decadence is not contagious. While many students ape their professors' politics, others resist. Thirty-seven free-thinking Canadian students recently published a response to the crisis in Israel. The essays, poems and photographs in *Gam Yachad* (Also Together) engage constructively and intelligently with Israel and Zionism from diverse political and religious perspectives.

Gam Yachad, which is dedicated to "the victims of terror" shows a mix of compassion and passion. While Oxford's Avi Shlaim writes tediously about "A Palestinian David facing an Israeli Goliath," one poet dreams of "the day when/ David and/ Goliath, both boys/ of strength and will, work their bodies/ to exhaustion to extract green from the sand."

These students have endured the on- campus onslaught of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism, yet refuse to cower. One Birthright Israel alumna who wants to "come to terms with her identity," laments the "worldwide" spread of the anti-Israel "poison." David Weinfeld, a Montrealer studying at Harvard, mocks Noam Chomsky for criticizing divestment from Israel while signing a petition advocating it. Chomsky then offers the Orwellian claim that "No one who signs a petition is expected to approve of every word, even of large parts, if the main thrust is appropriate and sufficiently important." Shira Goldberg, a McGill student, writes insightfully about "Zionism Reborn,"urging her peers to "adapt our Zionism to meet the fluctuating factors of the moment." Other essayists do just that, appreciating "The Endurance of Zionism," pondering the "inherent contradiction" of "Zionism and Judaism" and confronting "The Problem with Zionism."

These students see shades of grey. One refuses to be "force-fed the 'official' community policy regarding Israel." Another "understand[s] the anger and frustration that is felt by Israelis and Palestinians alike." Nevertheless, these Canadian students still believe in Israel and Zionism. They seek solidarity in their search for identity and their love for Israel and the Jewish people, even as they develop individual perspectives. They demonstrate that you can be patriotic and thoughtful, self-critical without being self-loathing. Their elders on both sides of the Atlantic should learn from them.

The Kirshner File

Holocaust survivor Anna Heilman fought back

On Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 7: 30 p.m., *Unlikely Heroes* will have its world premiere at the Varsity theatre in Toronto. The documentary, whose screening is sponsored by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, will pay tribute to the courage and resourcefulness of the Jewish men and women who resisted the Holocaust on an epic scale. The film, written and directed by Richard Trank, was produced by two-time Academy Award winner Moriah Films, an arm of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Unlikely Heroes comes on the heels of several other Simon Wiesenthal Center films: *In Search of Peace* (2001), which examined Israel's quest for peace with its Arab neighbours; *The Long Way Home* (1998), which looked at the lives of Holocaust survivors as they made their way to what would be Israel; and *Genocide* (1981), which explored the roots of anti-Semitism.

For Anna Heilman, a 74-year-old survivor and retired social worker from Ottawa who plans to attend the premiere, *Unlikely Heroes* will have a special resonance. She and a coterie of young women, including her older sister Esther (Estusia), helped to lay the groundwork for the October 1944 revolt in the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, which is featured in *Unlikely Heroes*.

The uprising – the subject of a powerful movie entitled *The Grey Zone* (2001) – was launched by a Sonderkommando unit the Nazis had designated for liquidation. (Before they were murdered themselves, Sonderkommandos stripped Jews of their belongings, herded them into gas chambers and disposed of their bodies in furnaces.)

The three sisters (from left) in 1933: Anna, Sabina and Esther

Heilman, a Polish Jew, arrived in Auschwitz in September 1943 after a horrifying time in Majdanek. In Auschwitz, she and Esther, among other physically strong inmates, were put to work as slave labourers in the Weichsel Union munitions factory. It was there that Heilman devised her scheme to smuggle gunpowder to the Sonderkommandos.

When Trank learned of her role, he sent Heilman a letter. "I believe that your story would be an important addition to our film, especially because of the fact that it shows how women were involved in such activities," he wrote in the spring of 2002.

Heilman, a recipient of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Medal of Valor, does not regard herself as a heroine. "Absolutely not," she said in an interview.

She participated in the uprising, which succeeded in blowing up a crematorium, because she figured her days in the camp were numbered. "We knew we would be killed one way or another," explained Heilman, whose memoir, *Never Far Away: The Auschwitz Chronicles of Anna Heilman*, was published by the University of Calgary Press in November 2001. "We prisoners did not expect to survive, so we decided to sell our lives dearly."

Heilman composed *Never Far Away* over a 50-year period, following a forced march to Ravensbruck in 1944. It is based on her diary, which she still has, and on supplementary material edited by her son-in-law, Sheldon Schwartz. The memoir, which received the $2,500 Ottawa Book Award, traces Heilman's life back to her birth in Warsaw on Dec. 31, 1928.

Heilman's parents, Jacob and Rebecca Wajcblum, both deaf, owned a handicrafts factory. The family, which was assimilated, lived in an elegant apartment, filled with *objets d'art*, at 38 Mila St., just down from 18 Mila St., the headquarters of the 1943 Warsaw ghetto revolt.

Late in 1939, shortly after Germany's invasion and occupation of Poland, the Nazis confiscated her father's plant. Later, he was permitted to establish a workshop manufacturing wooden picture frames. The workshop, which the Germans considered essential, protected the family from immediate deportation.

Heilman's mother rejected a plea by her eldest daughter, Sabina, and her boyfriend, Mietek, to escape to the Soviet Union. "She did not want to give up all her earthly possessions," said Heilman.

Her parents never expressed regret over their short-sighted decision, she said. "Until the last minute, I doubt they realized what awaited them." (Sabina and Mietek escaped to the Soviet Union and later settled in Sweden.)

In her account of Nazi-controlled Warsaw, Heilman describes an atmosphere "soaked with fear" and rife with anti-Semitic propaganda. She claims that Poles welcomed the Germans "beyond their wildest dreams." But in an interview, Heilman said, "The Polish people were at risk themselves. Like any people, some [Poles] were heroes and some sadistic bandits."

Anna Heilman today

While in the ghetto, she joined the left-wing Zionist youth movement Hashomer Hatzair. "My role was to paste posters on buildings to call on Jews to revolt," she recalled. When Hashomer Hatzair leaders discovered that Treblinka, the final destination of many Warsaw Jews, was a death camp, they became determined to fight the deportations.

Heilman's father made frantic efforts to place his family with non-Jewish friends and former employees, but it was too late. The Heilmans were hustled into terribly congested boxcars on a train leaving for Majdanek. Conditions were so appalling that 50 of the 170 passengers died en route.

It was raining when the Wajcblums arrived in Majdanek. This what what Heilman remembers: "Shots were being fired, dogs were barking. People were pushing toward the doors in panic, trampling each other in their haste." Jacob and Rebecca, having been separated from their daughters, were murdered upon arrival. Heilman was assigned to a latrine patrol.

Transferred to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the sisters toiled in the munitions factory.

In *Never Far Away*, she recalls: "The work provided us with a measure of security and comfort. We were working indoors, and, through the generous offices of the civilian German foreman, our food improved considerably. We spent most of the day away from the camp, away from its daily brutalities, away from the crematoria now fuelled non-stop by the transports from Hungary."

Meanwhile, Heilman and her sister learned that the Polish Home Army intended to attack the camp and required the assistance of insiders like themselves. Buoyed by the prospect of freedom, they began amassing matches, gasoline and all kinds of heavy objects. Much to their disappointment, the assault was cancelled.

But after learning that the Nazis would murder them and replace them with new workers, the Sonderkommandos planned an uprising.

Realizing that the Sonderkommandos were short of weapons, Heilman dreamed up the idea of smuggling gunpowder to them. "We were living on adrenaline, suspended between fear and excitement," she writes.

Heilman and Esther were at work when the revolt broke out. Although it was summarily crushed by the SS, the Sonderkommandos blew up one of the furnaces, thereby saving countless lives. Years later, a survivor in the United States told Heilman that the uprising had spared his life because his Auschwitz-bound train had been diverted.

On the aftermath of the rebellion, traces of the gunpowder were traced to the munitions plant. Esther and three other women, having been betrayed, were tortured and then executed. After the war, the Polish government erected a plaque in their honour in Auschwitz, while Yad Vashem built a monument dedicated to their heroism.

In 1947, following a convalescence in Belgium, Heilman married fellow survivor and Hebrew teacher Joshua Heilman. They immigrated to Israel and lived in Netanya, where their two daughters, Ariela and Noa, were born. Israel enthralled Heilman. "We were intoxicated by independence and traumatized by war," she said. But in the 1950s, after 12 years as Israelis, career opportunities prompted the family to leave Israel.

Israel marked Heilman, but so did the Holocaust.

The Ve'ahavta Mission arrives in Shefayim. From left are Dahlia Faircloth-Margolit, Rachel Lasry, Ian Leventhal and Darryl Borden. [Ve'ahavta photos]

Ve'ahavta joins humanitarian Canada-Israel exchange program

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Darryl Borden left for Israel last month with a stack of notes from his friends back home in Toronto.

Most of them didn't know anything about the Western Wall, other than that it's in Jerusalem and is a significant site for Jews. Nevertheless, about 25 prayers found their way from park benches and alleyways in downtown Toronto to the nooks and crannies of the Kotel.

"I can't tell you how much of a pleasure it was. It was a great honour," said Borden, the director of homeless initiatives for Toronto-based Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee.

Borden was doing more than delivering notes on his latest trip to the Holy Land. Ve'ahavta and its Israeli counterparts met for their first-ever professional development exchange.

Ve'ahavta swapped ideas and experiences with members of IsraAid, an umbrella group that includes over 35 Israeli humanitarian organizations. For the past year, Canadians and Israelis have been visiting each other's countries to participate in projects of tikkun olam, repairing the world.

"We want Canadians and Israelis to work together in a meaningful way," said Rachel Lasry, director of international initiatives for Ve'ahavta.

It all started a year-and-a-half ago when an Israeli student visiting Canada spent a night with Ve'ahavta's mobile Jewish response to the homeless. Four nights a week, the van delivers sandwiches, coffee, toiletries, clothing and kind words to Toronto's homeless.

"[The Israeli student] just freaked out. He loved it," said Borden from behind the wheel of the van as he scanned his rearview mirror for "clients."

Shortly after the meeting in Israel, five Israeli volunteers from the Youth Medical Cadets in Israel visited Toronto before heading off to Guyana, where they gave workshops in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Aside from sight-seeing and going to the Rolling Stones SARS benefit concert, the Israelis met members of Toronto's Jewish community, underwent intensive training and taught first aid techniques to Toronto's Somali community.

"It's beautiful. You have so much green," 17-year old Yotam Barak said of Toronto.

"It's a great opportunity to meet Jews who are not from Israel," said Ella Hazanov, 18.

There are also currently two Canadian volunteers in Israel working with Elem, an organization that provides services to street youth. One of the volunteers enjoyed his experience so much that he has decided to extend his stay indefinitely, Borden said.

Lasry said the development exchange in Israel was a valuable way to exchange ideas and philosophies on how to deal with homelessness.

"The homeless situation in Israel is quite different than it is here. It's fairly new, but it's becoming more severe. Here, we have people who have been living on the street for generations," she said.

Stressing that each approach has merit, Lasry and Borden both said Elem and Ve'ahavta deal with homelessness differently.

Elem works with fewer volunteers than Ve'ahavta. Those that do volunteer must go through a long screening process. Ve'ahavta takes a more hands-on approach. Volunteers as young as 12 come along on the van.

Elem has also adopted one of Ve'ahavta's initiatives, in which high school students assemble and distribute colourful gift baskets to the homeless.

"We're still exploring this field together. That's why this professional development exchange was so valuable," said Lasry.

While in Israel, Lasry and Borden went out on Elem's van through the streets of Tel Aviv and visited a drop-in centre for prostitutes.

"That was probably one of the saddest meetings that we had," said Lasry, adding that prostitution is a growing problem in Israel.

Rachel Lasry with self-portrait in Tel Aviv

There were happier meetings too. The groups also worked on a program that encourages artistically inclined street youth to sell their work. One Israeli collector has already bought several pieces.

Lasry said another important aspect of the exchange program is that it gives non-Jews a different view of the Jewish community.

"It really does put a different face on Judaism out in the non-Jewish community. There is a face that is not too pleasant. Unfortunately, people feel as though Jews only take care of Jews," Borden said.

People should be more aware of the humanitarian work done by IsraAid members and groups such as Ve'ahavta, Lasry said, "because [Jews are] a small percentage of the world but we do unbelievable international work."

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Jewish Life

A divine relationship

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Midrashic Moments

According to the midrash for Leviticus, the world was created on the twenty-fifth day of Elul, the month we are in presently. We often think of Elul merely as the month preceding Rosh Hashanah. It is a month of preparation for the Jewish New Year, a month of reflection, a month of heightened self-awareness. But Elul has significance in and of itself, and it is this significance that enriches our preparations for Rosh Hashanah.

God, as a single and unique being, began to create the world in Elul. And yet the midrash in Genesis tells us that it is not the world itself that is desired by God but rather the relationships God will have with all that was created.

This divine intent is derived from the numbering of the days of creation within Genesis. The first day is called "day one" but the next day is called "second day" and each subsequent day is likewise termed third, fourth etc. In other words, the first day is numbered differently and therefore stands out. According to a rabbinic opinion, that is because on the very first day of creation, God already desired to be "at one" with humanity and therefore we are told it is "day one." Yet this is only half the puzzle.

The correction to the numbering occurs in the description of the building of the Tabernacle in the desert. Upon completion, the first offerings were brought on the "first day," a phrase that corrects the unusual phrase in Genesis. Thus, the two events – the creation of the world by God and the building of the Tabernacle by people – are seen as events of partnership.

In other words, God begins creation in Elul, but we, as partners, must complete the job by engaging in acts of holiness. To work together as a community, to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to express themselves spiritually, these are acts of holiness that partner with God. When we engage in physical acts of building the world rather than destroying it, we are in fact building our partnership with God. To contribute to this partnership, one need not be a person of high spiritual stature. One need only be a good person who engages in good deeds.

The act of creation was started by God, but it is a process that has no end. Creation renews itself and recycles again and again. Elul is not only the month that leads up to Rosh Hashanah. It is the month when we assess our place in the world at large and ask whether we've held up our end of the partnership.

Defining marriage, exploring the mores of sexuality

By RABBI BENJAMIN HECHT

Guest Voice

A Reform rabbi states that he will marry two Jews of the same sex. No note is made of the fact that he will not marry even a heterosexual couple if one of its members is not Jewish. An Orthodox rabbi declares that marriage specifically permits sexual contact between a man and a woman. Again no note is taken of the fact that he maintains that sexual contact outside of marriage is prohibited, even among heterosexual couples.

The recent Ontario court decision to accept same sex marriages has evoked much discussion and debate, but the vast theological and philosophical issues beyond the narrow focus of this public dispute are being ignored. What is marriage? How do we approach the realm of sexual mores? What is the relationship between lust and love? The discussion of same sex marriages must go beyond the confines of the narrow issue. It demands that we contemplate our basic understanding of human relations in general.

Just 50 years ago, within the context of what was deemed proper behaviour, marriage was essentially an "imposed" concept. If one wished to have sex, to meet the moral requirements of the age, one had to be married. People may have *wanted* to be married, but essentially there was an imposed, societal reason to get married.

One effect of the sexual revolution of the '60s was the development of a negative attitude towards marriage, specifically the imposed moral requirement that legitimized sex only within wedlock. People started living together, rejecting the need for marriage.

Eventually, people again wished to marry, but these marriages were different from the marriages of the '50s. These were not demanded by society's moral code. They were and are, for the most part, a personal preference, simply reflecting a desire to be married – whatever that means.

Still, to some, such as the Orthodox rabbi noted above, marriage remains an institution that has a practical effect in that it permits sexuality; it is a reflection of a moral system that presents an overall view of sexuality that imposes rules upon its adherents.

From the perspective of most within our society, though, marriage is a reflection of personal desire – the desire of the participants to be recognized as a couple. Herein lies part of the problem with the current debate – divergent views of marriage are being ignored. We must define the meaning of our terms and the philosophical and moral consequences of these definitions.

The matter becomes more complex when we consider the attitude of the Reform rabbi who will marry only Jews. What is this individual saying about marriage? We can speculate that he perceives marriage as a building block of society and that, as one committed to the Jewish community, he deems it proper to perform only the type of marriage that will be part of that community.

But, with this potential answer, we again take marriage out of the personal realm and into the realm of the greater population. Marriage, according to this Reform rabbi, is not to be seen solely in the context of the personal relationship of its two members. This rabbi defines marriage within the context of a greater society; it is a foundation block upon which the society is built. He declines to perform intermarriages because they challenge the society he wishes to build.

A similar recognition must be made in the debate over same sex marriages. The issue is not necessarily personal, reflecting an attack upon individual rights; the issue extends to include the question of how we wish to build our society. Even a totally personal view of marriage has an effect on society and community. A society's position in regard to same sex marriages has a powerful effect on the societal structure. How we define marriage has consequences beyond the realm of marriage itself.

The most difficult problem in considering the concept of marriage, however, is the one we often attempt to avoid – the relationship between lust and love. As much as people may want to separate the mother from the sexual being and distinguish lust from love, the reality of marriage – and family – is that they are interconnected. Romantic love and the warmth of the family begin with physical desire. This is not easy for many to accept.

More importantly, this is not easy to explain. There are certain theological systems and even theories of marriage that attempt to side-step the connection of sex, love and marriage. Yet, the relationship of sex, love and marriage must be explored, especially by anyone who believes in a thoughtful Creator.

Here we must also consider the elements of procreation and family. The term marriage reflects many variant concepts that touch on numerous categories – personal, moral, societal. In discussing marriage, one must investigate to see what one truly means by the term marriage – and then one must determine the far-reaching consequences of this definition.

Marriage is the cornerstone of our society. Permitting same sex marriages is not simply a human rights matter. The question is not whether we permit same sex marriages. The greater issue is what we are permitting. How do we understand the concept of marriage? And what are the consequences of this perception? As we gain the ability to formulate our ideas about marriage, we gain the opportunity to further develop our understanding of life. For our own sake and that of our children, this must be our first commitment.

Rabbi Hecht is the founding director of NISHMA, an international Jewish research, resource and educational endeavour devoted to the further development of "a wise and understanding people."

Jewish Life

Searching for family and friends, part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

As Rosh Hashanah approaches, many people will reconnect with family and friends to see how life has treated them over the past year and wish them the best for the next. But sometimes finding a long-lost friend or relative can be extremely difficult. That's where the Internet can help. But this week, a different kind of reunification: how Jewish families torn apart by war can use the Internet to find each other.

Can anyone tell me my real name? Who was my mother? Do I have any brothers or sisters? Those are some of the heartbreaking questions you'll find on the Missing Identity Website. The site was created to help children who survived the Holocaust locate information about their past. Reading their stories is like exploring the fragments of a child's memories from over a half century ago.

Natala remembers that she was brought to the Polish Orphanage in Orunia near Gdansk. She also remembers soldiers searching their home. "One day," she says, "the children on the street called her 'dirty Jew'." Natala ran home, wanting her parents to tell her why the children did this and to ask them what a Jew is. But the adults told her she was not their real daughter and that her name was Natala. Natala, who was brought to France in 1947 and to Israel in 1948, is still looking for her past. In addition to her story, the Web site also has a childhood photograph of her and another of her as an adult **[http://www.jewishgen.org/missing-identity/]**.

Another pain-filled page lists parents of children lost during the war – parents who are still trying a half-century later to find out if their children survived. The information is usually sparse, such as in this example: "In 1940, baby Rachel, very thin at the time, was placed in a children's home run by nuns in Mogialev Street" **[http://www.jewishgen.org/missingidentity/bulletin.html]**.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society established its location service about a century ago "to help émigrés re-establish contact with family and friends with whom they had lost touch during the years of massive Jewish migration." It later helped thousands of displaced persons contact their American relatives. You can browse through the current list of people who are being sought or you can initiate your own search for a fee. HIAS location service search request forms can be downloaded directly from their site **[http://www.hias.org/Find_Family/overview.html]**.

The JewishGen Holocaust Global Registry "provides a central place for anyone searching Holocaust survivors, for survivors searching family members or friends, and for child survivors searching clues to their identity." You can type in a family name or view a list of all the people hoping to be reunited **[http://www.jewishgen.org/registry/]**.

The person credited most for reuniting Jewish families is Batya Unterschatz. For almost 30 years, Unterschatz headed (and was the entire staff of) the Jewish Agency for Israel's search bureau for missing relatives department. The bureau closed in 2001, but Unterschatz continues working as a reunification consultant **[http://www.tiigrs.org/hadassaArticle.htm]**. Two audiocassettes about her work can be purchased online **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?T276211A5]**.

Several other important sites should be consulted for information about Jewish family reunification. The World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust maintains a family search page **[http://www.wfjcsh.org/search.htm]**. The Jewish National Fund maintains an official list of the property it has managed that belongs to missing persons from eastern Europe in World War II **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?K38A221A5]**. You can read about the "*Pinkas Hanitzolim*," the Registry of Jewish Survivors, created by the Jewish Agency following the Shoah **[http://makeashorterlink.com/?F25A621A5]**. And the Jewish genealogy site JewishGen has created an excellent resource titled, "How to Find Anyone, Anywhere" **[http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/find.txt]**.

It's incredible that even after many years, some people are successful in their searches. Pnina Modlin was born as Pola Mishures in Belarus in 1937. She spent the war years in various Russian orphanages after losing touch with her family. Thanks to dedicated research by her husband, Modlin was able to reunite with her brother 58 years after they were separated **[http://www.jewishgen.org/missing-identity/p-pola.html]**.

Modlin's story has a bittersweet footnote: she died earlier this year on March 22. The Web site says, "Far away in Orsk in the Ural mountains, she is deeply grieved by her brother Avram and his family – the brother she only was reunited with in 1999."

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Internet producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Torah teaches us to 'just say no'

By RABBI MARTIN BERMAN

In this week's parshah, Shoftim, the Torah tells us: " When you come to the Land that Hashem your God gives you, you shall not learn to act according to the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you one who causes his son or daughter to pass through the fire, one who practises divinations, an astrologer, one who reads omens, a sorcerer."

The Canaanites believed in the powers of stars, of astrology, and magic. Indeed, most pagan religions, especially those of the ancient Middle East, believed that you could use magic to control the gods. The Torah is proclaiming a different vision. "Astrology and magic is not for you," it tells us. "You have a God. You have prophets. You don't need all these things."

One of the fundamental differences between the Torah and these other religions is the Torah holds that a human being has the power to rise above the forces of nature. There are people who believe that people are bound and subject to the forces of nature. "Forces of nature" can include astrology and sorcery and the stars, and they can also include human passions – "I can't control myself."

One of the basic beliefs of our religion is that humans are in charge of themselves. That is what the verse is telling us here.

Other nations are perhaps bound by nature, by what the "stars say," but "with you it is not like this." You have the ability to say "No."

Even though our instincts would drive us to follow them, we have the power of "*Lo ken*" – of saying, "That is not the way it is going to be." We have the ability to control ourselves, to say "no" and to overcome nature and even overcome the "decree of the stars." As the Talmud says, Israel has no Mazal – we are not bound by that.

In the debate over modern sexual practices, we often hear that it is not right to deny people with certain tendencies the same rights and privileges as the majority. I believe that is basically a civil question. Considered as as purely a question of civil rights, we can be for or against the right of people to marry one another. But that is not the case in the area of religious sanction. The existence of proclivities is not sufficient to sanction all behaviour.

Every day in davening (our prayers) we say "*U'motar ha'adam min ha'beheima ayin*." The standard way of translating this phrase is "And the difference between man and animal is minimal." The Ba'alei Mussar, however, explain it as follows: The difference between man and beast is "ayin" – the ability to say "No."

If an animal is hungry, it must eat. If an animal is in heat, it must follow its body. The difference between humans and animals is in our ability to control ourselves and say "No."

This is a fundamental principle of Judaism. The philosophy that "I am overpowered by nature," that "I have to give in," is not a Jewish outlook. We believe we are able to control ourselves. We can just say "no."

Rabbi Berman is spiritual leader of Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill, Ont.

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Daniel Horowitz recently returned from Israel where he received a first-hand report on Israel's troubled social service network.

Canadian leads exciting project at Hadassah Hospital

By DANIEL HOROWITZ

A Canadian specialist is pioneering an ambitious new research program at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital to help potential victims of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Since September 2000, an estimated 2,500 patients have been sent to Hadassah's emergency room as the result of terrorist attacks.

Rhonda Adessky, Ph.D, counsels a patient at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital.

Dr. Rhonda Adessky, Co-Clinical Director at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital Centre for Traumatic Stress and Anxiety Disorders - who moved from Montreal to Israel in November 2000 - is seeing firsthand, the psychological effects of ongoing violence on a daily basis, and is determined to make a difference.

The new program – launched this month - examines the use of early intervention as a means of not merely treating PTSD, but actually preventing it. While healing the physical wounds of terror victims is paramount, this project is aimed at the lightly injured or those who have witnessed a terror incident first-hand and, as a result, are suffering psychological consequences.

Specializing in Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT), Adessky treats a variety of disorders, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Panic Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and many others.

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy was originally developed and used in the United States to treat single incident traumas such as rape, assault and accidents. It had never been used prior to Hadassah Hospital in a situation of ongoing terrorism and trauma.

"With this new research treatment project, we get a list of everybody who comes through the emergency room at Hadassah – either those who have been very lightly injured or who have witnessed some horrific images," says Adessky. "They have come to the E.R. in shock either directly from an incident, or they were so traumatized that they went home first and their family has forced them to come in. We call these people usually within a day or two."

If, after five days, these patients are displaying any difficulties, they are invited back to Hadassah for a clinical interview. If the hospital – or the patient - believes treatment is necessary, treatment begins within a month of the trauma itself. This quick initiation of treatment is what makes Adessky's project so unique.

"Historically, people suffering PTSD generally let far too much time pass before treatment," says Adessky. "They will say 'oh, I'm fine, it will pass,' and by that time, whether it's three months, six months, or a year without treatment, the disorder is chronic."

Even for those who wait before beginning treatment, there has been a 75% success rate through the use of CBT, with patients showing a 65% reduction in symptoms and a return to normal lives within a few months – a testament to the work of Adessky and her staff.

While Adessky herself concedes that the 75% figure is remarkable, she is still far from satisfied.

"What we want to try to do is actually prevent this onset because by the time they come in to us, they haven't been working, their family system is falling apart, they're angry, they're irritable, they're yelling at their kids," she says. "What we want to do with this new project is help people avoid all these troubles in the first place."

"We would not have been able to implement this major change in care for trauma survivors without generous support from the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto," says Professor Aryeh Shalev, Head of the Department of Psychiatric Services, Hadassah Hospital.

Leadership Award

Leslie Gales (left), UJA Federation Board Chair, presents Lynn Kirshin with the UJA Federation Leadership Development Award during the Ben Gurion Society reception at last week's official Launch of Campaign 2004 at Toronto's Royal York Hotel. The award, also presented to Michael Buckstein at UJA's Annual General Meeting in June, honours individuals who demonstrate extraordinary commitment and service in community leadership roles.

Photo: Big Dipper Communications, Stephen Epstein

New centres of aliyah make their mark

For more than 10 years, aliyah from the former Soviet Union (FSU) has been the main source of immigration to Israel, but according to The Jewish Agency's Andrea Arbel, that trend is changing.

"Over the past decade, there have been one million new olim in Israel, most of whom came from the FSU," says Arbel, who made aliyah herself from the United States in 1986. "But now, we are seeing a dramatic increase of around 400% in people making aliyah from Argentina and Uruguay. France, with anti-Semitism on the rise, has seen an increase of 100%, while aliyah from the United States has increased by roughly 20%."

Despite the record numbers from Argentina last year, Arbel is not sure the trend will continue.

"The threat of the Iraq war killed aliyah in the first three months of 2003," she says. "In Argentina, new elections give the people new hope. The new Prime Minister is saying all the right things, giving hope, so at the moment, aliyah from Argentina is down. Meanwhile, Mexico, Brazil and Uruguay continue to show a dramatic rise in aliyah."

Eleanor Aliama, a 20-year-old new immigrant from Buenos Aires decided that she wanted to make Israel her home after completing high school in her native land, at the age of 17.

"When I was growing up in Buenos Aires, we had a strong, thriving Jewish community," she says. "Then, suddenly, the AMIA building was bombed, the banks went under, and upper-middle class Jewish families who sent their kids to Jewish day schools were left with nothing."

Aliama says that she fell in love with Israel during a Bible study tour in 1994.

"The Israeli guides taught us so much about Israel. It was incredible being there, surrounded by such history and richness of Jewish life. When I went home to Argentina that year, the AMIA building was hit and I asked myself whether this was really the life I wanted for myself. Everything changed for me – and many of my countrymen – after that bombing."

Eleanor made aliyah in March 1998, when she stayed at a JAFI Absorption Centre designed to help new olim learn about, and prepare for Israeli life.

New Israeli immigrant, Eleanor Aliama (l), with Andrea Arbel, Advisor to the Director General of The Jewish Agency for Israel.

"It was tremendous," she says. "I learned Hebrew and English to prepare for my new life in Israel. The day the *intifadah* started is when I returned for a visit to Argentina. The whole school system infrastructure that I had grown up in was no longer there."

"It's scary to think back to when, even if you had a million dollars in the bank, you couldn't get it out because it was frozen. If you had told me that I'd be standing in line for food, I would have laughed at you back then," she says.

Despite ongoing terrorist violence, Aliama is delighted with her new home, which, she says, is not always easy, and definitely presents different challenges.

"You give yourself hope that things will improve in Argentina, but there is just no money to do anything there. I will stay in Israel happily," she says.

Immigration to Israel is under the auspices of The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), which is financed by the worldwide Jewish Federation system.

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Campaign at $20 million one week after launch

By WENDY LAMPERT

While only a week has passed since the launch of UJA Federation Campaign 2004, nearly $20 million has already been raised. Ninety percent of donors contacted to date have renewed their commitment to last year's special gift or pledged even more.

Campaign 2004 follows on the heels of last year's Israel Emergency Campaign, which raised a record $65 million.

"Campaign 2004 is no less than a Global Jewish Action Plan – an urgent, special campaign that expands on last year's emergency effort," said Richard Venn, Chair of Campaign 2004 along with Allan Silber.

"We live in a disturbing and dangerous world – a world which leaves no room for complacency and that demands decisive action, with one nation after another falling victim to a rising tide of anti-Semitism and anti-Israel hatred," added Silber.

UJA Federation Campaign 2004 will continue and extend emergency assistance through allocations to three priority areas:

- Strengthening Israel's weakened social service network
- Countering a global spiral of anti-Jewish and anti-Israel hatred
- Empowering a new generation of Jews to confront those who preach hatred against Israel and the Jewish people

On a recent mission to Israel, UJA Federation Board Chair Leslie Gales, President Allan Reitzes, and Catherine (Kiki) Delaney, President of C.A. Delaney Capital Management Ltd., visited the social service initiatives supported by UJA Federation.

One of the initiatives is the National School Intervention Program, designed to help children cope with the trauma of terror. Developed by the Israel Trauma Coalition, which includes 15 trauma centres across the country, the program includes a pilot project in Jerusalem to train teachers and school guidance counselors on how to recognize children in crisis.

Catherine Delaney (standing, 2nd from left) and Leslie Gales, UJA Federation Board Chair (standing, 3rd from left) shared a meal with one of the Ethiopian Israeli families that makes Kiryat Moshe its home.

"The government of Israel continues to increase its reliance on the non-profit sector to develop and implement innovative projects in which it can participate," noted Reitzes.

Ashalim, another initiative, is a coalition that is involved with parent and child centres and multi-purpose day care centres in the regions of Afula and Hadera, both of which have been hard hit by terror attacks. The facilities offer comprehensive services for families that are having problems managing with day-to-day life in the midst of terror.

The group also visited Kiryat Moshe, a predominantly Ethiopian Israeli neighborhood in Rehovot. For three years, UJA Federation has been supporting a variety of projects in the community to meet the special needs of its residents, such as programs to help with successful absorption into Israeli society. The community has been selected as one of five in the Ethiopian National Project, which will bring even greater resources to address the needs of Ethiopian Israelis.

"I am still recovering from the hectic pace and the emotions of the trip," said Gales. "Our visit meant a lot to all those we saw. They were thrilled that we came to share with them."

More than 35 parlour meetings will be held over the next two months as part of the Israel Today Speaker Series, featuring compelling speakers from Israel and around the world. They include David Horovitz, editor of *The Jerusalem Report*, Israel Defense Forces military analyst Colonel Miri Eisen and U.S. foreign policy expert Michael Ledeen.

A venture adventure

UJA Federation's Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund Partners, Owen Duckman (l), Anne Ullman, Larry Ullman (far right) met with Canadian philanthropist Charles Bronfman at his Jerusalem office during a recent mission to Israel. *Photo: Dan Horowitz*

SELAH- giving terror victims a new chance at life

Established 10 years ago, SELAH, The Israel Crisis Management Centre, has already responded to more than 10,000 immigrant victims of terror and tragedy from dozens of countries including the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Argentina, Peru, Hungary, and more.

Anna Krakovich

Over the past three years of ongoing terror attacks against Israelis, SELAH volunteers have been in constant demand. More than 500 of those dedicated volunteers have come to the aid of terror victims at the scene of all-too-frequent suicide bombings.

Ruth Bar-On, who founded SELAH in 1993, has seen her Centre become an essential part of the lives of Israel's new olim who have been struck by terror.

"A loss is a loss, and it doesn't matter if it is due to terrorism or not," says Bar-On. "SELAH was established here in Israel because of the vacuum that new immigrants lived in with no support system, either financially or emotionally. It is hard for members of another country to move to Israel; sometimes it's as if they are from another planet, speaking other languages, following various traditions. Unfortunately, we at SELAH are often the only ones who stay with those who are victimized themselves, or who are grieving. They are easy to forget about once the newspaper headlines stop, but we will never forget them."

One woman who knows all-to-well about the importance of SELAH is Anna Krakovich, who came to Israel from the former Soviet Union (FSU) in 1992 with her then nine-year-old daughter, Irene.

"It was so wonderful to be in Israel then, when we were still talking peace," says Krakovich. "My daughter would play and run in the streets with her friends so joyfully and happily. I learned Hebrew and got a job as a history teacher in Afula. It wasn't easy, but we were very happy here, and I was so excited that my daughter was going to grow up in Israel."

That tranquility enjoyed by Krakovich and Irene was suddenly and unmercifully shattered when, on April 6,1994, a suicide bomber in a car detonated himself at a bus stop in Afula. One person was killed in the blast, while eight others, including Anna Krakovich, were injured.

Krakovich sustained third degree burns over 70% of her body as well as several broken bones. She endured multiple surgeries, but is thankful to be alive.

Although Krakovich's tragedy occurred nine years ago, SELAH continues to play as much of a vital role in her well being today, as it did the day after the bombing.

"The only thing that kept me going the whole time I was in hospital was Ruth Bar-On and SELAH," says a smiling Krakovich. "Ruth was the first person I saw at the hospital bedside when I awoke. The first thing she told me was, 'don't worry, Irene is okay.' As long as there are places like SELAH that care for others, we will be all right. There is no way to cope with tragedy when you are a newcomer, an alien, in Israel. Even today, nine years later, I depend on SELAH for the opportunity to continue with my life. It is not the same life I had before, but it is life."

Responding to the need for increased psychological counselling, SELAH has instituted a variety of support seminars and retreats for bereaved and injured new immigrants, giving them a chance to connect with others who have undergone similar tragedies. Together, these victims of terror participate in intensive workshops run by trauma and bereavement professionals.

"My daughter would have been just another abandoned immigrant child with little or no hope for a future," says Krakovich, who also volunteers at SELAH for other victims. "Instead, thanks to SELAH, she has recently finished serving in the Israeli army and is a beautiful, healthy, and happy Israeli citizen."

"We cannot undo fate or change what has happened, but we can, and we do help people carry their burdens and help them move forward so that they can start new lives," says Bar-On.

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On Campus

A campus survival guide

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

It isn't until you leave home for the first time that you realize how little you really know.

How do I pay a phone bill? How do I do laundry? Where can I get pizza at 3 a.m? Why does milk go bad so quickly? What am I doing with my life? Who am I?

Having been through the experience at Carleton University in Ottawa, I can now look back, have a good laugh at my own expense and impart my worldly wisdom.

• **Shower shoes will save your life**. I can guarantee that neither you nor your roommate will want to clean up the mildew in your shower, and your mom certainly won't be there to do it for you. Solution? Head to the dollar store and buy a pair of plastic flip flops. Your feet will thank you.

• **Get an alarm clock.** There is no way you'll be able to make it to an 8:30 class without it. I also suggest putting it at the other end of the room so you can't hit the snooze button. While no one will be giving out late slips, it's in your interest to get to class on time.

• **Try not to set your room on fire**. Hot plates and toaster ovens are usually not allowed in residence (My friend managed to sneak one in and actually set his bagel on fire one day). Kettles are usually kosher. Instant soup will be your new best friend.

• **There will be tons of odds and ends you will forget to bring with you.** It's unavoidable. Here's a short list to help you out: dish soap, hand soap, a kettle, hangers, cutlery, Tupperware, a laundry bag/hamper, laundry detergent and fabric softener.

• **Ear plugs are a good investment**, especially if you have a noisy roommate who likes to listen to really loud music or to sing while you try to write essays or get some sleep.

• **Get a good long-distance plan.** While you'll be busy making new friends, you'll also really miss your dispersed high school buddies. Your parents may want to hear from you as well.

• **Write down everything in a place where you know you'll remember it**. You will be so inundated with assignments, exams and essays that your head will explode trying to remember everything. Write it on the wall, in an organizer or on your forehead if necessary.

• **Your campus bookstore will milk every last cent of your tight student budget.** Look for textbooks at used book stores, at Chapters or online. Ask older siblings or friends to sell you their books, and check out trading posts. Also, you may want to try sharing textbooks with classmates and split the cost.

Advice for frosh from our seasoned veteran

• **Your cafeteria will milk every last cent of your tight student budget.** Try making your own lunches sometimes. A loaf of bread and a jar of peanut butter will cost about as much as one meal on campus. Your own food will last longer and will probably be more nutritious.

• **Invest in an International Student Identity Card.** It will get you discounts on trains, buses, museums, art galleries and hotels. If you have any intention to travel or visit your parents, an I.S.I.C will save you tons of money. You can usually get them for free, or very cheaply, at Travel Cuts.

• **Memorize your student number,** for you will no longer need your name. From the administration's point of view, your identity will henceforth consist of six, seven or nine digits (depending on what school you're at). Registering for class, finding out your grades, visiting the doctor and reserving books in the library are just a few of the times you'll need your number.

• **You have no excuse not to exercise,** as your tuition includes the use of the university's gym equipment. Most schools have a few good cardio machines, a running track, a gym and a swimming pool. I took advantage of some of the classes Carleton's athletics department offered, such as yoga and cardio kickboxing. Going to the gym will keep you healthy, happy and energized.

• **Get involved.** Play intramural ultimate frisbee, write for the campus paper, run for student government, join the chess club. Whatever makes you happy. Immersing yourself in campus life is a great way to make friends with people who have similar interests and will give you a much-needed break from studying.

• **Your campus Hillel is an invaluable resource.** There are certain challenges unique to Jewish students. What if an exam or assignment due date falls on Yom Kippur? Where can you find kosher food for Passover? Where can you turn if anti-Israel demonstrations on campus upset you? Hillel is also a good place to meet nice Jewish boys and girls, and make new friends.

• **Your life is not confined to campus.** It's a big world out there. If you're living away from home, get to know your new city. Check out museums, farmers markets, restaurants and parks. Look into student deals on bus passes to make getting around more affordable.

• **Professors' office hours are there for a reason**. They might look scary standing behind the lectern in a 400-seat lecture hall, but generally speaking, professors are very personable people. Drop in and introduce yourself. Profs enjoy getting to know their students and are usually more than willing to answer questions and help you out.

• **Whatever you do, don't procrastinate.** Unless you have the superhuman ability to freeze time (and if you do, what's your secret?) there is no possible way to finish an assignment the night before it's due. Give yourself plenty of time to do school work. You'll need every millisecond of it.

• **These are the best years of your life**, as the cliché says. You will inevitably run into hurdles and disappointments, but you mustn't let them get you down. You'll learn more this year than you will have in all the years of your life up to this point combined. Enjoy it.

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Israel Experience centre opens at BJCC

Increased demand for Israel Experience trips and related programs has led UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to open the Toronto Israel Experience Centre (TIEC) at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

The centre, which began operating July 2, will officially open Sept.10, when it will hold an open house.

"Any large city that takes Israel Experience programs seriously would do itself an injustice by not having a centre focused on developing those programs," said Annette Crandell, who runs the centre.

"By having the centre and staff dedicated to following up with participants, we can help make sure that people who have been turned on to Israel and Jewish life by their experience continue to remain involved in the community," she adds.

The TIEC, located in rooms 115 and 256 of the BJCC, offers advice about the most suitable Israel Experience trips, as well as resources for participants on how to stay involved in Jewish life upon their return.

The centre promotes programs that offer participants a chance to learn about their Judaism and develop leadership skills. They include Birthright Israel; volunteer opportunities through Partnership 2000, which twins Toronto with the Eilat region; Otzma, a year-long young leadership program of volunteering and studying in various Israeli locations; and scholarship programs for Israeli universities.

"Opening the centre is helping us be more accessible to the public. The growth in our programming influenced the need for this public face," Crandell said.

"The sky's the limit at this point – we are now prepared to handle the growth we expect to see in the coming years," she said.

"We want to be the starting point for a lifelong commitment to Israel and Toronto's Jewish community. The people who walk through these doors are our future leaders."

Resources for Jewish students

The following list of Jewish campus services professionals, along with phone and e-mail contact information, was provided by National Jewish Campus Life at UIA Federations Canada:

ATLANTIC CANADA
Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation
Jon Goldberg, executive director
902-422-7491, ext. 22
jgoldberg@theajc.ns.ca

CALGARY
Jewish Students Association of Calgary
Valerie Levitt, student and adult services co-ordinator
403-253-8600, ext. 211
vlevitt@cjcc.ca

EDMONTON
University of Alberta Hillel
Shira Uretsky, director
780-487-0585
edjfed@attcanada.ca

GUELPH/WATERLOO/KITCHENER
Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region
Bill Chernin, director, regional Jewish campus services, southwestern Ontario
416-697-3575
bchernin@on.cjc.ca

HAMILTON
McMaster University Jewish Students' Association
Judy Schwartz, campus director
905-522-7215
jsa@mcmaster.ca

LONDON
University of Western Ontario Jewish Students' Union
Jared Isaacson, executive director
519-642-3256, ext. 1
jsudirector@ljf.on.ca

MONTREAL
Hillel Jewish Student Centre
Simon Bensimon, executive director
514-845-9171, ext. 225
simon2@hillel.montreal.qc.ca

OTTAWA
Jewish Students' Association
613-236-2345
jsaottawa@rogers.com

KINGSTON & PETERBOROUGH
Sheldon Cohen, director, regional Jewish campus services, eastern Ontario
514-334-1250
sheldoncohen@sympatico.ca

KITCHENER (see GUELPH)

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areivim@sasktel.net

TORONTO
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VICTORIA
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WATERLOO (see GUELPH)

WINDSOR
Jewish Students Association
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smalowitz@hotmail.com

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Hillel/Jewish Students' Association
Rabbi Ari Enkin, director
204-477-7510
rabbiari@hotmail.com

Volunteers build bridges in Israel

For most university students, summer vacation is about rest, relaxation and making money for school. But this year, four community-minded young Toronto women took on a unique challenge as volunteers in Israel.

Devra Jackson, 20, Dana Eilath, 21, Laurie Bittan, 23, and Leah Epstein, 25, recently returned from six weeks of living and volunteering in Eilat as participants in Partnership 2000.

Partnership 2000, or P2K, is a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto program that offers Diaspora Jewish communities the opportunity to interact with Israelis while helping develop Israel's outlying regions. Co-operative and innovative programs centre on immigrant absorption, population growth, educational advancement and human needs. Toronto's P2K twinned region includes the city of Eilat and nearby Kibbutz Eilot.

Canadians, from left, Leah Epstein, Devra Jackson, Laurie Bittan and Dana Eilath get ready to board a plane to Eilat for their Partnership 2000 volunteer experience.

The young women not only successfully connected with Eilat, they also discovered a home away from home.

"We really became part of the community," Epstein said. "You see the programs and projects you work on evolving. You actually get to see your efforts materialize into something tangible and important."

The women worked on several different projects during their stay that were at times difficult and demanding, but always rewarding, including an after-school program for children from broken homes, the creation and promotion of a summer camp program, caring for children in foster homes and working with disabled youngsters in a therapeutic horseback riding program at a nearby kibbutz.

The people in the Eilat community left a deep impression on them the Canadians say, adding that they were awed by the dedication of the program staff with whom they worked.

"I now recognize how Israel and the various communities within it really take care of each other. It's inspiring," Eilath said.

They were also amazed by the warmth and kindness with which they were treated.

"We worked with Eilat residents of all ages, and everywhere we went, we were welcomed with open arms, sometimes literally!" Jackson said.

Bittan said she had a hard time leaving after such a wonderful experience. "I'm already planning on going back," she said.

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What's New

By REBECCA NADLER

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New deadlines: Tuesday, Sept. 2, is deadline for Sept. 11 issue and Monday, Sept. 8, is deadline for Sept. 18. I receive calls and sort my mail until 4 p.m. on deadline days. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829 or e-mail rnadler@cjnews.com.

Thursday, Aug. 28

ROSH CHODESH SERVICES

The Lodzer Centre Congregation invites the community to participate in Rosh Chodesh Elul services and discussion, followed by breakfast with **Rabbi Matthew Kaufman.** 9 a.m. For information, call Dina at 416-636-6665 ext. 221.

SINGLES AT CLUB MENAGE

Join the Sephardi Educational Centre–Toronto at Club Ménage, 333 King St. W., for an evening for Jewish young adults and professionals. The evening will include a patio bar, sweet table and DJ Kevin K. $15. For details or to reserve, e-mail sectoronto@hotmail.com.

Sunday, Aug. 31

NCJW JIFY MARKET

A chance to find great bargains at National Council of Jewish Women Jify Market, a huge outdoor flea market, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. For information, call 416-633-5100 or visit www.ncjwc-ts.org.

SINGLES IMPROV BRUNCH

Join Dynamic Singles for Double The Fun: Improv with Twins **Ieden** and **Harlen Wall** at a Sunday brunch for singles 21-35, 11:30 a.m. at Adath Israel Congregation, 37 Southbourne Ave. $10 pre-registration, $15 at the door. Call 416-635-5340, e-mail nilly@adathisrael.com or visit www.adathisrael.com.

Monday, Sept. 1

KOSHER FAMILY CRUISE

Join Beth Jacob V'anshei Drildz Synagogue for a family cruise and kosher dinner on Toronto harbour. Enjoy music, fun and fireworks, 6-10 p.m. $36 per person. To reserve call 416-638-5955, or book online at www.byad.org.

Tuesday, September 2

CHORALAIRS REOPENS

The 41st year of the Choralairs of North York begins tonight at Earl Bales Park Community Centre, room 2. Rehearsals take place every Tuesday night, 8:15-10 p.m. Repertoire includes pop, Broadway and folk songs. No auditions required, but love of singing essential. For details, call **Judy Gordon** 416-221-3161.

More News

SHABBAT MEDITATIONS

Join Ohr Penim Congregation for Shabbat afternoon services every week. **Rabbi Moshe Kirsh** leads Jewish meditation from 6-7 p.m., followed by the study of stories from the Talmud and the prophets. 230 Crestwood Rd., Thornhill. Call 905-889-0793 for information.

MAGIC MOMENTS

Don't miss the Variety Players theatrical production, the Jerry-At-Trick Revue, Magic Moments at Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Dr. Performances will take place Sept. 4, 6, 11 and 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 7 at 10 and 2 p.m. For tickets, call 416-366-7723 between 10 a.m.-3 p.m., or contact **Shae Eckler** at 905-883-4233.

BIBLE CLASSES

The weekly Bible/Tanach class at **Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue** resumes Thursday, Sept. 4 at 9:15 a.m. The group will conclude the study of Pirkei Avot and then resume its Bible study. Newcomers welcome. The class is led in English by **Aaron Nussbaum**. For details, call 416-633-8097.

Bible study with Channa Sargon at **Beit Rayim Synagogue** begins Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 p.m. For further information, call 905-770-7639, ext. 31.

Continued on page 21

71 year old loses 20 pounds

"After years of yo-yo dieting, I lost 20 pounds and now fit nicely into a size 8. I'd tried everything else: shots, diet pills, liquids, and so on. I suffered with all of them, and in a matter of six months the weight returned and then some.

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Before I complete this unsolicited testimonial, I must mention another benefit of hypnosis. I had not been able to sleep nights without taking sleeping pills. I have learned to relax, so much so that now I am able to fall asleep in the most comfortable relaxed state, ***without medication.*** I could go on and on praising the qualities and benefits of hypnotherapy.

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2003 UPDATE: "I've kept the weight off for two years!"

— Audrey Berman, Toronto

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RELIGIOUS THEMES SUNG TO A ROCK BEAT: Shirayim, the Toronto Jewish band that recently made the leap from bar mitzvah music to religious rock 'n' roll, is getting ready for a back to school bash on Sept. 9 at Clinton's Tavern. The last Shirayim concert attracted more than 180 people. Band members are, from left, Yoni Goldstein, Ariel Oziel (front), Zev Steinfeld (back), Eli Javasky and Zvi Halpern.

Continued from page 20

SHUK IN THE PARK

An opportunity to enjoy a taste of Israel. A free outdoor festival, live music, Nargila Café and a marketplace full of Israeli goods. Sunday, Sept. 7, noon-6 p.m. at Suydam Park, Spadina Rd. and Strathearn Rd. All proceeds to Or Shalom, an Israeli organization that finds homes for abused children. Visit www.shukinthepark.com.

ORAYNU SCHOOL

Oraynu offers a Sunday Children's School with a curriculum focused on values, culture and history from a secular humanistic perspective. Classes begin Sunday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m. at St. Andrews Junior High School, 131 Fenn Ave. Call 416-385-3910 for information.

FAMILY DAVEN AND DINE

Join the Pride of Israel Synagogue for Family Daven and Dine Saturday, Sept. 13. Enjoy a Rosh Hashanah seder and buffet lunch followed by fun activities related to the Jewish new year. Reserve and pre-pay by Tuesday, Sept. 9. Call 416-226-0111, ext. 10, for details.

GETTING BACK TO EDEN

Aish HaTorah presents **Rabbi Nathan Lopez Cardoza** speaking on "Getting Back to Eden: Creating Paradise in Our Own Lives: A New Year's Exploration," Tuesday, Sept. 9, 8 p.m. 949 Clark Ave. W. Admission $5.

WOMEN'S DAY OF LEARNING

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women is sponsoring "Approaching The Days of Awe: Reflection and Renewal," a pre-High Holy Day day of learning, Sunday, Sept. 14, with keynote speaker **Ora Lee Kanner.** Study sessions throughout the day with Mekorot faculty members. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Associated Hebrew Schools, 252 Finch Ave. W. For registration and information, call **Lisa** at 416-398-1510 or visit www.mekorot.ca.

LEARN HEBREW

The **Canadian Zionist Federation** offers Hebrew language studies with **Channa Sargon**. The next session begins the week of Sept. 22. Classes offered during the day and evening, at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Explore current events, newspaper articles and literature in Hebrew. For information and registration, call 416-633-3988 or email czf@bellnet.ca. Classes will be held at 4580 Dufferin St., suite 508.

The **Keren Hatarbut Institute** is now accepting registration for fall session Hebrew language and Bible classes at 788 Marlee Ave. Classes are offered for adults, teenagers and pre-teens at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Beginners will speak, write and read Hebrew in 14 sessions! For registration and information call **Joseph Klinger** at 416-787-0197.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Dances every Saturday in August; Aug. 28, Casino Niagara; Sept. 14, dance with a live band; Nov. 18-21, Soaring Eagle Casino. Bridge every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 1 p.m. Bingo every Tuesday at 1 p.m. Membership open. Call 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444 for information.

The **Association of Jewish Seniors** general meeting takes place Thursday, Aug. 28, 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Guest speaker **Susan Jackson** of UJA Federation will discuss "The Spirit of Volunteerism." Call **Tammy** at 416-635-2800 for information.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. Aug. 28, free discussion; Sept. 4, dinner; Sept. 11, sing-a-long; Sept. 18, bingo; Sept. 25, Israeli movie. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Seniors Bowling meets every other Saturday night and has openings for new bowlers. For information, call **Sydney Fox** at 416-633-7305.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

The Morris "Nafty" Naftolin Komedy Kabaret, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2:30 p.m. in the auditorium. No charge.

"Current Issues and Events" with Joe Black, Mondays 10-11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. Members $1, non-members $3.

Personal eye care consultant, Thursday, Sept. 4, noon in the synagogue.

Wellness Education Program: Eye Supplements and Your Health, Thursday, Sept. 4, 1:15-2:15 p.m. in the synagogue

Diner's Club Congregate Dining, an opportunity to have a hot kosher lunch in an intimate and informal setting. Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the back auditorium, $6.50 includes entertainment. Reservations must be made by Tuesday of each week. Call ext. 110.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Sept. 2, political lecture; Sept. 9, Israeli movie; Sept. 16, concert. For information, call **Anna** ext.110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

It's never too late to look after your bones. If you are a senior living with osteoporosis, register for the fall session of POWER, a 7-week wellness program that covers exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes start Oct. 20. Registration is $70. For information, call ext. 2588.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880 or www.bjcc.ca.

The BJCC presents a preview evening of *The Producers* on Wednesday, Dec. 10. Supporters of this fundraiser will also be invited to a private pre-show Cocktail Reception at the Canon Theatre, 244 Victoria Street. For tickets and information, call **Marni** at ext. 271.

September pre-natal course. Class meets for two intensive Sunday sessions, Sept. 7 and 14, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $136 + GST per couple, and includes 2 complimentary BJCC health club passes. To register call ext. 390.

Folk dancing at the BJCC begins the week of Sept. 15. Mondays: Israeli dance, beginners 8-9 p.m., intermediate level 1, 9-10:30 p.m. Tuesdays: Israeli dance, intermediate level 2, 8-9 p.m., intermediate/advanced, 9-11 p.m. Participate in the intermediate/advanced session at no extra charge. Wednesdays: international dance begins Sept. 17, 8-10:30 p.m. All classes held in the Studio Theatre, Leah Posluns Theatre. Cost $6 per evening. For information, call **Teme**, ext. 364.

A second toddler room, for children 18 months to 2½, is opening in September. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Program includes swimming and music. Kosher meals provided. Call ext. 248 for more information.

Spaces available for morning school, Tic Tac Two, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten. Call ext. 351 or 248 to arrange a tour or for a registration package.

Register for fall programs at the Koffler Centre. Classes are offered in visual art, including photography and calligraphy, music, dance, and drama. For details, call **Perlie** at ext. 269.

Koffler School of Music is holding auditions for the Nashir Children's Choir, formerly Koffler Renanim, with **Allan Friedman** and **Debra Aronson**. To book an audition, call ext. 228.

Koffler Music registration open for fall classes in private piano, flute, recorder, violin, guitar and saxophone classes for kids, percussion, adult band, adult sing-a-long, and Royal Conservatory group classes for ages 0-6, and Suzuki piano, violin and cello. Call ext. 228.

Register now for fall drama classes at the Leah Posluns Theatre School. Call ext. 464 for information or ext. 231 to register.

DIG/DUG @ the Koffler Gallery features projects by 7 local artists inspired by the building and grounds of the BJCC as a physical site and social environment. Admission free.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211 or www.milesnadaljcc.ca.

Through Others' Eyes, a unique photo exhibit created by Israeli Arab and Jewish youth participants in an innovative program at the Art Center of Givat Haviva. Opening reception Tuesday Sept. 16, 7 p.m. with **Etti Amram**, director of Givat Haviva's Art Center. The show runs Sept. 16-22.

The Downtown Ken, a new, downtown Jewish teen group ("*ken*"), for grades 7 & up, sponsored by Hashomer Hatzair and the JCC, Sunday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. The first meeting takes place at the JCC Sunday, Sept. 21. For registration and details, call the JCC office.

Learn Hebrew in a friendly and supportive atmosphere at a Two-Day Hebrew Marathon, Sundays, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. In two days, you will be well on your way to reading Hebrew.

Beginner Hebrew, a six-week program Tuesdays, Nov. 4 to Dec.10, 7:30-9 p.m. For people who have completed the Hebrew Marathon or have a basic knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet.

An introduction to the Yiddish language and culture. Eight-week program Mondays, beginning Oct. 27, 7:30-9 p.m.

For registration and more information, call the JCC office.

Lifesaving Society's Water Smart Contest – Who's Your Buddy? An art contest for children under seven and a writing contest for 8- to 14-year-olds. Prizes in each category. Entries must be submitted by 4 p.m., Sept. 19.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Single Jewish adults ages 30-50ish interested in helping to organize a singles event at the end of October in conjunction with the Kiever Synagogue. Call **Deb**, 416-785-1391.

Italian-speaking female need to visit homebound senior woman in the Bathurst-Finch area. No physical care involved. Transportation costs to be reimbursed. Call **Paula**, Bernard Betel Centre, 416-225-2112 ext. 118.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

Coast to Coast

A surprising statement from Neil Macdonald

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

There is much in Neil Macdonald's retrospective that aired Aug. 17 on CBC's *Foreign Assignment*, hosted by Ian Hanomansing, that deserves critical attention – including Macdonald's claim that he was the target of a campaign by "organized Jewry worldwide" last fall. While much of Macdonald's reporting has already been discussed in several previous "According to Reports" columns, there was something quite new and unexpected in his latest remarks.

"One of the things I noticed in the Middle East," Macdonald said, " and I found puzzling since I got back to Canada, is this very, very politically correct notion of constantly repeating that Islam is a religion of peace. And it may well be.

"But the fact of the matter is that the way it's preached by some of its greatest figures – these are the Islamic equivalent of bishops and archbishops – is terrifically violent. The Sheikh of Al-Azhar University, the Grand Muftis of Jerusalem, Mecca, Medina, Tehran, certainly, I've listened to a lot of these speeches on Friday afternoon in those various capitals and I'm just thunderstruck by the sheer vi[olence] – 'destroy this, uproot this, kill this, annihilate that, the West, Israel' – it's just exhortation to violence."

Macdonald cited parts of sermons by various prominent sheikhs, such as Sheikh Abdel Razik of Gaza, who said: "Allah, wreak vengeance on the Jews and the Americans."

He also quoted Sheikh Baqir Abdel Rezik Samara'i of Baghdad: "Who are you, the sons of apes and pigs [i.e., the Jews] to threaten Mohammed, whose Lord is Allah and also Gabriel and the Angels?!"

The clips and translations were provided by the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), which Macdonald described as a "pro-Israel research group in Washington." Its impeccable work is relied on by many leading journalists, including the *New York Times*' Thomas Friedman.

Indeed, Macdonald himself admitted that while "pro-Israel groups" collected these statements, the CBC itself "put them up," apparently referring to its Web site.

"In the Arab world," Macdonald continued, "this is the context, the backdrop against which this [violence] is happening. This is the vision that a lot of people see regularly in the Arab world. This is the filter that they are straining all of this through."

During his tenure in the Middle East, Macdonald did occasionally draw attention to anti-Israel incitement in Palestinian authority textbooks and in the mosques. But he gave it no sustained treatment. This phenomenon is pervasive and devastating, especially since an entire generation of Palestinian youth has been raised to hate and vilify Israel and the Jewish people. It is not surprising then that so many commit heinous acts, including suicide bombings that tragically take the lives of innocent Israelis.

In general, the frightening growth of anti-Semitism throughout the Arab and Muslim world deserves far more attention than it has thus far received in the Western media. A glance through MEMRI's Web site, especially the section "Arab Anti-Semitism Documentation Project" (www.memri.org/anti-semitism.html), shows just how widespread the hatred is. The offensive material includes official Egyptian, Saudi, and Syrian versions of Jewish blood libels; many comparisons of Zionism to Nazism; a number of Holocaust denials; and statements about international Jewish conspiracies.

Still, Macdonald's remarks on *Foreign Assignment* are important and point the way for the CBC to explore this vital subject in greater detail.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Winnipegger raising funds to restore looted gravestones in Poland

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG – Winnipegger Viktor Lewin is seeking funding to restore looted gravestones to the Jewish cemetery in his father's hometown of Losice, in eastern Poland.

"The stones were taken out of the cemetery by the Nazis in 1942 and used to build a fence and patio on a house," says Lewin, a city bus driver. "Other gravestones were used to shore up a bunker. It was heartbreaking to see. It was sadistic and cruel."

Lewin and other children of survivors from Losice are determined to put the gravestones back in the cemetery. "I'll do it myself if I have to," he says.

He says that there are between 200 and 300 gravestones and estimates the project will cost about $10,500.

Losice is located about 75 miles east of Warsaw. In the 1920s, Lewin reports, the town had a Jewish population of about 3,000, equivalent to 70 per cent of the population.

Shortly after the war began, Lewin's father, Jakob, and his three siblings crossed the border into Russia at their parents' urging. The parents stayed behind with their five younger daughters. On Aug. 22, 1942, the Nazis gathered all the remaining Jews in Losice and marched them 30 miles under a hot, humid sky to the rail depot at Siedlice, where they were transported to Treblinka.

The four older Lewin children went first to Minsk, then south to Kovel, where they were arrested by the Communist secret police and interned in a lumber camp in the Urals.

Jakob met his wife in a displaced persons camp after the war.

While Jakob's sister and brothers came to Winnipeg, he went first to New York and then to Indiana, where he worked in the steel mills. Eventually, he came to Winnipeg to be reunited with his brothers and sister.

Viktor Lewin's interest in the Losice gravestones was piqued by his efforts to find other relatives who may have survived the war. While unsuccessful in that regard, he connected with Warren Grynberg in England and Yitzhak Eisenberg in Paris, the children of Losice Jews. Last August, the three of them along with Lewin's daughter, Brianne, went back to Losice.

"The townspeople were very friendly and co-operative. They went out of their way to be helpful. They took us around to some of the older people who remembered what went on and where people lived and what work they did before the war," says Lewin.

He reports that the 3.5 acre Jewish cemetery had been turned into a park by the Communists. A bandstand had been built in one area.

"They were dancing on our graves," Lewin notes bitterly.

The three men are working with Norman Weinberg of Buffalo, who heads the Jewish Poland Cemetery Restoration Project. "Once we start restoring the gravestones, we don't think the work will take very long," Lewin says.

He, Grynberg and Eisenberg are heading back to Losice this month for three weeks. This time, Lewin will be bringing with him a number of books about Jewish history, culture and religion, contributed by the Kaufman-Silverberg Library – Winnipeg's Jewish library – for the high school in Losice.

For more information on the project, see www.zchor.org/losice/losice.htm.

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Pakistani man gets death threats for 'articles against Islam'

By ELYSSE ZAREK
and LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Interns

HAMILTON — Police here are investigating a death threat found earlier this month in the mailbox of Tahir Aslam Gora, an exiled Pakistani writer and publisher who criticizes Islamic states for their treatment of women and intolerance towards Jews and Christians.

"Remember we will not spare you. Your articles are against Islam. Your idea of New Islam is enough to kill you. Now true muslims will kill you and your family. You have no room on earth," read the anonymous typed note. It was signed by "True Muslims."

Gora, 40, is no stranger to threats. He fled Pakistan after being kidnapped, interrogated and jailed for two weeks by men with official-looking badges who called him a traitor to Islam because of articles he wrote criticizing, among other things, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. He came to Canada as a political refugee in April 1999 in the hope he would be free to express his views here.

He began to think critically about Islam as a Grade 9 student in Pakistan. While Urdu translations of Western books were rare, he managed to find a Bertrand Russell book at the library, which he said opened his eyes to other points of view.

"I realized that a writer in some Western country is writing such sensitive and difficult things, but he [was allowed to live]," Gora said, saying someone expressing similar views in Pakistan's religious society would likely have been killed.

In Toronto, where he lived until recently, the father of three published an Urdu-language newspaper called *Watan* for a year-and-a-half. In his articles, Gora, himself a Muslim, expressed the need for a reformed, more humanized Islam.

"I'm emphasizing again and again that we have to be compatible with the rest of mankind. We have to leave our orthodox ideas and attitude," he said in an interview in his sparsely decorated living room overlooking Hamilton's steel mills.

Gora received a lot of criticism from Toronto's Muslim community for publishing a picture of an Israeli child who had been killed by a suicide bomber. In the photo's cutline, he expressed sympathy for the young girl's family. He was also threatened for publishing photos of beauty pageant contestants, something frowned upon in the Muslim world.

Tahir Aslam Gora

[Elysse Zarek photo]

When advertisers began pulling their ads and angry readers threatened to kill him, Gora stopped publishing *Watan*.

In 2001, PEN Canada and Canadian Journalists for Free Expression published action alerts on their Web sites.

"An exiled Pakistani journalist living in Toronto has been the target of a series of death threats and acts of intimidation during the last few months," read the notice. The organizations called on citizens to call police and members of Parliament on Gora's behalf.

He said both groups, which he belongs to, have been very supportive.

Gora moved his operation to Hamilton in March and began a new Urdu publication called the *Hamilton Times*. He included his address and phone number, which, in hindsight, he admits was a mistake.

In addition to the note in his mailbox, Gora has received four bomb threats on his voice mail and his distribution van has been tailed.

"I rarely go out," he said. When he does, he keeps a watchful eye out for anyone suspicious.

He has since stopped publishing the *Hamilton Times* because advertisers again withdrew their support.

While Gora said some Canadian Muslims support his point of view, none have stepped forward to defend him.

> ***'We have the right to express our point of view but when some other person says something, that means that guy's hurting us'***

Gora said although many Canadian Muslims fled persecution in their native countries, they still defend regimes like the Taliban in Afghanistan. To demonstrate their hatred, Gora pulls out an Urdu journal with a photo of Adolf Hitler and George W. Bush standing side by side giving the Nazi salute.

"They have one-way traffic. They say everything is good for us but we don't want to give rights to others. We have the right to express our point of view but when some other person says something, that means that guy's hurting us," he said.

Gora said the recent death threats have shaken him badly. His wife and children were out of town visiting family when the note came and he doesn't want them to find out and worry.

Right now he is looking for a job that will pay the bills, but wants to resume publishing his views as soon as his financial situation improves.

"I cannot stop myself from writing."

The Hamilton police officer in charge of Gora's case could not be reached for comment.

CORRECTION

In a caption for the picture accompanying the article "JNF Western Canada galas raise over $500,000" (*CJN*, Aug. 14), the organizers and honorees pictured should have been identified as Edmonton residents. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Mazel Tov MOMENTS

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Morgan Starr graduated Grade 12 with honours and will be studying Radio and Television Arts at Ryerson University this fall.

Tal & Marni (née Luftspring) Belavin announce the arrival of Jett Mitchell (left) and Owen Harrison, born on July 11.

Mazel tov to Rabbi Tzvi & Karen Nightingale on the birth of Avital. Grandparents, Irving & Eva Nightingale, Benjamin & Sarah Aminoff of London, England.

Congratulations to Miriam Granek on her graduation from physiotherapy.

Mazel Tov to Marnie Shlomstein & Steve Stewart on their engagement, and on Steve's graduation from nursing school. Love from their families.

Happy second birthday to Noah Pasternak. Love and hugs from Mommy Chantal and Daddy Sean.

Lindsay Goodman graduated OAC and will be attending the University of Western Ontario.

Congratulations Rachel Bredin on your graduation in kinesiology from the University of Waterloo. Love, Bubbie Jadzia and Bubbie Fanny, the Bredins and the Harrises.

Happy birthday and best wishes to Max Dankner on your 78th birthday, from your family.

David & Lili Tobias of Toronto are thrilled to announce the engagement of their son Alexander to Jill, daughter of Izzy & Livy Ucuzoglu of California.

Roseline & Willy Tencer, Nola & Bram Perzow announce the engagement of their children Stephanie & Steve. Grandparents, Helen & Rubin Tencer and Willy Kirshenblatt.

New monument recalls Canadian Jews who served in WWII

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

A new monument at the Royal Canadian Air Force Memorial Museum in Trenton, Ont., was unveiled Aug. 15 in honour of nearly 500 Canadian Jews who gave their lives serving in World War II.

The ceremony took place as Ontario recovered from the largest blackout in North American history. But retired Brig.-Gen. Paul Hayes, who was MC at the ceremony, said despite the blackout, about 150 people managed to come from Toronto, Montreal, Kingston, and Ottawa.

The cairn stands nearly six feet high and is made from grey granite. It consists of three slabs that stand side by side upon a foot-high platform.

"It's plain, but very effective," Hayes said.

The monument was donated by retired Flight Lieut. Howard B. Ripstein of Montreal.

During the 45-minute ceremony, Ripstein spoke of his experiences carrying out dangerous bombing runs over Nazi-occupied Europe. Although the cairn mainly commemorates Jews who gave their lives serving in the air force, Ripstein said it was important for the monument to be inclusive of all religions.

On each of the granite slabs are inscriptions in English, French and Hebrew that read,"Erected in memory of the Jews who made the supreme sacrifice as members of the Canadian, Commonwealth and Allied air forces and the valour of the comrades of all denominations."

In attendance were several dignitaries, including MPs Art Eggleton and Paul Macklin. A busload of war veterans from Toronto, as well as Jewish and Christian clergy, air force personnel and members of the public also braved the sweltering summer heat to celebrate the new monument.

Members of the General Wingate Branch of the Royal Can\adian Legion (L to R): Al Rubin, Leonard Berger, Sam Romberg, Harold Kates, Izzy Goldstein and Lionel Mernick.

Jack Cahan, a retired squadron leader and national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, said he was disappointed he could not attend the ceremony due to the power outage. The cairn, he said, will remind Jews of the often overlooked role they played in Canadian military history.

Cahan said Jews made up the largest percentage of any identifiable group that enlisted during the World War II. About 1.5 million Jews, including 17,000 from Canada, joined the Allied forces worldwide. Unfortunately these facts are often omitted from history textbooks, he said.

"We had a choice. We joined up and did it," Cahan said. "We fought side by side, and we pulled our own weight."

The cairn, pictured above, commemorates Jews who served the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War.

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NOMINATIONS/NOMINATIONS

2003 Municipal Election

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Are you intending to be a candidate for the 2003 Municipal Election?
If so, please take note:

Nominations of candidates for the City of Vaughan Municipal Council and Local School Boards must be filed in the Clerk's Department between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., and on Nomination Day between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

NOMINATION PERIOD — **Thursday, January 2, 2003, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**
TO
NOMINATION DAY — **Friday, September 26, 2003, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Candidates may be nominated for the following offices:

- Mayor
- Local and Regional Councillor
- Local Councillor
- Member, York Region District School Board
- Member, York Catholic District School Board
- Member, Le Conseil Scolaire De District Du Centre-Sud-Ouest (Member, French Language Public School Board) Filed with the Clerk of the Town of Markham
- Member, Le Conseil Scolaire De District Catholique Centre-Sud (Member, French Language Separate School Board) Filed with the Clerk of the Town of Markham

The term of office for these positions is December 1, 2003 to November 30, 2006.

Need more information about Nomination Papers? Read on:

Nomination Papers are available in the Clerk's Department, Vaughan Civic Centre, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan (Maple), Ontario, Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and on Nomination Day from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The prescribed nomination filing fee of $200 for mayoralty candidates and $100 for all other candidates must be paid at the time of filing the nomination (cash, money order or certified cheque). In order to raise campaign funds or incur campaign expenses you must first be nominated.

For further information, please call the Clerk's Department at 905-832-8504.

First published: August 28, 2003

John D. Leach
City Clerk and Returning Officer, City of Vaughan

Coast to Coast

Halifax's Pier 21 tells immigrant story

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

HALIFAX — From 1928 to 1971, almost 70,000 Jews are known to have arrived here at Pier 21, Canada's last remaining immigration shed.

Since 1999, Pier 21 has been a national historic site, and it has been turned into a museum and archives, paying tribute to the one million immigrants and 100,000 refugees and displaced persons for whom it was the gateway to Canada, as well as recognizing the immigration officers, medical staff and volunteers who met them. Close to half a million Canadian troops passed through Pier 21 as they headed to Europe.

A plaque near the entrance lists 69,776 Jewish immigrants, although there were likely more who were recorded as Russian or Poles, for example.

The driving force behind turning what was a derelict building overlooking Halifax harbour into an interactive exhibition that tells the stories of the diverse newcomers who passed through over the decades is Ruth Goldbloom, a veteran community volunteer with a reputation for getting things done.

From 1993-99, she chaired the effort to raise the $9 million needed to restore the rat-infested shed. She is proud that was accomplished with an overhead of just three per cent. "When I travelled across the country, I stayed with family and friends," she said.

Now, as head of the Pier 21 Foundation, she is looking for $8.6 million for a five-year plan to expand Pier 21 into Canada's Immigration Centre, which will perserve the broader story of immigration from 1867 to the present day.

Raising awareness that Canada is a nation of immigrants comes naturally to Goldbloom. Her maternal grandfather, Joseph Claener, arrived in Halifax in 1909 from Russia and was processed at a pier that no longer exists. Four years later, he brought over his wife and daughter, and the family settled in the small town of New Waterford on Cape Breton Island, where Goldbloom (née Schwartz) was born and raised. Her father had a small grocery store.

Goldbloom left New Waterford to attend McGill University and met her husband, physician Richard Goldbloom, in Montreal.

"Pier 21 is a tribute to the struggles and hardships of immigrants, and, other than the First Nations, we are all immigrants. We came for the same reasons, to escape poverty, persecution, or for religious freedom, a better life for their family," said Goldbloom, who in 2000 was appointed an officer of the Order of Canada for her work. "When you add in the workers and volunteers, one in five Canadian families has some asssociation with Pier 21."

Goldbloom said Pier 21 has had about 600,000 visits since it opened.

.Among those who have deposited their story with Pier 21 is Ontario Court of Appeal justice Rosalie Silberman Abella, a former displaced person who landed there in 1950 as a toddler. The family, which had lost many members in the Holocaust, sailed on an American troop ship. From Halifax, they immediately boarded a train for Toronto.

"Those of us who were permitted to come to Canada were given a precious gift, the possibility of endless possibilities and the freedom to pursue them in safety and security. That is why every immigrant who started at Pier 21 cherishes this country and its people," Abella says.

Other well-known Canadians and Pier 21 alumni, whose quotes adorn the walls include author Peter C. Newman and journalist Joe Schlesinger. Sir Winston Churchill biographer and Holocaust expert Martin Gilbert also offers his comments. He was a four-year-old wartime evacuee from Britain.

Pier 21, which is open year-round, is located at 1055 Marginal Rd., Halifax.

Winnipeg shul merger helps smaller congregations

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Fallout from last year's merger of north Winnipeg's three largest synagogues has given a boost to two smaller shuls in the area and has led a breakaway group to plan services at a hotel for the High Holy Days.

Last July, the Rosh Pina, Beth Israel and Bnay Abraham congregations came together under the name Etz Chayim. The new shul is housed in the former building of the Rosh Pina, the oldest and largest of the merged congregations.

The Bnay Abraham was a traditional shul with mixed seating, while the other two merged congregations were egalitarian, as is the new one.

Most members of Bnay Abraham's daily minyan moved to the Chavurat Tefila Synagogue, giving that small Orthodox shul in north Winnipeg a membership boost, as well as a daily minyan for the first time in years.

As well, some former members of Beth Israel and Bnay Abraham are said to be unhappy about being part of such a large congregation – there were 1,700 people at Etz Chayim for the High Holy Days last year.

This year, the 75-family Chevra Mishnayes Synagogue, a 91-year-old traditional north Winnipeg shul led by longtime cantor Gerry Daien, has moved to attract disaffected Etz Chayim members by voting to move to mixed seating in time for the High Holy Days.

"Every member received a ballot in the mail, and 70 per cent voted in favour of mixed seating," said Grant Zipursky, the synagogue's co-president.

"We wanted to try to attract more families from Etz Chayim," he said.

The Chevrah Mishnayes sanctuary holds about 450 people. Last year, Zipursky said, attendance for the High Holy Days was up 40 per cent from the previous year.

"Since we switched to mixed seating, we have had about 20 new families join us, and we are getting a lot of calls," he said.

He is adamant, however, that the synagogue will not become egalitarian.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

דער חודש אלול און סליחות

פון אַלעק סילווער

היינט איז ראש חודש אלול. נישט בלויז דורך אַריינקוקן אין קאַלענדאַר קען מען דאָס וויסן. מען קען עס אויך דערקענען אין דער ענדערונג פון די סעזאָנען פון יאָר. ס׳גייט אַוועק דער זומער, ס׳קומט אָן דער האַרבסט. די טעג ווערן קלענער, די לופט ווערט קילער, עס בלאָזט שוין אַ קעלטער ווינטל און מען ווייסט, אַז אין אַ חודש אַרום וועט מען האָבן אַ ניי יידיש יאָר.

אין דעם קליינעם יידיש־פּויליש שטעטל פון וואַנען איך שטאַם, האָט מען געזען, מען האָט דערפילט די ענדערונג, וואָס עס האָט אַריינגעבראַכט ראש חודש אלול. דער געמיט איז געוואָרן מער ערנסט, מער אָנגעצויגן; יידן האָבן אינסטינקטיוו געענדערט זייער צוגאַנג צום לעבן, פאַרלאַנגזאַמט זייערע טריט, געוואָרן פריינדלעכער איינער צום צווייטן, ווי זיי וואָלטן געוואָלט ווייזן דעם רבונו של עולם, אַז דער ייד פון אַ גאַנץ יאָר ווייסט, אַז עס קומען אָן די הייליקע ימים טובים און מיטן אָנקום פון חודש אלול דאַרף מען זיך אָנהייבן פירן מער יידיש־מענטשלעך, סיי אין דער היים און סיי אין דער גאַס.

דער גרויסער פילאָזאָף סאָקראַטעס האָט אַמאָל געזאָגט (אין אַ פרייער איבערזעצונג): „אַ לעבן נישט עקזאַמינירט איז נישט ווערט צו לעבן”. אין אונדזער יידיש־העברעישער שפּראַך האָבן מיר אַן ענלעכן קלאַסישן אויסדרוק פון בלויז צוויי ווערטער: „חשבון הנפש”, וואָס מיינט נעמען אַ רעכענונג פון לעבן. פון צייט צו צייט מוז דער מענטש זיך אָפּשטעלן און איבערקוקן זיינע מעשים, זיין גייסטיק לעבן און אַליין פּסקענען, צי זיין בילאַנס־בלעטל ווייזט אַ פּראָפיט אָדער אַ דעפיציט. אַזעלכע מאָמענטן ברענגען אַרויס דרינגענדיקע פראַגן און זעלבסטקריטיק. זיי פירן אויך צו אַ וועג פון טוישן דעם לעבנס שטייגער פאַר זיך און לגבי אַנדערע.

צו מאַכן אַ חשבון הנפש איז פּאַסיק פאַר אַ גאַנץ יאָר. אָבער ווען עס קומט אָן דער חודש אלול ווייסט דער ייד, אַז דער הויפּט־טאָג פון חשבון הנפש — ראש השנה — איז שוין נאָענט. וויל ער נישט וואַרטן ביז דער לעצטער מינוט. דער ייד הייבט אָן זיין חשבון הנפש שוין באַלד ראש חודש אלול. די 30 טעג פון אלול ווערן פאַרוואַנדלט אין טעג פון אַריינטראַכטן, וואָס איז מיין אויפגאַבע אין דער דאָזיקער וועלט, צוליב וואָס בין איך דאָ אַראָפּגעשיקט געוואָרן און צי האָב איך אויסגעפילט, וואָס עס איז פון מיר פאַרלאַנגט געוואָרן?

כדי דער ייד זאָל געדענקען דאָס אַלץ, האָט מען אים אָנגעזאָגט צו הערן דעם שופר יעדן אינדערפרי און צו זאָגן סליחות. שוין די ראשי תיבות פון אלול — „**אני לדודי ודודי לי**” — ברענגען דעם ייד נענטער צו גאָט. דער ייד האָט זיכער טענות צום אייבערשטן און דער פאָטער אין הימל האָט טענות צו זיינע קינדער. אָבער היינט איז ראש חודש אלול, טאָ לאָמיר זיך איבערבעטן, לאָמיר פאַרגעבן איינער דעם אַנדערן און לאָמיר אָנהייבן דאָס נייע יאָר, וואָס קומט צום סוף פון דעם חודש, מיט אַ ניי בלעטל אין אונדזער בוך פון לעבן.

אַזוי ווי די יידישע רעליגיע איז דעמאָקראַטיש, און אַפילו אין אַ געוויסער מאָס עלאַסטיש, האָבן פאַרשיידענע קהילות זייערע באַזונדערע מינהגים. אַזוי, למשל, זיינען די ספרדים זיך נוהג אויפצושטיין גאַנץ פרי צו זאָגן סליחות פון ראש חודש אלול ביז יום־כיפור. דאַקעגן דער מינהג אַשכנז איז צו זאָגן סליחות זונטיק פאַר ראש השנה. אויב ראש השנה פאַלט אויס מאָנטיק אָדער דינסטיק, זאָגט מען סליחות מיט אַ זונטיק פריער. חסידים, ווידער, זאָגן סליחות מוצאי־שבת נאָך חצות.

סליחות לויט מינהג פּוילן זיינען דערשינען אין קראָקע אין יאָר 1584 און איבערזעצט אויף יידיש־טייטש פון ר׳ יעקב בר׳ אליהו, און געדרוקט אין פראַנקפורט ביים מיין אין יאָר 1602. ביז היינט צו טאָג זיינען דערשינען מיליאָנען עקזעמפּלאַרן אין פאַרשיידענע לענדער און אין פאַרשיידענע שפּראַכן. אין דעם יידישן רעליגיעזן לעבן איז די סליחה נישט ווייניקער וויכטיק ווי דער סידור אָדער דער מחזור.

Loving Spoonfuls celebrates grandmother's cooking

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Carol Sevitt, author of *The Loving Spoonfuls Cookbook: Cooking with the Greatest Grandmas in the World*, knows what makes grandmothers' cooking taste so good.

"They add love. When they cook, they put their hearts and souls into it," she said in an interview.

Sevitt, a freelance writer who teaches at Ryerson University, was inspired to write the book from W Network's show *The Loving Spoonfuls*, created and produced by her brother Allan Novak.

In each episode, host David Gale features a different grandmother who cooks up a favourite dish while chatting with Gale.

For her book, Sevitt included recipes, background information and interviews with almost 40 Canadian grandmothers – five are Jewish – from different ethnic backgrounds.

A common bond between all the grandmothers, she said, is that they're willing to put time into their cooking. "They don't necessarily want fast and easy.

"I think it had a lot to do with the generation. Fewer women worked, and cooking was their identity. They were the wives and mothers, and they were in charge of food preparation. They took ownership of the kitchen."

Many had been through the war and had endured tremendous hardships, she said. "One grandmother from Holland talked about being so hungry during the war that she resorted to eating tulip bulbs. When you've experienced hunger, food takes on a new meaning."

The grandmothers, who range in age from 63 to 92 "run the gamut, from a Sudanese diplomat's wife to a German ex-stripper; they bring to the book a cultural history of Canada. Their commonality though, is that they all express themselves through food."

The grandmothers had incredible stories, she said. "A number of them had reversals of fortune. An Indian grandmother lost her son-in-law and two grandchildren in the Air India crash.

"None are too busy to cook, however, They're proud of their recipes and they love watching people eat.

"Most of them don't write or paint; their artistry is through their food. They create culinary masterpieces."

Loving Spoonfuls is more than just a cookbook, said Sevitt. "It's a celebration of older women who are often marginalized. By appearing in this bopk they suddenly became stars. They felt that what they did best was being acknowledged and valued."

The biggest challenge, Sevitt said, was getting the recipes straight. "It was difficult translating the recipes into exact measurements, but I hired professionals and each recipe was tested.

"Grandmothers know how to cook from experience, but they aren't always able to get the proper recipe down. The recipe testers are scientists and they know what to do to get reliable results."

Is this pride in cooking part of a lost generation? "There will always be people interested in food, but the difference is that the 'masterpieces' will be reserved for special occasions. They will not be part of day-to-day life," said Sevitt.

She offers the following recipes, courtesy of several bubbies.

Carol Sevitt with a Foreword by David Gale

AUNT REBECCA'S BABKA
From the kitchen of Bubbie Ruthy Gale

2 tsp. granulated sugar
½ cup warm water
2 pkgs. (each 2¼ tsp.) active dry yeast
1½ cups light (5 per cent sour cream)
6 tbsp. granulated sugar
¼ tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. kosher salt
2 eggs, at room temperature
¼ cup margarine or vegetable shortening
6 cups sifted all-purpose flour (approx.)
8 to 10 pecan halves (optional)

Coating:
1 cup granulated sugar
3 tbsp. ground cinnamon
½ cup vegetable oil

Dissolve sugar in warm water; sprinkle yeast over top. Let stand for 10 minutes or until frothy; stir. Warm sour cream in a microwave-safe bowl in microwave. Pour into mixer. Add sugar, baking soda and salt; mix well using dough hook.

Mix in yeast mixture, then eggs and margarine. Gradually mix in about 5 cups of the flour, adding more flour as necessary to make a sticky dough. Mix for 3 minutes longer. (If making by hand, in a large bowl, make a well in the centre of 5 cups of the flour; place other ingredients in well and mix together, incorporating flour and adding more as necessary to make sticky dough.)

Turn out dough onto lightly floured surface. Knead for 7 to 10 minutes, or until smooth and shiny, incorporating enough flour to prevent sticking. Transfer to a greased bowl, turning dough to grease all over. Let rise in a warm, draft-free place for about 1 hour, or until doubled in bulk. (Dough has risen enough when indentations remain in top after poking with 2 fingers.)

Punch down dough and turn over. Cover and let rise again until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour. Turn out dough onto a lightly floured surface. Kneed a few times to form a ball. Pat out dough into a rectangle about 14 x 10 inches. Cut into about 40 pieces (each about 1½ inches). Grease 10-inch bundt pan very well. Place a pecan (if using) in each ridge.

Coating:
In a small bowl, combine sugar and cinnamon. Dip each piece of dough in oil to coat lightly on all sides, then roll in cinnamon sugar.

Place pieces in bottom of pan just touching each other to make a ring. Repeat to make second ring on top but closer to tube side, then make third ring on top closer to outside of pan.

Fill pan only half full, as dough will rise more. (Use any remaining dough to make mini-babkas or rolls.) Cover and let rise in a warm, draft-free place until doubled (should reach top of pan), about 30 minutes.

Bake in 350-degree oven for 30 to 45 minutes or until babka pulls away from sides of pan and bottom sounds hollow when tapped. Let cool in pan for 20 minutes. Invert onto rack. If you can wait, let cool for another 20 minutes! Yields: 12 servings.

MARY'S MEMORABLE MANDELBROT
(Almond Biscotti)
From the kitchen of Bubbie Mary Finson

Serve mandelbrot with a hot cup of coffee for a sip-and-dip delight.

3 eggs
½ cup granulated sugar
½ cup vegetable oil
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1½ cups cornflakes cereal, crushed
pinch of cinnamon
40 whole almonds

In a bowl, combine eggs, sugar, and oil. Mix in flour and baking powder until moistened. Add cornflakes and mix until combined. Divide batter in half. Shape each half into a log. Place well apart on greased baking sheet. Sprinkle logs with cinnamon.

Continued on page 28

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These bubbies sure know how to cook

Continued from page 27

Press whole almonds in row along top. Bake in 350 degree oven for 25 to 30 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove and let cool for 5 minutes. Transfer logs to cutting board and slice diagonally into ½ inch thick cookies. Place flat on baking sheet. Return to oven (turned off but still warm) to let dry for 1 to 2 hours. Yield: about 40 cookies.

SEPHARDI FISH BALLS

From the kitchen of Nonna Etty Cohen

1 lb. ground fish (such as pike or whitefish)
2 cloves garlic, crushed
¼ tsp. ground cumin
pinch of salt
pinch of hot pepper flakes
1 egg
¼ cup (approx.) dry bread crumbs
vegetable oil for frying

Sauce:
1 cup water
1½ cups tomato sauce
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 tbsp. vinegar
1 tbsp. tomato paste
juice of half lemon
¼ tsp. salt
pinch of ground cumin
pinch of granulated sugar
pinch of hot pepper flakes
pinch of turmeric

In a bowl, mix together fish, garlic, cumin, salt, hot pepper flakes, egg, and enough bread crumbs to make firm consistency. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours, or overnight.

With fingers dipped in oil, form fish mixture into 1½-inch balls, then elongate slightly into a cigar shape. In a large saucepan, heat enough oil to come 1 inch up sides of pan over medium-high heat. Fry fish balls in batches, until brown and crisp on outside. Transfer to tray lined with paper towel to drain.

Sauce:

In a saucepan over medium-high heat, bring water, tomato sauce, oil, vinegar, tomato paste, lemon juice, salt, cumin, sugar, hot pepper flakes, and turmeric to a boil. Reduce heat and add fish balls to sauce. Simmer for 5 to 10 minutes or until fish balls are cooked through.

Tip:

If you don't have a meat grinder to grind fish, chop cold fish in a food processor in small batches until fine, but not mushy. For crisper fish balls, cook over medium heat in oil until golden and cooked through, and serve with simmered sauce poured over.

Variation:

Sometimes Etty buys fillet of sole and grinds it up for use in this recipe. In fact, any mild-tasting white fish can be used. Yield: 4 servings.

PLUMP POTATO PIEROGIES

From the kitchen of Bubbie Ruth Zimmer

Filling:
6 large white potatoes, peeled
2 tbsp. butter or margarine
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
2 large onions, chopped
1 cup shredded old Cheddar cheese
salt and pepper

Dough:
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 egg
2 tbsp. vegetable oil
pinch of salt
warm water

Filling:

In a saucepan of boiling salted water, cook potatoes until tender. Drain well; mash, adding butter or margarine. Meanwhile, heat oil in skillet; fry onions. Set aside some of the fried onions for topping. Add remaining onions to hot mashed potatoes. Mix in cheese. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Dough:

In a bowl, stir together flour, egg, oil, and salt. Mix in enough warm water to make soft dough. Gather into ball and transfer to floured surface. Knead just until elastic.

Roll out dough to ¼-inch thickness. Using 2½-inch round cookie cutter, glass or empty, clean 10-oz. soup can, cut out circles from dough, re-rolling scraps and cutting out more. Place heaping spoonful of the filling onto half of 1 circle; fold opposite side of circle over filling to form half-moon and pinch firmly to seal.

Place on floured paper towel. Repeat with remaining circles and filling. (At this point, if following Ruth's method, complain to your husband that you are tired and that your back hurts.) In batches (about 10 at once), transfer pierogies to a large saucepan of boiling salted water; with wooden spoon, stir gently a couple of times to prevent sticking. Bring to a boil; boil for 3 to 4 minutes or until pierogies rise to the surface. Remove with a slotted spoon, transferring to a bowl of cold water. Repeat with remaining pierogies in batches. Reheat pierogies in microwave or fry in oil or butter in skillet; top with reserved fried onions. Serve with a dollop of sour cream or yogurt.

Ruth's recommendations:

Dough can be made a day ahead. Bring to room temperature before filling. Making extra dough means you can freeze it (form it into a disc and wrap in plastic wrap), ready to make another batch of pierogies another day.

Freeze uncooked pierogies in a single layer on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. Once frozen, transfer to a freezer bag to store in freezer. To serve, boil as above, then fry in skillet with butter or oil and top with fried onions. Yield: about 36.

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Hamas military wing vows revenge for IDF operation

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Hamas' military wing vowed revenge Monday for Israel's assassination of two senior Hamas operatives in the Gaza Strip the night before, Israel Radio reported.

Hamas has threatened to retaliate with rocket attacks and suicide bombings.

Defence sources said the principal target of Sunday's attack, in which they say four Palestinian militants travelling in a car in Gaza City were killed in a missile strike, was Ahmed Shatiwi, a senior member of the Hamas military wing who served as the liaison between Hamas' leadership in Gaza and its cells in the West Bank.

Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin said before dawn Monday that Israel will pay the price for killing Shatiwi, Israel Radio reported.

A second occupant of the car was Walid Alhumas, also a fairly senior Hamas operative. Eyewitnesses said Apache helicopters fired at least three anti-tank missiles at the car and eight bystanders were wounded in the attack.

Israel's security establishment has received an increased number of terrorist threats since last week's assassination of top Hamas official Ismail Abu Shanab, and Islamic Jihad has also threatened revenge, Israel Radio reported.

Defence sources said the targeted killing was aimed at preventing a double suicide attack that Hamas' military wing had planned. The operation took place a few hours after Israel Defence Forces (IDF) chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon announced that Israel views "all Hamas personnel as targets for pinpoint preventions."

Palestinian sources said the other two men killed in the attack were not in the car at all, but were members of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's presidential guard, Force 17, who were guarding a nearby roadblock in front of Arafat's house in Sheikh Ajalin.

Since Israel's assassination of Abu Shanab last Thursday, there have been several intelligence warnings about Hamas and Islamic Jihad plans to retaliate with suicide bombings.

The IDF has received three specific warnings of terror attacks in which the would-be terrorists would come from Nablus, where troops are operating and have imposed a full curfew, Israel Radio reported Monday.

A senior IDF officer said troops in Nablus are digging into walls and pulling up tiles in their search for weapons, the radio reported.

The Palestinian men have left their homes in the Nablus casbah (marketplace), and suspects have left the old city there, according to Israel Radio.

Troops also arrested four wanted Palestinians Sunday night in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus.

The IDF has imposed a full closure on the Gaza Strip, the radio reported. Monday, Palestinians fired from the sea for the first time at IDF outposts in Gush Katif, in Gaza.

The IDF plans to continue its operations in Nablus and perhaps expand to Jenin and Hebron as well, since the Shin Bet says dangerous terror cells are located in those cities. The IDF might also take action against wanted terrorists in Ramallah, where, last week, 18 men wanted by Israel left Arafat's headquarters, and are now scattered in various hiding places in the city.

However, the army will consider easing travel restrictions for Palestinians in Bethlehem, Jericho and Qalqilyah. A senior source at the IDF's Central Command said, "Where we can, we will make things easier for Palestinian citizens."

Mofaz questions PA actions

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said Sunday that the Palestinians are not taking any real steps to dismantle the terror infrastructure, and that any action they take is for appearance only, aimed at easing American pressure on the Palestinian Authority (PA).

After consulting with the defence establishment, Mofaz came to that conclusion, adding that recent events prove again that PA President Yasser Arafat is hampering both the peace process and the government of PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, and is directly responsible for the deterioration of the recent days.

Mofaz said, however, that the steps taken to ease restrictions on the Palestinian population would be continued, and that the Rafah, Karni and Allenby border terminals would remain open.

Israel Defence Forces chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon said Sunday that senior Hamas officials in Syria and the Gaza Strip were responsible for the suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem last week, in which 21 people were killed, and that "whoever supports such activities will not go unpunished.

"From our perspective all [Hamas] members are part of the radical core." Ya'alon said, noting that the radical terror core is in the Gaza Strip.

"If we see that the Palestinian Authority does not deal with this core, we will be forced to do so," he said.

Ya'alon said there is no doubt that an escalation of tensions is taking place. "The terror organizations are currently trying to carry out deadly terror attacks, and we are taking action to thwart them. The question is whether this is a short-term escalation, or a deterioration that will force us to take massive action."

Palestinian security forces on Saturday night appeared to be taking preliminary steps against the terrorist factions in the Gaza Strip following heavy pressure from the United States on top Palestinian leaders.

The Palestinian Preventive Security Apparatus uncovered four tunnels in the border town of Rafah on Saturday night and Sunday morning. They sealed off the tunnels, used to smuggle weapons and drugs from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian security services also arrested some of the smugglers.

On Sunday, Abdel Razeq Majaideh, the head of the PA's National Security Service, publicly ordered his men to deploy around Beit Hanun to prevent the firing of Qassam rockets into Israel, and in Rafah to prevent the arms smuggling.

Channel One quoted a senior government source as saying the action taken by the Palestinian Authority was "too little, too late."

U.S. might pump oil from Iraq to Haifa

By AMIRAM COHEN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Sources in Jerusalem have confirmed the United States has asked Israel to investigate the possibility of pumping oil from Iraq to the oil refineries in Haifa.

The request came in a telegram last week from a senior Pentagon official to a top Foreign Ministry official in Jerusalem.

The Prime Minister's Office, which views the pipeline to Haifa as a "bonus" the United States could give to Israel in return for its unequivocal support for the American-led campaign in Iraq, had asked the Americans for an official telegram.

The new pipeline would take oil from the Kirkuk area, where some 40 per cent of Iraqi oil is produced, and transport it via Mosul, and then across Jordan to Israel. The U.S. telegram included a request for a cost estimate for repairing the Mosul-Haifa pipeline that was in use prior to 1948. During the War of Independence, the Iraqis stopped the flow of oil to Haifa, and the pipeline subsequently fell into disrepair.

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South African advocacy group marks 100 years

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) will be celebrating its 100th anniversary with an international meeting of the World Jewish Congress (WJC) in Johannesburg and Cape Town from Sept. 5 to 7.

When SAJBD – the South African equivalent of Canadian Jewish Congress – was founded 100 years ago, it represented an immigrant community that hailed from Eastern Europe. Today, South Africa's Jewish community is "strong and self-sufficient," Yehuda Kay, executive director of the SAJBD, said in a phone interview from Johannesburg.

"We've gone from a community of immigrants to a vital, vibrant part of South Africa," Kay said.

Among the attendees at the centenary will be Martin Luther King III. One of the most pressing issues facing the Jewish community in South Africa is its relations with local black Muslim groups, and hosting a black leader from the United States sends a strong message, said WJC Secretary-General Avi Beker.

> ***'We've gone from a community of immigrants to a vital, vibrant part of South Africa'***

"It shows blacks in South Africa that the Jews have a very close relationship with blacks," he said from Jerusalem.

Other issues facing the South African community are crime and anti-Israel bias in the media. In response, Kay said, the SAJBD participates in a grassroots, cross-cultural group that looks for ways to fight crime, and has created a professional media team to counter the "ugly" media campaign against Israel.

"Our priority has always been to safeguard the Jewish community's rights, lobbying for protecting Israel from bias in the media and political circles," Kay said. Other top priorities are building relationships with the government and fighting anti-Semitism.

Demographics is another pressing problem for the South African Jewish community. At its height, the community numbered 120,000, but the population has dropped to about 80,000 as its younger members have sought better opportunities abroad.

Beker said many South African Jews abroad become active in their adopted communities.

"[CJC president] Keith Landy is an example of the dispersion of the Jewish community from South Africa," he said.

Landy, who came to Canada from South Africa in 1970 and will be attending the anniversary bash, said many South African Jews left the country after the Soweto race riots – the worst in South Africa's history – in 1976, and after the fall of apartheid in 1994 because of the shaky political situation.

"Nobody knew there was going to be peace and reconciliation under Mandela," Landy said.

That's why there are pockets of South African Jews in English-speaking countries such as Canada and the United States, Britain and Australia, he explained.

Liberal MP Irwin Cotler will also be speaking at the meeting.

Egyptians to sue Jews for Exodus gold

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

CAIRO — A group of Egyptian jurists are considering suing the Jews for gold the ancient Israelites carried out of Egypt.

Nabil Hilmi, law dean at the University of Al-Zaqziq, told the Egyptian weekly *Al-Ahram Al-Arabi* that "the statute of limitations cannot possibly apply" in the suit, according to the Middle East Media Research Institute, which translated the Arabic newspaper report.

"This is clear theft of a host country's resources and treasure, something that fits the morals and character of the Jews," Hilmi said.

Gamil Yaken, vice-president of the Egyptian community in Switzerland, is preparing the research for the lawsuit, which is based in part on biblical narrative.

The report did not say whether compensation for Jewish slave labour in Egypt, reported in that same biblical narrative, would be taken in consideration.

The Week in Israel

Aug. 18

• Attorney general Elyakim Rubinstein has named a team to probe a land-expropriation scandal in Kfar Malal surrounding allegations Prime Minster Ariel Sharon influenced compensation levels for the expropriation.

Aug. 19

• Israel announced a major contract to purchase natural gas from Egypt. The government selected Egypt as the supplier rather than a joint British-Palestinian consortium.

Aug. 20

• Seventeen new immigrants from Iraq landed at Ben Gurion Airport. Unlike the six elderly Jews from Iraq brought to Israel at the end of July, this group comprises complete families.

• The army said it had successfully foiled a suicide bombing that Islamic Jihad had planned for Haifa this week. The bomber and two accomplices were arrested the previous day at a military roadblock west of Jenin, but the arrests were only made public afterward.

Aug. 21

• The army was reported to be moving tanks toward Ramallah and Nablus.

• Members of the Hamas military wing in the Gaza Strip fired Qassam rockets at targets in the south of Israel, two of which landed in Sderot and two in an open space on a kibbutz nearby. No one was injured.

Aug. 22

• Several cities, towns and regional councils, as well as most kibbutz and moshav schools, will take part in the experimental five-day school week program in the coming school year, which starts Aug. 31. The move is expected to save the Education Ministry an estimated NIS 80-100 million a year and the local authorities an annual NIS 200 million.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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As France bakes in the heat, community struggles to bury dead

By PHILIP CARMEL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — During a sizzling heatwave in France early this month, Parisian Jewish organizations struggled to cope as unburied corpses waited up to four days for Jewish burial.

According to the Paris Consistoire, the principal organization dealing with the religious needs of the community, the Jewish death rate almost tripled during a record heat wave that began early August and lasted for weeks.

The figures for the 350,000-strong Jewish community in the Paris region mirrored the situation across the capital and in much of France, with reports suggesting that as many as 15,000 people had died in temperatures that reached higher than 45 C.

Jacques B'Chiri, head of the Consistoire burial board, told JTA mid-August the Consistoire was handling around 30 burials a day, considerably higher than the 10 to 15 per-day average for this time of year.

"The situation is very difficult indeed," B'Chiri said. "We have bodies waiting days for burial, and there's nothing we can do about it."

At the Pantin cemetery in northern Paris, the largest in the region that has a sizeable Jewish section, Jewish funeral directors said their companies were conducting burials every 15 minutes.

"Usually there's at least an hour gap between funerals. I've never seen anything like this," said Philippe Hay, a funeral organizer from Benhamou burial services. "People call us and we tell them that they have to wait a minimum of three days."

B'Chiri said hospitals were struggling with the number of bodies in morgues, which were so piled up they couldn't always get to them quickly enough.

"The cold storage morgues in the hospitals are full. The government said it's going to bring in special plastic rooms to hold up to 100 bodies, but we're still waiting for that," he said.

B'Chiri said he was particularly perturbed by the fact that, in many cases, nobody was around to comfort Jewish mourners or even to perform ceremonies.

In mid-August, he said, "The rabbis are all away on holiday, and they haven't left replacements."

Outside Paris, he said, it was "even worse. There's nobody around in Orleans and Tours, and people are dying."

As for the ritual cleansing of the bodies after death, known as *taharah*, B'Chiri said the Consistoire was coping, "but there's nobody around to say Shema Yisrael or light candles."

He said he was considering calling rabbis back from holiday. "What can you do when the Consistoire itself has practically shut down for the summer?"

Traditionally, Parisians leave the capital in droves during August, heading south or west to the coast.

The Consistoire wasn't the only understaffed organization: An operator at the United Jewish Social Funds, the umbrella welfare and educational organization of French Jews, said, "There's virtually no one here."

At L'Ose Medical, one of the oldest Jewish medical institutions in Paris, a recorded message said the building was closed until Aug. 22.

At CASIP, Paris' Jewish social services group, a spokesperson said the organization had adopted special measures in its old-age homes in Paris and in the southern suburb of Creteil.

Esther Freiberg, director of the CASIP-run Amaragi Home in Paris' 19th district, said that after the heat wave started, all outside trips for residents were cancelled and around-the-clock medical supervision was implemented for the 80 residents.

"We made sure that everyone drank mineral water or sodas every 20 minutes or so, to make sure that body liquids and salts were kept up," Freiberg said. "Thank God there were no mortalities."

In general, the Jewish community in the capital was better off than the majority of the population, never getting to the point that bodies couldn't be transported from homes to hospital morgues. The community had enough vehicles to cope with the extra demand, Consistoire officials said.

Hardest hit were the elderly and people with serious medical conditions exacerbated by the scorching temperatures.

While government statistics showed that many had died at home, the situation in Paris hospitals and centres for the aged also was poor.

With little experience in dealing with such a heat wave – the hottest and most prolonged in France in more than 100 years – many institutions lacked the necessary cooling facilities.

A good deal of criticism was directed at the government, with a number of doctors' unions saying ministers had done too little, too late.

But some of the major Jewish institutions did not wait for government guidelines to arrive.

With more than 500 residents, the Rothschild Foundation Home for the Aged and Geriatric Centre in central Paris, one of the largest non-profit institutions of its kind in France, began implementing emergency procedures on Aug. 4, a week before Ministry of Health guidelines arrived.

According to the centre's director, Jean-Marie Descamps, these procedures pushed off a large increase in mortalities until Aug. 11 and 12 – the hottest two days, when temperatures reached 42 C (107 F) in the shade and close to 49 C (120 F) in the sun.

Just as problematic, the heat wave intensified as it continued, and certain areas of the building never truly cooled down.

Descamps said he was not permitted to divulge exact mortality figures for the centre, but he said there had been "a very high rise, with many more deaths than is usual for this time of the year."

"Even if there are no more deaths from now until the end of the month, there will have still been more than in the whole month of August 2001," Descamps said, adding that the summer of 2001 had also been particularly warm.

"Here, where we also have a medical centre with around 80 beds, the average age is about 85 and many people have serious medical problems, which means they find it hard to reduce their body temperatures," he said.

"We have, though, been able to combat problems of dehydration, and we go around the building all the time insisting that people drink. Thankfully, no one has died of dehydration."

The Rothschild centre is not air-conditioned because it could be dangerous for such an institution, Descamps said. Staff had been told to apply wet towels and increase showers to residents during the heat wave.

Yet that also had presented problems, Descamps said: Being forced to take more frequent showers during the heat wave "was not easy for those who came through the Shoah."

Mortality rates steadied as temperatures fell to more comfortable levels by the end of the second week of August, Descamps said.

Iranian arrested for 1994 Argentinia attack

Continued from page 1

In March 1992, a blast destroyed the Israeli Embassy, killing 29 people.

Jewish leaders have criticized Argentine authorities for failing to apprehend those responsible for either attack.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hamid Reza Asefi, has rejected allegations of Iranian involvement in the bombing, but Galeano said in a 400-page document to Interpol he considers beyond question that "radical elements of the Islamic Republic of Iran" were responsible.

Galeano did not directly blame the Iranian government but claimed that Moshen Rabbani, former cultural attaché in the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires, was a "key element in the organized group" that staged the attack.

The arrest has sparked anger in the Iranian press and Iran's state television said Sunday it is cutting its cultural and economic ties with Argentina.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry official in charge of the Americas desk announced Iran's strong objection to the Argentine judiciary's measure and informed him [the Argentine charge d'affaires] of Iran's decision on halting cultural and economic cooperation with Argentina," state television quoted Foreign Ministry official Mehdi Mohtashami as saying.

Officials at the Argentine mission in Tehran were not immediately available for comment. One western diplomat said Argentina had a charge d'affaires in Tehran. Iranian Foreign Ministry officials were also not available.

Iran is a major wheat importer and Argentina has traditionally been among the country's suppliers. It was not immediately clear whether that trade would be affected by the move.

Tehran previously withdrew its ambassador from Argentina to protest against the claim of Iranian involvement, though it retains a mission in Buenos Aires.

One diplomat in Tehran said the Iranian move suggested the government wanted to express anger at the former diplomat's arrest, but was stopping short of a major new diplomatic initiative against Argentina.

Britain's charge d'affaires in Tehran, Matthew Gould, reportedly told Iranian Foreign Ministry officials Soleimanpour's arrest was not politically motivated, and the court's decision was independent of the British government.

"The British government cannot interfere at this stage of the extradition process," he said, adding that he had been summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry and asked for the immediate release of the former diplomat.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL PRESENTS 75th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

The Morris Winchevsky School invites the public and alumni to attend Klezmore, a reunion concert in celebration of its 75th anniversary. Featured performers include the **Klezmer Swingtet**, led by **Jonno Lightstone**, with **Tony Quarrington** and **Jordan Klapman**; **Dave Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner**; folksinger **Batsheva**; and **Sharon Hampson** of **Sharon, Lois & Bram** as MC.

Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. W. $35-$25, includes post-concert reception; $75 for inner circle tickets (partial tax receipt available). Sunday Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-5502. E-mail, mws@on.aibn.com. Web site, www.winchevskycentre.org.

* * *

Names in the News: Toronto Yiddish translator **Miriam Beckerman** is preparing to make a presentation at the International Association of Yiddish Clubs conference this coming week in Baltimore, Md. The conference runs Sept. 4 thru 7 and its theme is "Yiddish Teachers, Heroes Then and Now."

Beckerman, whose many translation credits include the English rendering of author **Dovid Katz's** book *Misnagdishe Meyses (Tales of the Mitnagdim)*, plans to speak on the topic, "My Teacher Dovid Katz." She studied with the well-known writer-journalist and founder of Oxford University's Yiddish studies program during a summer course she attended at Vilnius University in Lithuania in 1998.

A native Torontonian who lived in Israel from 1947 to 1952 before returning here, Beckerman started translating as a hobby, but began taking it more seriously after attending a conference at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass., in 1990. Since then she has translated a growing list of Holocaust memoirs and yizkor (remembrance) books. "I get requests for translations from all over," she said.

Recently translated titles include *Nightmares: Memoirs of the Years of Horror Under Nazi Rule in Europe, 1939-1945*, by **Conrad Charmatz**, soon to be released in translation by Syracuse University Press. Another is *Hafiling (Prisoner) No. 94771: Memoirs of Nazi Concentration Camps*, by **Paula Frankel-Zaltzman**, which Beckerman describes as "one of the very first Holocaust memoirs, published in Montreal in 1949."

She expects to read a translated excerpt from Charmatz's book at Israel's Judaica soon after its publication, probably this fall.

* * *

JCC Choir: Entering its eighth season, the 60-member JCC Community Choir presents several concerts each year including a spring concert in June. The challenging repertoire includes doo-wop, jazz, classical, world, Jewish, folk and gospel. Conductor **Harriet Wichin** invites new voices to audition. $180 for members, $230 for non-members. Miles Nadal JCC. Wednesdays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Sept. 10 thru June 2004. harrietwichin@milesnadaljcc.ca

Also at the Nadal JCC, a Women's Chorus offers a relaxed singing environment for women of all ages. No audition required. Every second Monday, 8 to 9:30 p.m. Fall session runs Sept. 15 to Dec. 15. Members $50, non-members $65. harrietwichin@milesnadaljcc.ca

* * *

Arts in Brief

• During the recent blackout in Ontario, cast members of Toolkit Productions' *He Died With A Felafel In His Hand* took their show onto College Street to entertain a crowd of more than 100 people. Based on **John Birmingham's** cult novel, the show closes Aug. 30. 416-828-9274.

• **Michael Rubinoff's** "sensibly priced" production of *Evita* continues at the Jane Mallett Theatre, St. Lawrence Centre, thru Aug. 30. $25 to $40. 416-366-7723 or www.stlc.com. Web site, www.evitathemusical.ca.

• "The Male as Muse: The Influence of the Masculine Mainstream on Women Artists of the 1920s to 1940s" is an exhibition of paintings from the University of Toronto's Hart House permanent collection. Opening reception, Wednesday Sept. 3, 5 to 7 p.m. Justina M. Barnicke Gallery, Hart House. Until Oct. 2. 416-978-8398.

• Opening and Closures, an exhibition of new works by Toronto painter **Marjorie Moeser** and ceramist **Irit Lepkin**, opens Sept. 4, 5 to 9 p.m. at the Women's Art Association Gallery, 23 Prince Arthur Ave., and runs until Sept. 7.

* * *

Adult and Continuing Education

• Seneca College at the York University campus offers adult acting classes taught by skilled professionals. Certificate available. Orientation, Thursday Sept. 4, 7 p.m. 416-491-5050, ext. 4112.

• Registration is under way at the Miles Nadal JCC for these adult Jewish education courses: Hebrew Marathon, Yiddish for Beginners, the Modern Jewish Short Story, and Klezmer 101. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Out of Town

• *Girl Culture*, an exhibition of bold photographs by Los Angeles photographer **Lauren Greenfield**, offers an intimate glimpse into the social lives and subcultures of modern girls and women. Opens Sept. 4 at the Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles. Until Jan. 4, 2004.

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Buddies star in CBC comedy Kenny vs. Spenny

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Kenny Hotz and Spencer Rice, two old friends who grew up in Toronto, are betting their madcap antics will endear them to a loyal, abiding audience.

They are the creators, directors and stars of *Kenny vs. Spenny*, a new CBC television sitcom that debuts Tuesday, Sept. 2, at 5:30 p.m., after *The Simpsons*.

The show, which unfolds in 26 half-hour segments, is basically directed at teenagers. But Hotz and Rice are hopeful adults will like it as well.

"Even ex-Nazis in Brazil," Hotz quipped.

Kenny vs. Spenny, produced by a team consisting of Ira Levy, Peter Williamson, John Morayniss and Noreen Halpern, is still in production, but 19 episodes are already in the can.

It turns on the relationship – and rivalry – between two regular, though wacky, guys who try to outsmart or sabotage each other while competing in outrageous contests.

Who can stay awake the longest? Who is the handsomest guy on the block? Who can lose the most weight in an allotted period of time?

According to the rules of the game, the loser of the competition is called on to perform a humiliating task, said Rice, who met Hotz at Forest Hill Collegiate in 1982 and began working with him professionally in 1989.

Hotz compares their humour to the fabled hijinks of Laurel and Hardy, while Rice describes their jokey routines as a "slapstick, jackass type of comedy."

In terms of their on-screen personas, the two are night and day. Spenny plays the straight man and Kenny portrays a schemer.

"The show works because we're very different," said Rice.

Hotz, a student at Beth Tzedec's United Synagogue Day School until Grade 8, graduated from Ryerson's media arts program. Rice studied film at York University.

Hotz, the son of Jack and Tzafi, attributes his bent for zany humour to his older brother, Ron, a physician ("the butcher of Bathurst," Kenny calls him) who writes on the side; his sister Miriam, a nutritionist, and his late father, "a classic joke teller."

Rice, whose father Vincent died recently, said he was drawn to the entertainment business by his mother, Corinne, who once dated an actor from *Dallas* ("Sue Ellen's psychiatrist.")

Shortly after forming a writing partnership with Rice, Hotz went to Israel to cover the 1991 Gulf War as a photographer.

Fluent in Hebrew thanks to his kibbutz-born and bred mother, he obtained press credentials with the help of his uncle, Yoel Gillat, an Israeli diplomat who has been stationed in France and China.

Hotz's photographs, which have been exhibited at several Canadian museums, presented a country under siege.

Spencer Rice (left) and Kenny Hotz star in their own show Kenny vs. Spenny.

From the roof of the Hilton Hotel, he remembers watching Iraqi Scud missiles landing in Tel Aviv.

Since the late 1980s, he and Rice have collaborated on several projects.

One of their first, a comedy feature, was *The Last Days of Toronto*.

"It was a terrible movie," recalled Hotz. "You have to make bad movies before you can make good ones."

It was followed by *The Gordy Movie*, a film about a homeless hobo from Toronto who happens to be a dwarf.

Later, they wrote a script for an episode of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*.

Pitch, shot at the Toronto International Film Festival, was next. It chronicles their frantic attempt to sell a movie script to the powers-that-be. It won the best film award at the 1998 Toronto Independent Arts Festival.

The duo developed *Kenny vs. Spenny* during an eye-opening, hand-to-mouth stint living in Los Angeles from 1999 to 2002.

"I lived on Kraft dinners," said Hotz tersely. "It was crazy."

"Los Angeles exceeded my expectation for being phony," observed Rice. "All the stuff you hear about Hollywood is true."

Hotz and Rice believe, or at least they hope, that *Kenny vs. Spenny* has a bright future.

"You never know in this business, but I think it will be huge," said Hotz. "We're very lucky, because good stuff is not always produced."

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'Johnny' retraces footsteps in Charlie at the Fair

A scene from the 1947 movie *Johnny at the Fair* starring Charles Pachter and his parents, Sara and Harry Pachter. Charles as he is today is pictured at right.

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The Canadian National Exhibition, one of North America's largest annual fairs, celebrates its 125th anniversary this year, and has special activities for people of all ages.

In addition to the festival's main attractions Kids World and Kids Science, the International Pavilion Main Stage, the Food Building and the Midway, this year's CNE will have nightly fireworks and a name change for the 55 and Better Pavilion to Remember When…

As their parents enjoy the nostalgia, their children and grandchildren will be treated to a bit of Toronto's history.

Fifty-six years ago, a four-year-old boy and his parents were featured in a National Film Board movie, *Johnny at the Fair*, which celebrated the reopening of the CNE – it closed in 1941 for six years because of World War II – and which was meant to boost the morale of Canadians.

The young boy in the movie, Charlie Pachter, is now 60 years old and a renowned Canadian artist. His mother, Sara Pachter, 88, a Toronto tour guide, played his mother in the original movie. Pachter, who says his appearance in *Johnny* set him on his path as an artist, has retraced his footsteps at the CNE in *Charlie at the Fair*, a 15-minute documentary about the making of *Johnny at the Fair*.

Charlie at the Fair, directed by Paul Castel-Andrew, includes never-before-seen footage from the original film. Narrated by Lorne Green, the original movie told the tale of a young boy who is bored seeing what his parents want him to see at the CNE. He breaks away and goes wandering on his own.

On his wanderings, he meets with a host of characters – celebrities who make cameo appearances – including then-prime minister Mackenzie King who opens the fair, figure skating champion Barbara Ann Scott, boxing legend Joe Louis and entertainers John Olsen and Harold Johnson.

Charlie at the Fair is the brainchild of Bob Pomerantz, a video producer who is on the CNE board and serves at the chair of the programs committee.

Pomerantz said he was delighted his video company, Your Life Productions, produced *Charlie*. (Sydney Newman produced *Johnny at the Fair*.)

"I became friends with Charlie Pachter, a really funny and charming guy," he says. "After three months of searching, we tracked down Jack Olson, 86, who directed the original movie. Charlie, a cameraman and I went to visit and interview him where he lives on top of a mountain two hours outside of Rome."

In *Charlie*, Olsen tells Pachter he is glad they found him. "It makes my heart strong," Olsen says.

Pomeranz says producing the documentary was a labour of love.

"In 27 years, I have never missed going to the Ex. It is a ritual to go with my brother. I always loved the CNE. I worked there as a teenager selling balloons and stuffed animals. When I worked at the [Toronto] *Star*, one summer I covered the Ex every day."

Pomerantz was a reporter, columnist and editor at the *Star* for eight years before opening his own business.

The original score for *Johnny at the Fair* was written by Eldon Rathburn, now 88, and violinist and conductor Eugene Kash, 91, who conducted the Toronto Symphony Orchestra musicians. Both Rathburn and Kash appear in the documentary.

The re-released *Johnny at the Fair* and *Charlie at the Fair* are being screened six times each day at CNE's National Trade Centre's theatre. Visit [www.theex.com] or e-mail info@theex.com.

The sound of Israeli music

By VIVA PRESS
Special to The CJN

JERUSALEM — Like music that comes from everywhere else in the world, Israeli music cannot be defined by one genre. Israel boasts dynamic music in all genres: rock, pop, punk, jazz, hip-hop, alternative, electronic, classical, Mediterranean and folk.

Here is a list of what's hot in Israeli music today.

Dana Berger: *In Motion (Toch Kday Tnua)*: (NMC)

In Motion is the recently released second album of the queen of Israeli rock and pop. It's a solid collection that deserves recognition in its own right, though it comes on the heels of the groundbreaking success of her previous disc, the 2000 release *Up to the Edge (Ad Hakatzeh)*.

Up to the Edge was awarded the Israeli rock industry's highest honour, the Tammuz Award for Album of the Year. It put Berger in the top slot as rock goddess. She maintains the title, but the singles from *In Motion* are taking longer to rise to the top of the charts than her singles of three years ago.

Berger, 32, broke into the music scene nearly a decade ago. Her early music showed influences from David Bowie and Pink Floyd and electronic and hard-core techno. Today, she's inspired by Zero-7 and Massive Attack. The title track of *In Motion* continues to rely on the heavy computer loops that were used on *Ad Hakatzeh*, while the songs *Butterfly* and *Come and Go* lean towards a more lounge-room style. *Love in Summer* mixes both approaches.

In Motion is a suitable title, considering Berger put the album together while pregnant, released it in February, gave birth in March and began touring in May to promote it. This album marks her second collaboration with songwriter Meir Goldberg and producer Ofer Meiri. The resulting 11 tracks are strong. They are the backbone of local radio, while her videos dominate the all-Israeli music television channel.

Pollyanna Frank: *Plastelina 1* (NMC)

Plastelina 1 is a diverse collection of 10 Israeli hits from the last 30 years. It is the first in a series put out by record label NMC, which gets local artists to revise classic recordings. The first group to participate in this project is Pollyanna Frank, a progressive rock duo made up of Sharon (Ellyott Dragon) Ben-Ezer and Chaim (Frank) Ilfman.

Pollyanna Frank – they take their name from Ben-Ezer's favourite books, *Pollyanna* and *The Diary of Anne Frank* – are successful in their unconventional remixes. They have given traditional folksy songs such as Hedva Amrani's *I Dream of Naomi* and Chava Alberstein's *Nuebba* a new electronic, trip-hop twist. Although unorthodox, the genre mixing works. The disc also contains the successfully re-jigged *Learning to Fly* (Dana Berger) and *Arik* (Shlomi Shaban), which didn't really need reinterpreting, but nonetheless benefit from these fresh covers.

Other artists covered on the disc include Gali Atari, Arik Lavie, Shalom Hanoch, Knessiat Hasechel, Yehudit Ravitz and Meir Banai. Ilfman was the composer of the soundtrack for last year's powerful Canadian drama *Savage Messiah*. He and Ben-Ezer met in 1991 when they combined forces on a song for the film, *Intruder*. Ben-Ezer also played in the band Sister George and still gigs with the Dutch group Nightnurse.

The album is classified as rock but in fact fuses rock, pop, dance and electronic beats.

[Continued on page 35]

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Arts & Travel

One-day festival showcases work of Pomegranate Guild

Pomegranate Guild Jewish Arts Festival committee members [from left] Ruth Smith, Roneen Weingarten, Sarita Frasko, and Elaine Genesove.

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

A one-day textile art festival at the Toby and Henry Battle Development Centre showcases the work of the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles members.

It features continuous demonstrations of different techniques and materials and there will be a sale of hand made articles created by the guild members and other artisans.

Among the Judaica items are challah and matzah covers, mezuzot, beaded items including a megillah case, quilts with Judaica, sukkah banners, chupahs and other Judaica items.

Sarita Frasko, a past president of the Pomegranate Guild and the co-chair of the Art Festival with Ruth Smith, said she became a member of the guild 10 years ago when she attended a Pomegranate exhibition and sale.

"I was always interested in hand work and when I saw the work of the members, I decided to join. Being part of this group enhances and challenges our art to a higher level."

Elaine Genesove was recently elected president. Frasko says that the Pomegranate Guild, which was founded in 1982, has 100 members.

They meet monthly at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue where a program is presented on some aspect of beading, embroidering, textiles and hand work of all kinds. "Some sessions are hands-on and we learn many new techniques," says Frasko.

A small group of members meets weekly to work on either individual or group projects, some of which are donated to local institutions and synagogues such as the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

"It doesn't matter what affiliation you have," says Frasko, "we all come together as Jewish women with a common interest.

The guild's Jewish Textile Art Festival is free and takes place Sept. 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Toby and Henry Battle Development Centre (Reena Foundation), 927 Clarke Ave. W. in Thornhill. The building is wheelchair accessible. For more information visit their website www.pomegranateguild.ca or call 416-789-1145.

Israeli singer Sharon Azarya is headed for the big time

Continued from page 34

The NMC Plastelina series has a bright future if the label enlists other musicians as talented as Pollyanna Frank.

Sharon Azarya: *Now is the Time (Achshav Zeh Hazman)* (Self-produced)

Sharon Azarya is the new kid on the block. Although she has been singing since she was six years old, the 29-year-old singer just released her debut album in August. *Now is the Time*, the CD's title track, is currently a fixture on Israeli radio waves. Azarya's rendition of Ehud Manor's *Beraysheet* (In the Beginning) is also a big hit.

Even if you cannot understand her Hebrew lyrics, Azarya's low, jazz-inflected voice is sure to seduce you. Her sexy vocals can best be described as a cross between Sade and Tanita Tikaram.

Her songs combine an eclectic range of musical influences. *There's No End* has elements of traditional Jewish liturgical sounds mixed into its melody, while *Come Wind* emanates classical Indian music Azarya must have brought back with her from voice coaching in Varanassi.

Azarya and a musician named Giga, who is responsible for all the album's instruments, put the record together in Giga's low-key home studio in northern Israel.

Azarya opted against signing with a bigger label so as to keep control of her style and work. The outcome is remarkable. All 11 tracks on this disc are noteworthy. People who visit Israel in the autumn will have a chance to catch her live on the Rosh Hashanah festival circuit. Those who can't travel here are recommended to make this CD their next investment. Azarya is heading for the big time.

Music can be bought at www.israel-music.com (English site); www.mooma.com (Hebrew site); and www.nmc-music.co.il (Hebrew and English site).

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Toronto alumna first female president of Frat

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Dentist Sharon Perlmutter is the first female president of the Toronto alumni chapter of Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity, and the first second-generation president.

Her father, Dr. Gordon Perlmutter, also served as Toronto president, and was president of International Alpha Omega in 1983.

At her recent installation at a grand ball at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, Perlmutter said she was proud to be following in her father's footsteps.

Perlmutter graduated in Middle Eastern studies at the University of Toronto and studied at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. After working as a dental assistant, she returned to school and graduated in dentistry at the State University of New York at Buffalo, 15 years ago.

She spent a year in general practice residency at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago and then returned to Toronto to join her father in his practice. He retired last year and she has remained at the same location.

"Alpha Omega has been an integral part of my life," Perlmutter says. "My father has shown me by example to strive to be honest, hardworking, dedicated and generous. He and my mother, who has also been very active in Alpha Omega and in the community, instilled in me the importance of these qualities in all aspects of my life."

These are the tools, she says, that she plans to use to contribute to the success of the Toronto chapter. "We must continue to give back to the community both professionally and socially."

In addition to the dental projects of the Toronto organization, she stressed the importance of supporting community projects, "like our participation in the UJA Walk for Israel and projects such as the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Students at U of T [which advocates on behalf of Israel], and local charities and hospitals."

She chaired the United Jewish Appeal dental division for two years, and last May, she co-chaired the first UJA Alpha Omega Israel mission. She has twice served as a volunteer dentist for Dental Volunteers for Israel in Jerusalem, which treats underprivileged children.

She emphasized the need for her female colleagues to stay involved and seek leadership positions at Alpha Omega. "I am very proud to be the first female president of AO. It is unfortunate that it has taken so long. I hope I can inspire more females to become involved."

Perlmutter still finds time to ski and travel; she has been to Israel three times in the last year.

As well, she is active in Alpha Omega International and attends their dental conventions, "something I have been doing with my father and family since I was a child."

Dr. Sharon Perlmutter

New vaccine for colorectal cancer patients

A new vaccine to treat colorectal cancer may help cells from the patient's own body kill the cancer cells.

A trial for the new vaccine has begun enrolling patients at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) and several other sites across Canada. It will enrol patients with Stage III colorectal cancer (tumours that have spread to several layers of the colon, or that have spread to lymph nodes) who have not yet been treated with standard chemotherapy.

Dr. Gerald Batist, an oncologist at JGH, is the principal investigator for the study. He is the director of the Montreal Centre for Experimental Therapeutics in Cancer and the McGill Centre for Translational Research in Cancer, both of which are based at JGH.

"The goal of the study is to determine if the vaccine, called ALVAC-CEA/B7.1, can activate the body's own immune system to eliminate cancer cells that may not be eliminated with traditional treatment of colorectal cancer with the standard, first-line chemotherapy regimen," Batist says. "We will be looking to see if the vaccine, combined with chemotherapy, allows a better outcome for patients than chemotherapy alone."

The trial is investigating the new vaccine administered at the same time as standard chemotherapy regimen 5-flurouracil and leucocorin or following chemotherapy. Sixty patients with Stage III colon cancer will be placed into one of two treatment arms.

One study group will receive one vaccination before starting chemotherapy, followed by three weekly doses during the first cycle of chemotherapy, then one vaccination with each chemotherapy cycle (up to six cycles), and vaccinations every two months for up to one year.

The second group will receive four vaccinations during the first month after completing chemotherapy, and one vaccine dose per month for another five months.

Patients will be evaluated immediately following treatment and at each follow-up visit.

The vaccine under investigation and other ALVAC-based formulations have shown promise in early clinical studies conducted by the U.S. National Cancer Institute, in collaboration with Therion Biologics of Cambridge, Mass. They are safe, with a non-overlapping toxicity profile to chemotherapy. In general, treatments were well-tolerated, with no significant product-related toxicities. Side effects associated with the vaccine included mild, local reactions.

Typically, vaccines are designed to prevent diseases by preparing the immune system for a possible attack. With therapeutic cancer vaccine, the goal is to "turn on" the immune system of people who already have the disease, to increase the power of current treatments such as chemotherapy.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Canada and the most common cancer in the gastrointenstinal tract. There are more than 17,000 new cases diagnosed and 6,500 deaths in the country each year. An estimated 70 per cent of patients are initially diagnosed with treatable forms of the disease, but 25 per cent of these patients experience recurrence, which frequently leads to death due to the cancer spreading beyond the original site.

The Jewish General Hospital is an acute care, McGill University teaching hospital with 637 beds, serving patients from across the province of Quebec.

Aventis Pasteur Limited of Toronto is sponsoring the vaccine study. For more information about eligibility, individuals should contact Batist at the JGH's oncology department at 514-340-8248.

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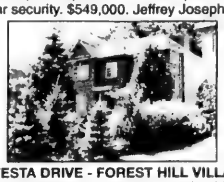

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330 OBITUARIES

GERENDASI, Hannah – on Aug. 9, 2003.
DANIELS, Benjamin – on Aug. 9, 2003, late of 22 Ridge Point Cres.
YACK, Max – on Aug. 12, 2003, late of 2500 Bathurst St.
GREENHOLTZ, Max – on Aug. 13, 2003, late of 135 Antibes Dr.
HAMER, Fanny – on Aug. 13, 2003, late of 7 Baintree Crt. W.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

LOFT, Jacob – on Aug. 2, 2003, late of 68 Wells Hill Ave.
SINGER, Sydney – on July 31, 2003, late of 40 Pleasant Blvd.
KOSASKY, Clara Rebecca B. – on Aug. 10, 2003, late of 128 Dalemount.

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KORETSKY, Myrel – on Aug. 2, 2003, late of 21 Mayfair Ave., PH
PRICE, Harry – on Aug. 2, 2003, late of 2075 Bayview Ave.
SHIFF, Harry Irving – on Aug. 3, 2003, late of 59 Wenderly Dr.
RICE, Vincent – on Aug. 2, 2003, late of 388 Bloor St. E.
ROSENFIELD, Frankie – on Aug. 3, 2003, late of 3900 Yonge St., #201.

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1952-2003

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

Morris Zeitman ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 31st at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Society Section
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Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
(on Bathurst, North of Finch)
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

GERRY NAKELL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 7th at 10:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
B'nai Brith Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

ETHEL (ETKE) SZOSEN-FOGEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 31st at 12:00 noon
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Shedlecer Lukower Section
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

CHARLES WILFRED ACKER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 7th, 12:00 noon
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ERVIN (HERSHU) FREIDMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sun., September 7th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Ahavath Achim, Section 50
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BENJAMIN INGBER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, August 31st at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

YETTA BERGER ז"ל
will take place
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Roselawn Memorial Park
Talmud Torah Anshei Poland Section
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ROSA SHEMESH ז"ל
will take place
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Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Mosher Section
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The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

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Arts & Travel

Book uses declassified documents to detail Nazi settlement in Argentina

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Nestor Kirchner, the newly installed president of Argentina, met recently with officials of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Washington, D.C. One of the topics under discussion was the immigration of Nazi war criminals to Argentina after World War II.

In a significant gesture, Kirchner promised to declassify documents on Nazis who had settled in Argentina.

Beginning in 1946, while Juan Peron was president, a procession of major and minor Nazis turned up in Argentina, home to the largest Jewish community in Latin America.

Among these scoundrels were Adolf Eichmann, the facilitator of the Holocaust in Hungary; Ante Pavelic, the Nazi fuhrer in Croatia; and Josef Mengele, the SS Auschwitz doctor whose gruesome medical experiments still chill the imagination.

Uki Goni, a seasoned Buenos Aires-based journalist, has written an intriguing, though occasionally plodding, book about this touchy subject.

The Real Odessa, published by Granta Publications, comes off as an indictment of Peron, who opened up his country to this filth, and of the Roman Catholic church in Argentina, which helped Nazis escape from Europe.

It's not a pretty picture, but Goni does not flinch from exposing Argentina's complicity in the resettlement of Nazi murderers in Argentina.

Neither is he loath to contrast Peron's welcoming of Nazi immigrants with Argentina's pre-war anti-Semitic immigration policy, the subject of the book's opening pages.

On July 12, 1938, Argentina's foreign minister signed a secret document, known as Directive 11, that was wired to Argentina's embassies around the world. Designed to deny visas to German and Austrian Jews, it was followed by yet more secret decrees restricting Jewish immigration.

These directives had the desired effect: the number of Jewish immigrants plummeted from 4,919 in 1938 to 1,873 in 1939.

Due to corruption in the ranks of Argentina's foreign ministry, however, 20,000 to 30,000 European Jews managed to enter Argentina between 1933 and 1945. (The figure for Canada during the same period was 5,000).

Highly susceptible to bribes, Argentine diplomats sold visas to Jews fleeing persecution or the threat thereof. Peron, who assumed office in 1946, knew about this illegal traffic in Jewish refugees and profited from it.

Goni notes that Peron, who was something of an anti-Semite himself, reappointed Santiago Peralta, a notorious Jew baiter, to head up the immigration department.

Peralta was the author of two inflammatory works, *The Action of the Jewish People in Argentina*, which Goni describes as "perhaps the most violent anti-Semitic tract ever published in Argentina," and *The Influence of the Arab People in Argentina*, which contrasted the benefits of promoting Arab immigration against the disadvantages of admitting Jews.

Under pressure, Peron dismissed Peralta in 1947. But he let Nazis into Argentina.

The Nazi exodus was masterminded by an SS captain named Carlos Fuldner, an ethnic German born in Argentina and raised in Germany.

He was assisted by, among others, Charles Lesca, a French national who was born in Argentina and edited an anti-Semitic magazine.

There was also a Swiss connection. So-called German "technicians," who had been Nazis, were clandestinely funnelled into Argentina from Switzerland with the explicit knowledge of Swiss sympathizers.

In some cases, the Nazis arrived disguised as priests. Their passage to South America was supported by Eugene Tisserant, a French cardinal assigned to the Vatican, and Antonio Caggiano, an Argentine cardinal.

Peron tolerated the presence of Nazis in Argentina because of his peculiar mindset.

Toward the end of his life, he dictated his memoirs to a cassette recorder, voicing outrage over the 1946 Nuremberg war crimes trials, which he called "a disgrace, unworthy of the victors" and "an outrage history will not forgive."

Is it any wonder Peron welcomed Nazis to Argentina?

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Israel's Pistolesi relies on hustle, drive and heart

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to the CJN

Winning two tennis tournaments in a row should have made it easy for Israeli tennis star Anna Pistolesi to play against her top rivals at the recent Rogers AT&T Cup, held Aug. 9 to Aug. 17 at the National Tennis Centre at York University.

The problem was, however, that Pistolesi had recently won her last two tournaments in Poland and Finland on clay, far removed from the hard courts in Toronto.

She was forced to withdraw from the Toronto event, because she was unable to endure a long flight from Helsinki to Toronto and be ready to play hard-court tennis less than 48 hours after winning her tournament in Finland.

"We would have loved to have Anna here and have Torontonians witness her great skills. Pistolesi is ranked 23rd on the WTA pro tour and we were not able to give her a bye into the second round [which is reserved for only the top eight players on the women's professional tennis circuit]," said Stacey Allaster, tournament director of the Rogers AT&T Cup. "There was just not enough time for her to come here from Helsinki."

Pistolesi is Israel's top female player ever to play pro tennis, and is currently the best Jewish player on the planet, despite being only 5-2. Even when she was an up-and-coming junior tennis player, many coaches felt Pistolesi was too short to have a career in professional tennis.

But Pistolesi's game is based on hustle, drive, speed, and heart. And speaking of heart, the former Anna Smashnova married her coach Claudio Pistolesi (who played for Italy in Davis Cup a decade ago) in 2002, and their partnership in love and tennis has been a boost for Anna's career. Since meeting Claudio in 2001, her ranking went through the roof from just under 100 as recently as 1999 to 23 today.

Anna Pistolesi (formerly Smashnova) poses with the trophy she received for winning a tournament in Auckland, New Zealand in early 2002.

Hustle and heart have brought Pistolesi her best success over the past two years after 11 years on the pro tennis circuit. Outside of Serena and Venus Williams, Pistolesi won more tournaments in 2002 – four – than any other woman on the pro circuit.

Her record in tournament finals is a perfect 8-0, and her eight titles are more than any Israeli, male or female, has ever won in tennis.

Pistolesi is second all-time among Jewish female tennis players only to American Julie Heldman, who won 20 tournaments from 1963 to 1974.

"I am not surprised by Anna's success," said Kim Clijsters, the number 1-ranked player in the world and the top seed at the Rogers AT&T Cup.

"She runs you around and hits everything back at you. She rarely makes unforced errors. If you are a power player and think she can be intimidated, watch out. I can only beat her if I am on the very top of my game," Clijsters added.

Pistolesi comes from the former Soviet Union, which was overtly anti-Semitic and forbade the practise of Judaism.

Born in Minsk (now in Belarus) in 1976, young Anna took to tennis when she was six. Before long, she was regularly beating girls three or four years older than her. By age 12, Pistolesi was number 1 in the girls 13 division in the Soviet Union and was beating top girls who were 16.

Despite these achievements, Pistolesi and her family knew it was time to leave the Soviet Union in 1990. "I never felt discrimination in Russia because I am Jewish. The only restriction I had was that I was not able to travel away from the country, like the other players I knew," she said.

However, her parents felt the regime's wrath. Sasha and Zina Smashnova (both engineers) were denied privileges and were forced to sit in the back of the bus on their way to work.

By March,1990, the Smashnovas were able to take advantage of relaxed Soviet Jewish emigration laws and settled in Tel Aviv before moving to Herzliyah. Sasha and Zina found jobs in engineering and Anna's brother Ura became a software analyst.

Anna represented Israel in tennis and won the Junior French Open in 1991 – the first Israeli ever to do so and the youngest at 14 to win it since American Jennifer Capriati won at age 13 in 1989.

Pistolesi learned about being Jewish as a result of her travels in junior tennis, when Israeli youngsters were housed by Jewish families around the world.

"I saw the mother lighting candles on a Friday night and asked 'What is this?' Watching these families doing rituals helped me learn a lot about Judaism," said Pistolesi.

Ongoing terrorist attacks in Israel don't faze Pistolesi. To her, the present and future is better than her past in the Soviet Union.

"I'm not really thinking about the events back home. It is politics. This is sports. It's two different things."

She says part of her newfound success can be attributed to a change in her on-court attitude.

"I used to worry – the coach, the parents – if I win or lose, what will they say? I'm not thinking about anything or anybody now. I decided last year that I just want to play for myself and not really think about what people will think if I win or lose."

Being part of a couple has also helped.

"Everything is different because I'm very happy in my life with Claudio. I've got a lot of confidence."

Fans will see Pistolesi compete next at the U.S. Open in September.

NEW REXALL TENNIS CENTRE

Next year, the new $45 million Rexall Tennis Centre at York University will house the men's Tennis Masters Series event in Toronto, thanks to a partnership with Tennis Canada, the federal and provincial governments, and Katz Group Canada.

"Our core business of health and wellness made it a must to associate ourselves with the new tennis centre," said Larry Latowsky, president of the Katz Group.

Latowsky is a Torontonian and an avid tennis player who has met Israeli tennis players Shlomo Glickstein and Amos Mansdorf through his friendship with tennis player Wotek Fibak of Poland.

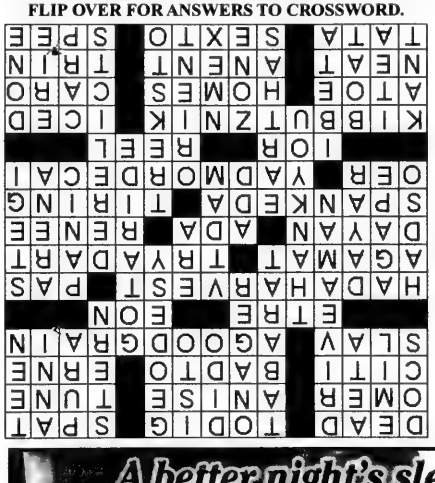
DANCING BETWEEN MATCHES

Twin sisters Marnie and Rena Schwartz of Thornhill had tennis fans dancing between the matches thanks to the energy of the Tennis Canada "Racquettes" junior (ages 7-10) and senior (ages 11-16) dance teams.

The 26-year-old twins picked the 29 members of their teams from their dance studio, Vibe Dance and Fitness Studio, which they co-own.

The sisters are past members of both the Toronto Argonauts and Toronto Raptors dance teams. Their teams performed to jazz, hip hop and tap, and performed on-court acrobatics.

FLIP OVER FOR ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD.



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Inside Back

Recommended Reading

FICTION AND POETRY

• ***A Trumpet in the Wadi***, by Sami Michael, Simon & Schuster, HC, $38.00.

A passionate, unforgettable novel by an award-winning, internationally renowned author, set in an Arab neighbourhood in northern Israel in the early '80s.

• ***Prophets & Dreamers***, edited by Miriam Weinstein, Steerforth Press, SC, $20.95.

This wonderful anthology of Yiddish writings, with stories, poems and folk songs contains, in the words of the *Library Journal*, "the essence of Yiddish literature."

NON-FICTION

• ***The New Anti-Semitism***, by Phyllis Chesler, Jossey-Bass, HC, $38.95.

Subtitled "The Current Crisis and What We Must Do About It," this is one of the most important, timely books published on the Jewish condition today. Written by a die-hard feminist who has always joined those fighting for the underdog, she expresses her sadness and shock at the attitude of her peers when it comes to the Jewish state and its fight against terror. Chesler discusses the absurdity of the vicious attacks against Israel and the fact Israel is the Jew among nations.

• ***Tales of Nehama***, by Leah Abramowitz, Gefen Books, HC, $32.95.

A remarkable volume on the life and teachings of the late, beloved Nehama Leibowitz, one of the greatest Jewish educator of the 20th century. It includes personal stories reflecting her brilliance, kindness and integrity, as well as her opinions on various topics, such as education, feminism and Zionism.

• ***A Baptist Among the Jews***, by Mary Blye Howe, Jossey-Bass, HC, $32.95.

This fascinating story by a Christian who was curious to learn about the Jewish roots of her faith and discovered the beauty of Judaism in its various denominations should inspire Jewish readers to appreciate their own heritage and spiritual wealth.

• ***Stalin's Last Crime: The Plot Against the Jewish Doctors***, 1948-1953, by Jonathan Brent and Vladimir P. Naumov, HarperCollins, HC, $41.95.

Prof. Harvey Klehr, Emory University had this to say about *Stalin's Last Crime*: "Having unearthed the fascinating and horrifying truth behind the infamous Doctors' Plot, Jonathan Brent demonstrates how well he can write about the Soviet Union and Communism. The story he tells about anti-Semitism, a dictator's paranoia, and an evil political system is both riveting and frightening."

• ***The Rebbe's Army: Inside the World of Chabad-Lubavitch***, by Sue Fishkoff, Schocken Books, HC, $40.00.

An enjoyable, well-researched book by an objective, award-winning journalist on the world of the Lubavitch Chassidim and their tremendous success and influence around the globe.

• ***The Portable Hannah Arendt***, edited by Peter Baehr, Penguin Books, SC, $25.50.

This latest edition includes excerpts from the three most famous works by this complex thinker, a number of intriguing essays, and some of her correspondence with other fascinating personalities.

• ***The Dimensions of Job***, by Nahum N. Glatzer, Ed., Wipf and Stock, SC, $44.95.

A unique selection of essays produced throughout the ages by Judaic scholars, Christian theologians and great philosophers on perhaps the most influential and profound literary piece ever written.

YOUTH

• ***When the Chickens Went on Strike,*** by Erica Silverman, Penguin Putnam, HC, $24.00.

The chickens are tired of being twirled above peoples' heads every Rosh Hashana. Adapted from a wonderful tale by Shalom Aleichem. Ages 4-8.

Recommended Reading is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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2 chickens (about 3 lbs. each) cut into pieces
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1 tblsp. kosher salt
2 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. whole cumin, toasted & ground
1 tsp. whole coriander, toasted & ground
2 tsp. garlic powder
1 tsp. onion powder
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
1 tsp. paprika

Turn on a medium-hot BBQ.
Liberally rub chicken pieces with canola oil, then sprinkle on spice rub to cover.
Grill chicken pieces about 12 min. Turn over, cook another 15 min. or until chicken is just done.

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By MIRIAM PORTER

I recently went to my camp reunion. My summers at camp, the last being more than 15 years ago, had a huge influence on my life and definitely helped shape the person I am today. That's because the camp I attended, Camp Shomria, is much more than your average summer camp. It is affiliated with the left-wing Zionist youth movement Hashomer Hatzair and teaches Israeli traditions, history and culture in a socialist kibbutz-style setting.

Throughout the summer, we, as *chanichim* (campers), would strengthen our Jewish identity by learning about our traditions and culture. Every Friday night, we had Shabbat dinners, *shira* (singing) and *rikud* (Israeli dancing).

Jewish youth movements such as Hashomer Hatzair are crucial to the community because many Jewish youth are second- or third-generation Canadians and it is difficult for them to connect to their Jewish roots. Camp marked the first time I was exposed to a Judaism that I enjoyed, and it was where I first accepted Judaism and began forming my Jewish identity.

As a rebellious teenager, I left private school at the first opportunity, and I almost didn't have a bat mitzvah (to my parents' horror). But because of my camp experiences, I made a conscious decision to learn about my Jewish heritage and to participate in year-round activities with other Jewish youth. It was what brought me back to Judaism and kept me there. I slowly learned to struggle against the tide and not just to go with the flow like many Canadian teenagers who don't know their culture and history.

This struggle continues to play a major role in my life today. I realized that it is important for adults to have a strong moral/ethical background and there is nothing stronger than Judaism. As a 30-something woman, I have made many tough decisions and have taken the road less travelled. I am continually faced with issues of integrity and compromise and so are many of my peers. Developing a strong moral foundation in our youth helps us make decisions as adults.

I credit ideas I learned at camp with giving me that strong foundation. All my memories and the things I learned during my years at camp came flooding back as I stood at *mifkad* (assembly) during the reunion. As I watched the Israeli flag being raised, I felt a complete connection to my Jewish heritage, and I sang *Hatikvah* with the youth of today and the camp alumni of yesterday. I was able to reflect back on my own search for truth over the years and realize that the past can inspire the future. As we say at Hashomer Hatzair, *chazak ve'amatz* (strength and courage).

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

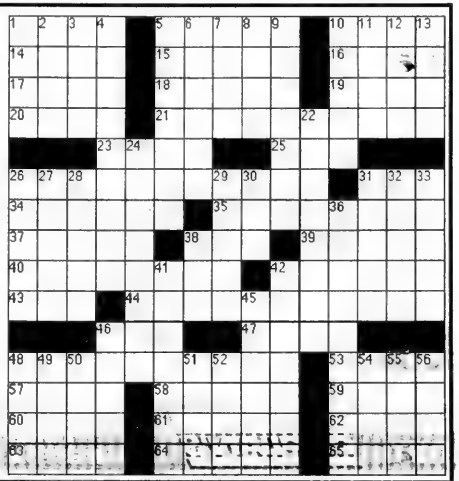
(Answers to the crossword are on page 42.)

The Canadian Jewish news

Tillers of the Soil
© 2003, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Israel's ___ Sea
5. Israeli farmer's fence-post setting need is ____
10. Tussle, argument
14. Hebrew wheat measure
15. Flavoring herb
16. Melody
17. Zen starter makes for a good member of the realm
18. "It's ___ point at people", Mom says
19. Sea eagle
20. Russian, Croat, Serb, or Pole
21. How a Moshavnik, or any farmer, might compliment barley or wheat (3 words)
23. Raison d'____
25. Long period of time
26. The reaping over, 48 Across says he _____ that was pretty good (3 words)
31. ____ de deux
34. Yaacov _____ the Tate (art show announcement)
35. Suggestion to a newcomer, interested in the pub wall game
37. Shmuel _____, of Deganiah and Nahalal
38. ___ Louise Huxtable, New York Times inimitable architecture reviewer
39. Actress Zellweger
40. Rare a parent who's never ___ child
42. Flagging
43. Poetic contraction
44. Kibbutz named in memory of Anilevits, a leader of Warsaw Ghetto Revolt (var. sp.)
46. Name ending
47. Rod's partner
48. Member of 44 Across or similar farm collective
53. Secured a win, or faulted in hockey
57. You don't want to stub ___
58. Domiciles
59. British sculptor
60. Whiskey, without ice, to 59 Across
61. About, concerning
62. Threesome starter
63. Bye-bye!, to 59 Across
64. ____-decimo, having 16 leaves to a sheet, at the printers
65. Graf ____, sunk German warship

Down
1. Physicians
2. Blue Angel actor Jannings
3. Negrito people of the Philippines
4. "That could _____ crazy!"
5. Label a rodent?
6. Wild ass
7. Queen of Carthage, per Virgil
8. Comparison words
9. Branch of mathematics that determines points of earth's surface
10. Jewish violinist Isaac
11. Uncontaminated, in Spanish (f.)
12. Years, in Latin
13. Individual in a confounding age
22. Found a hitch
24. Todah l'kha!
26. "I ____ fine a time at your party!"
27. Agog
28. Apartment dweller, in Dimona
29. Green Mt. State river barrier
30. Period
31. Kind of button
32. Sports milieu
33. Te starter gives the segment of a carapace, such as that of an armadillo
36. Ships or other things abandoned
38. Put two and three together
41. Astronauts see the _____ a beautiful blue planet
42. Headline: Admiral Byrd _____ the North Pole
45. Occident's antipode
46. "____ million bucks you can't!"
48. Philosopher Immanuel
49. Willow genus
50. What Ein Gev farmers use to fish on the Kinneret
51. A specified area
52. Where Tamaulip. and N. Leon are
54. Some Israeli fish farmers grow this
55. Canal
56. Finished, like this crossword



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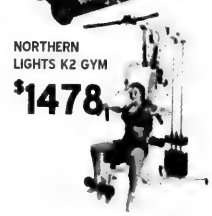

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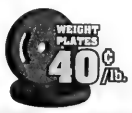

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COMMUNITY FOCUS

Adults, kids, old & young joined this year's UJA Federation Walk With Israel.

[UJA Federation of Greater Toronto photos]

Optimism helps us meet our challenges

Editorial

Jewish people tend to be very optimistic. Why else would we be so certain that if we assure everyone we are sincere in our desire to have peace in Israel, other nations and peoples will accept this and become our partners?

Why else would we be certain that if we become acculturated, joining the rest of the population in watching *Survivor*, playing squash and dissing the Leafs, Jays and Raptors, they would stop trying to convince us to also accept their saviour as our own?

Furthermore, we maintain our optimism time after time, no matter how often we are proven wrong.

Like 50 million others in Ontario and the northeastern United States, we have now lived through the great blackout of 2003. Some of us did it with bad temper, some with a certain excitement and others with typical Canadian patience.

A wedding in Thornhill went on – even without lights – with the help of a myriad of candles, strolling musicians and much good will.

And, in what felt like a gathering of most of the Jewish community in Sobey's aisles in Thornhill, the atmosphere resonated with swapped horror stories of too much heat and too little water, and the greetings of friends and relations from all over the city.

This supplement, with articles written largely before the blackout, reflects what else is going on in our community.

As is often the case, questions of kashrut remain interesting, even to those for whom it is a mainly academic concern. What is kosher? What relationship is there between the technical aspects of kashrut and the moral and philosophical stances of different rabbinic authorities and sources? And where can you get a really good kosher doughnut?

Toronto continues to be a magnet for immigrants, most recently those from Argentina. We salute their courage in starting a new life in a strange land, with strange customs and a stranger language. They join the great majority of us who either did the same thing or followed close ancestors who did. The Argentine immigrants, too, will help build not only our own community but also the wider community.

At the same time, we note the contributions of some special individuals who may not have changed the world, but in their own way, cast a giant shadow.

Our sages tell us *Kol Yisroel areivim zeh lazeh* – all the people of Israel are responsible one for the other. What is important to one is by definition important to all of us. By accepting that, and by acting on it, we will get through our challenges and flourish.

–L.S.

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DJCC Chair: Stuart Schoenfeld
Cultural Arts & Adult Jewish Education Manager: Frances Enchin
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-925-7376
E-mail: francesenchin@milesnadaljcc.ca
There is a wide spectrum of Jewish life in downtown Toronto - religious services, culture, recreation, social services and educational institutions. The DJCC is a committee with a mandate "to preserving, growing and invigorating our community as a unique and inclusive full-service integral constituent of the greater Jewish community." For more information, please call the Miles Nadal JCC 416-924-6211.

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No matter where Jews live in the Greater Toronto Area, UJA Federation, in partnership with donors,community volunteers, agencies, schools and other organizations, is working on behalf of every community member. Through the Annual Campaign, the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto and capital projects — all key components of our community's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative — UJA Federation, backed by more than 25,000 contributors, raises millions of dollars to support an extensive network of essential services and facilities. UJA Federation also provides a strong Jewish voice on issues of urgent concern through the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Israel Now Consortium. UJA Federation departments include the Board of Jewish Education, Committee for Yiddish, Holocaust Centre of Toronto, Jewish Information Service and Ontario Jewish Archives. Among UJA Federation beneficiary agencies are the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, BBYO, Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, Circle of Care, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Jewish Camp Council, Jewish Campus Services, Jewish Family & Child Service, Jewish Immigrant Aid Service, JVS of Greater Toronto, Jews For Judaism, Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, Reena, the Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa and Zareinu. UJA Federation fundraising expenses are among the lowest in North America.

DAY CARE

B'NAI SHALOM DAY NURSERY & KINDERGARTEN
275 Arnold Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 1C3
Supervisor: Mila Katsap,
Executive Director: Alan T. Domb
Tel: 905-731-2797 / 905-731-7527
E-mail: bnaishalom@bellnet.ca
* Licensed since 1984 * 16 mths-5 yrs. * Full or half days * Gov't subsidies available * Warm nurturing environment * Year round program *Hot kosher meals (COR) * Jewish holidays * Music * Arts n' crafts * Hebrew and Engish curriculum * Under new management.

J&F HOME CHILD CARE SERVICES INC.
211 Consumers Rd., #205,
Tolronto, Ont. M2J 4G8
Executive Director: Fran Ostronoff
Tel: 416-494-5898 Fax: 416-494-6147
J&F Home Child Care Services Inc, where education and care go hand in hand. A licensed, supervised agency with homes in Thornhill, Richmond Hill, Maple, North York and Scarborough areas. Children welcome from ages 6 weeks to 12 years. Full, part time and after school care available. 416-494-5898.

EDUCATION

AHAVAT YISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL
8950 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Principal: Mrs. Leslie Shapiro
Tel: 905-731-6704 Fax: 905-731-4651
Provides a creative, enjoyable learning experience for those interested in a once or optional twice a week program. The school, in its 15th year, offers an enriching curriculum of reading, writing, language, prayers, Israel and holidays. Special events include challah baking, Purim party and Passover seder. Remedial and enriched program available. Affiliated with Board of Jewish Education.

ATERET SHALOM HEBREW SCHOOL
Yorkhill Elementary School,
350 Hilda Ave. (at Clark),
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 2P6
Principal: Joseph Klinger, MA
Administator: Sadie Domb
Tel: 905-886-1457
Kindergarten to Gr. 7 and bar-bat mitzvah individual tutoring. Once or twice weekly (Sundays, Wednesdays). Kids love Hebrew, holidays & celebrations, prayers, Israel, Bible, history, music, arts & crafts, Israeli folk dancing & more! Remedial and advanced programs too! Affiliated with Board of Jewish Education.

ATTENTION DISORDERS NEUROFEEDBACK CENTRE (ADNC)
208 St. Clair Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M4V 1R2
Director: Tamara Druckman
Tel: 416-944-0103
Neurofeedback is a non-invasive alternative to medication for Attention Deficit Disorder. By utilizing feedback from their brainwave activity, individuals are able to learn to increase their concentration and control impulsivity and restlessness. In conjunction with the intensive training program, the ADNC teaches learning and memory strategies which enhance the increased ability to focus.

BETH ISRAEL HEBREW ACADEMY
11 Pickett Cres.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9L1
Director: Lillian Benlolo
Tel: 905-770-1082 Fax: 905-770-6965
bethisrael@hotmail.com
We offer rich, stimulating and challenging programs Sundays and afternoons for children ages 5-Bar/Bat Mitzvah, in Richmond Hill and Thornhill. Small classes, individual attention, special events, and activities are integrated into Hebrew studies. Bar/bat mitzvah preparation.

BETH SHOLOM HEBREW SCHOOL
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Contact: Esther Benari-Altmann
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
Beth Sholom Hebrew School has it all! Hebrew language and writing, prayers, holiday & shabbat celebrations, Israel and Jewish identity and much, much more. Our school-wide family education programs are not to be missed. Add a little music, song and fun and your child's after-school is some place they want to be! Call to register today: Beth Sholom Synagogue: 416-783-6103 or Esther Benari-Altmann: 905-771-9012.

BETH TORAH'S HEBREWS' COOL
47 Glenbrook Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 2L7
Programming Director: Elliott Michaelson
Tel: 416-782-4495, Ex. 25
Fax: 416-782-4496
E-mail: em.btc@sympatico.ca
Beth Torah's Hebrews' Cool offers an innovative and enjoyable program for children in Grades 1 to 6. Our aim is to instill a sense of enthusiasm for Judaism within our students so that they will grow into interested and involved adults.

BIALIK HEBREW DAY SCHOOL
12 Viewmount Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 1T3
Education Director: Dr. Uri Korin
Tel: 416-783-3346 Fax: 416-785-8287
E-mail: bialikschool@bialik.on.ca
Serves children from JK-Gr. 8. Through our integrated General and Jewish studies program and, with the most up to date instructional strategies including the use of technology, students learn to value their Jewishness and love for Israel while developing a sense of membership in the Canadian community.

CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto)
Director of Education:
Paul J. Shaviv, MA, M.Phil
Tanenbaum Campus: 200 Wilmington Ave., Toronto, Ont. M3H 5J8
Tel: 416-636-5984 Fax: 416-636-7717
Richmond Hill Campus: 51 Wright St., Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 4A2
Tel: 905-787-8772 Fax 905-787-8773
Toronto's community high school (gr. 9-12) providing courses leading to university entrance. A comprehensive Jewish studies program is an integral part of our school, including a community service requirement. Our reputation is based on individual care for every student. We offer an extensive program of sports and extra-curricular activities.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL (in the new Miles Nadal JCC)
750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Joan Schoenfeld
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail: joan@djcs.org
Website: www.djcs.org
Community school, 200+ students, providing sense of appreciation, enjoyment in Judaism; including concepts and skills necessary to live a Jewish life and feel comfortable in a Jewish setting. JK-1: Sunday morning delightful activity-oriented program. Grades 2-7: Sunday only or Sunday/Wednesday options. Unique High School Program Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., on contemporary teen dilemmas and issues of Jewish identity.

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Dean: Rabbi I. Pliner
Menachel Girls' School:
Rabbi M. Gewirtz
General Studies Principal:
Rabbi Y. Steinman
Early Childhood Education Director:
Mrs. E. Kaplan
Executive Director: Mr. Elias Levy
Director of Development:
Rabbi A. Rothman

Viewmount Campus
1 Viewmount Ave.
Tel: 416-789-4366
E-mail: view@eitzchaim.com

Patricia Campus
475 Patricia Ave.,
Tel: 416-225-1187
E-mail: patricia@eitzchaim.com

Spring Farm Campus & Development Office
80 York Hill Blvd.
Tel: 416-764-6633
E-mail: spring@eitzchaim.com
Yeshivas Eitz Chaim is dedicated to instilling within its students the foundations for living a Torah observant life and to provide the skills to understand and succeed in today's world in accordance with Torah values and ideals. Eitz Chaim strives for excellence in education in all areas of its curriculum. Rooted in tradition with over 80 years of history, Eitz Chaim continues to provide its students with the finest Torah and general education in an environment filled with the love of Yiddishkeit and the Jewish people.

Community Focus

Community Directory of Advertisers

Education Cont'd

KADIMA SCHOOL
(Beth Emeth Synagogue) 100 Elder St.,
North York, Ont. M3H 5G7
Supervisor: Galya Ouanounou
Tel: 416-638-6235 Fax: 416-631-6572
Kadima Sunday School, founded by Rabbi Joseph Kelman, offers an exciting Jewish learning experience for youth with special needs. Classes held at Beth Emeth include Hebrew study, holidays, customs and prayers. Students enjoy participating in crafts, music and community programs. A low yearly fee applies. Subsidies and transportation available.

KEHILA JEWISH COMMUNITY DAY SCHOOL
215 Cline Avenue North,
Hamilton, Ont. L8S 4A1
Contact: Francine Lindenbaum
Tel: 905-529-7725 Fax: 905-529-9694
E-mail: kehila@interlynx.net
Website: www.kehilaschool.com
Kehila is a community day school committed to a superior academic education in a pluralistic Jewish environment. Our students have surpassed provincial achievement levels in mathematics, language arts and science. Hebrew is taught as a living language and Judaica made meaningful. Creative teachers, small class size. Grades: SK-4, growing to Gr. 8.

KEREN HATARBUT INSTITUTE
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Director: Joseph Klinger
Tel: 416-787-0197
Offers courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew and Bible and prayers for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. All classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 14 sessions.

THE LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL
Atkinson Campus,
36 Atkinson Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C9
Principal: Jan Lapedus

Holy Blossom Campus
1950 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3K9
Principal: Eric Petersiel
Director: Zita J. Gardner, M.Ed., RJE
Tel: 905-709-3636 Fax: 905-709-1999
A Reform Jewish day school; sensitive to the educational needs of its children; providing for individual learning styles; music, art, drama and computers enrich a curriculum integrating Judaic and general studies. Students are prepared to be knowledgeable, practicing Liberal Jews in our Canadian society.

MONTESSORI JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
585 Cranbrooke Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2X9
Contact: Dr. Max Dublin
Tel: 416-784-5071 Fax: 416-784-5071
E-mail: mjds@on.aibn.com
Offering a first-rate Montessori program with integrated Jewish studies. Montessori is tried and true; it means an early start in the education world's foremost learning environment; optimum, individual pacing — children are never bored or lost; specially trained teachers bring out the best. Multi-denomination, egalitarian, inclusive. Now enrolling 2½-9 yr. olds.

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Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8C8
Principal: Dr. Reuven Stern
Tel: 905-771-1234 Fax: 905-771-1807
www.netivot.com
Netivot HaTorah offers a challenging and exciting curriculum of Judaic and general studies from nursery to gr. 8. Netivot HaTorah is committed to addressing the social, emotional, physical and intellectual needs of each child in an atmosphere imbued with Torah, Israel and Derech Eretz.

OR HAEMET SEPHARDIC SCHOOL
7026 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8K3
Principal: Sarah Wasserman
Tel: 905-669-7653 Fax: 905-669-5138
Provides a Torah education in accordance with Sephardic Jewish practice, and a quality Hebrew, French and General Studies curriculum. Full day preschool to Jr. High (½ day J.K. only). Our impressive new campus featuring a Beth Medrash, pool, gym, high-tech computer and modern science labs contributes to enhancing the students' overall school experience.

PAUL PENNA DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL
Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Elysa Cohen
President: Michaele-Sue Goldblatt
Tel: 416-928-3537
E-mail: elysa@djds.ca or info@djds.ca
The Paul Penna Downtown Jewish Day School is a creative and dynamic full-time school located at the Miles Nadal JCC. The DJDS is committed to providing students with an education of academic excellence, creative artistic expression, and the development of critical thinking skills. Our enriched and integrated curriculum presents children with a holistic view of the world, weaving together the Jewish and general facets of their lives. We offfer low student/teacher ratio from SK-Gr. 5. For more information, or to arrange for a tour of the school, phone 416-928-3537.

THE RENANIM CHILDREN'S CHORUS & THE RENANIM YOUTH SINGERS
205 Owen Blvd.,
Toronto, Ont. M2P 1G8
Director: Susan Michaels
Tel: 416-449-2296 Fax: 416-449-5926
E-mail: susan.michaels@rogers.com
These Jewish community choirs are comprised of auditioned, talented students from all denominational backgrounds. These ensembles enhance Jewish functions and are the Jewish community's sole representative in the Greater Toronto Area, performing at many prestigious venues. Weekly rehearsals are at the Beth David Synagogue. High school students earn community hours.

SHAAR SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Principal: Karen L. Goodis, RJE
Location: Thornhill Secondary School.
Tel: 905-889-0987 Fax: 905-889-1575
Highlights: Two days a week. Intensive Hebrew reading program; Excellent Family Education; Winter Arts Program; music; synagogue skills; remediation available. We are committed to providing children with the tools to become committed adult Jews. SK-Gr. 8. Classes meet Sun. and Wed. Gr. 8 Judaica program. Affiliated with BJE and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

TEMMY LATNER HEBREW SCHOOL
446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2
Principal: Rifky Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
The Temmy Latner Hebrew School is an all new afternoon Hebrew school program at the Forest Hill Elementary School. Your child will love our exciting, stimulating environment, where Hebrew school is fun, without compromising solid learning and growth. Tuesdays 4-6 p.m. SK-Gr. 4. Call now to register!

TORAH TOTS PRE-SCHOOL
83 Green Lane,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 6K6
Director: Goldie Plotkin
Tel: 905-886-0420 Fax: 905-886-0421
E-mail: chabadmarkham@on.aibn.com
Website: www.chabadmarkham.org
Torah Tots introduces Montessori blend. Torah Tots Pre-School is proud to introduce for their J.K. children, a Montessori blended program providing the best of the ECE philosophy and Montessori. Torah Tots is always looking to grow, improve and offer more choices to stimulate their students' development in the nurturing and warm environment that is their trademark. The Montessori program will add the new dimensions of self discovery and self motivated learning to its already superb program. For a private tour and interview please call Goldie at 905-886 -0420.

THE TORONTO HESCHEL SCHOOL
55 Yeomans Rd.,
North York, Ont. M3H 3J7
Principal: Ms. Gail Baker
Tel: 416-635-1876 Fax: 416-635-1800
E-mail: office@torontoheschel.org
Ideology: pluralistic. Affiliated with the BJE. The Toronto Heschel School is a multi-sensory, integrative, arts-based Jewish Day School. The educational philosophy of The Toronto Heschel School is based on the principle that the students can learn only in a supportive and validating atmosphere and that arts play a major role in the transmission of academic knowledge. Small classes ensures high academic achievement within a positive, joyful, relaxed learning atmosphere. JK-Gr. 8.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL
Administation House:
3072 Bayview Ave.
Head of School: Lucy Cohen

Bathurst Campus
1700 Bathurst St.

Bayview Campus,
3080 Bayview Ave.

Richmond Hill Campus,
9711 Bayview Ave.

Tel: 416-224-8737, ext. 137
Fax: 416-225-9108
Website: www.usds.ca
JK - Grade 8. Offers a warm, stimulating, Jewish environment where students can develop socially, cognitively, physically and emotionally. Quality general and Jewish studies programs integrating computers, creative arts, music, physical education and family education. Teaching strategies enable students to develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Association: Conservative movement.

YESHIVA DARCHEI TORAH OF TORONTO
2327 Dufferin St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6E 3S5
Development Director: Jeff Toledano, MSW
Tel: 416-782-7974, ext. 7,
Fax: 416-782-7811
E-mail: toledano@bellnet.ca
Website: www.darcheitorah.org
Darchei Torah's High School offers multi-leveled Limudai Kodesh with a low student-to-Rebbe ratio. General Studies are university preparatory, exceed Ministry guidelines and feature separate Sciences and Humanities tracks. Our Bais Medrash for older students features a Semicha Program and the option to complete university studies simultaneously.

Funeral Chapels

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Toronto, Ont. M3J 2P1
Contact: Michael Chas Benjamin
Tel: 416-663-9060 Fax: 416-663-9417
E-mail: info@benjamins.ca
Website: www.benjamins.ca
Since 1922, Benjamin's has been part of the fabric that binds together the Toronto Jewish community, even in times of sorrow and stress. Four generations of the Benjamin family have provided support to bereaved Jewish families. We devote ourselves to upholding Jewish law and traditions, a responsibility we regard as a sacred trust.

HEBREW BASIC BURIAL
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
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Tel: 416-780-0596 Fax: 416-780-0638
When economy is a major consideration, you should know that Hebrew Basic Burial offers the lowest interment costs available from any Jewish establishment. Guaranteed. Families who have used Hebrew Basic Burial's services have all found that dignity and observance of Jewish law were exactly as they should be. Hebrew Basic Burial - a non-profit organization.

STEELES MEMORIAL CHAPEL
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Managing Funeral Director:
Carol P. Saucier
Tel: 905-881-6003 Fax: 905-881-8539
The Toronto Jewish community has, for over 70 years, entrusted us with its most sacred and important task. We accept your trust with a measure of humility and a great sense of responsibility. As a community run organization we have established a tradition of tzedaka towards organizations in the city and in Israel.

Health

ROYAL VICTORIA HOSPITAL
201 Georgian Dr.,
Barrie, Ont. L4M 6M2
Physician Recruitment Co-ordinator:
Pamela Colquhoun
Tel: 1-705-728-9090, ext. 4294
E-mail: colquhountp@rvh.on.ca
Website: www.rvh.on.ca
Physician opportunities are available in a wide range of specialties at the Royal Victoria Hospital of Barrie. Barrie is home to a growing, dynamic Jewish community. The medical and Jewish communities are very welcoming and warm. The congregation meets locally to observe Shabbat, holiday and community programming while a new synagogue is under construction.

Israel Based Organizations

AID TO DISABLED VETERANS OF ISRAEL BEIT HALOCHEM CANADA
3101 Bathurst St., 4th floor,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Tel: 416-787-8950 1-800-355-1648
Fax: 416-787-1097
E-mail: info@advi.ca
Website: www.advi.ca
Beit Halochem Canada assists 50,000 disabled Israeli veterans and their families rehabilitate themselves physically and emotionally. Four state of the art facilities in Israel offer a comprehensive range of services to disabled members including medicine, hydrotherapy, physical therapy, creative and athletic activities. Please help ensure that these programs continue for our Israeli heroes.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave., Ste. 201,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496
Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
The Association is: the only civilian group whose programs make the life of every soldier on active duty in Israel's Defence Forces a little easier; co-ordinating its projects with the IDF to meet each soldier's recreational, educational and emotional needs; making army service more pleasant for every soldier; showing we care.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF LANIADO HOSPITAL
3101 Bathurst St., Ste. 600,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A6
Executive Director: Noreen Azoulay
Tel: 416-785-8946 Fax: 416-785-9236
E-mail: friends@laniado.ca
Laniado Hospital serves over 250,000 people in Netanya and is the only Israeli hospital with a no-strike policy. Laniado's highest standard of medicine is practiced with compassion and kindness. Due to the urgent need for expansion, the Israeli Government is providing matching funding. Supporting Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, will achieve this goal.

CANADIAN SOCIETY FOR YAD VASHEM
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 211,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
National Chair: Hank Rosenbaum
Executive Director: Hetty Shapiro
Tel: 416-785-1333 Fax: 416-785-4536
E-mail: yadvashem@bellnet.ca
Website: www.yadvashem.ca
Representing Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, we promote Holocaust memorial projects, education and remembrance. Funds raised also support the recently expanded Yad Vashem Museum Complex, Jerusalem. To ensure that every victim has "a place and a name" families may inscribe loved ones on our Holocaust Wall of Remembrance, Earl Bales Park, Toronto.

CANADIAN TECHNION SOCIETY
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 206,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Ntl. Exec. Director: Cheryl Koperwas
Tel: 416-789-4545 Fax: 416-789-0255
E-mail: info@cdntech.org
National fundraising and education arm for Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel's oldest university. Supports faculty recruitment and promotes academic exchange between Technion and Canadian universities, provides information for undergraduate and graduate studies, raises funds for scholarships and research projects.

CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
President: Len Berk
Tel: 416-781-6089 Fax: 416-785-7687
E-mail: cvitor@idirect.com
Website: www.serve.com/CVI/
Montreal tel: 514-735-0272
Sar-el is a voluntary, non-political organization providing Diaspora Jews with the opportunity to directly help Israel. Most volunteers are between 18 and 65. They work and live for 18 days on IDF maintenance bases. Room and board supplied.

THE CANADIAN ZIONIST CULTURAL ASSOC.
788 Marlee Ave. , Ste. 201
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Tel: 416-783-3053 Fax: 416-787-7496
Toll free: 1-800-433-6226
The Association offers its facilities without charge for social and education programs for young people and new immigrants in Israel; sponsors holiday camps for widows and orphans of soldiers providing psychological and group support; grants university scholarships and sponsors refresher courses for required university entrance tests to applicants having fulfilled national service.

CANADIAN ZIONIST FEDERATION/ HEBREW CULTURE ORGANIZATION
4580 Dufferin St., Ste. 508,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5Y2
Tel: 416-633-3988 Fax: 416-633-2758
E-mail: czf@bellnet.ca
Official representative and voice of Canadian zionists to the World Zionist Organization, committed to strengthening the ties between Israel and Canada. With a membership of 45,000 Canadian zionists in 16 constituent organizations across Canada, the CZF is expressly committed to Jewish education, culture, aliyah and the centrality of Israel in Canadian Jewish life.

EMUNAH WOMEN OF TORONTO
3768 Bathurst St., Ste. 308,
North York, Ont. M3H 3M7
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E-mail: emunah@pssnet.com
Emunah is a religious Zionist organization that supports over 200 children's homes, colleges and family centres

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ISRAEL BASED ORGANIZATIONS cont'd

throughout Israel. Emunah is a recognized leader in providing comprehensive care to children at risk.

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Executive Director: Ben Prossin
Jerusalem Emissary: Eitan Glaser
Administrative Co-ordinator: Lil Jacobson
Tel: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345
E-mail: tor@jnf-canada.org
Best recognized as the organization which has planted forests, parks and trees in Israel. It really does much more - builds roads, constructs dams and reservoirs, develops land infrastructure for new immigrant housing, prepares recreation and tourist sites, and conducts research with regard to various ecological concerns. Donors to JNF receive receipts for income tax purposes.

NA'AMAT CANADA
272 Codsell Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3X2
Tel: 416-636-5425 Fax: 416-636-5248
E-mail: naamatca@aol.com
web: www.naamat.com
A dynamic fighter for women's rights in Israel and Canada. Na'amat Israel, with 450,000 members, has dramatically affected the lives of women by providing child care, high schools, shelters and counselling centres for family abuse and legal advisory clinics. In Canada, Na'amat sponsors Bialik Hebrew Day School, Camp Gesher, Habonim-Dror Zionist Youth Movement, a Free Legal Aid Advisory Clinic and provides school supplies for children living in shelters.

NEW ISRAEL FUND OF CANADA
801 Eglinton Ave.W., Ste. 401.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1E3
Executive Director: Minda Davis
Tel: 416-781-4322 Fax: 416-781-7443
E-mail: info@nifcan.org
Website: http://www.newisraelfund.org
The vision of Israel's founders was of a state "based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the prophets of Israel." Committed to helping fulfil that vision, the NIF, a philanthropic partnership of Israelis, North Americans and Europeans works for equality and social justice for all citizens of Israel.

STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS CANADA
970 Lawrence Ave. W., Ste. 502,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 3B6
Executive Vice-President: Lawrence Waller
Tel: 416-789-3351 Fax: 416-789-9436
E-mail: toronto@israelbonds.ca
Website: www.israelbonds.ca
Israel Bonds is the only agency that exclusively markets and sells bonds and notes for the Israeli Ministry of Finance. Over $26 billion in Bonds has been sold since 1951. Annual sales now top the $1 billion mark. Canadian investors account for 10-15% of the global sales figure.

TORONTO HADASSAH-WIZO
638A Sheppard Ave. W., Ste. 209,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2S1
Co-ordinator: Louise Rosenbloom
President: Judy Zelikovitz
Tel: 416-630-8373 Fax: 416-630-2370
E-mail: info@hadassahwizoto.ca
Toronto Hadassah-WIZO is dedicated to enhancing lives in Israel's communities and promoting women's issues in Canada. It supports projects in Israel — Assaf Harofeh Hospital; Hadassah Hospital; day care centres, education and career training; women's and youth clubs. Locally it helps shelters for women and children and healthcare.

MONUMENT COMPANIES

BENJAMIN'S LANDMARK MONUMENTS
3429 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C3
Contact: Michael Levitt
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E-mail: monuments@benjamins.ca
Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca
Benjamin's Landmark Monuments is Toronto's foremost Jewish monument dealer, continuing the proud tradition of service associated with the Benjamin family name. As the only Jewish monument dealer in Ontario authorized by Rock of Ages to distribute the "Sealmark" granite with the perpetual warranty, our monument counsellors can assist you in preparing an honoured memorial of unsurpassed quality.

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Contact: Akiva Balter
Tel: 416-782-8995 Fax: 416-780-0638
Website: www.jewishmonuments.ca
A monument should reflect the characteristics and values of the deceased. It is a tribute from a family who appreciated and recognized the uniqueness of the individual. Yad Vashem Monuments personalizes memorials by combining traditional inscriptions and innovative designs.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

ADATH ISRAEL CONGREGATION
37 Southbourne Ave.,
North York, Ont. M3H 1A4
Administrator: Sheila Starkman
Tel: 416-635-5340 Fax: 416-635-1629
A dynamic family-oriented synagogue in North York. Daily minyanim, Shabbat and festival services. Hebrew School, with Special High School Program. Religious, social and educational programs for youth, families and seniors. Active Sisterhood and Brotherhood. Beautiful social halls, COR catering by ZB Catering Ltd. New members welcome.

B'NAI SHALOM CONGREGATION
275 Arnold Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 1C3
Tel: 905-731-2797
E-mail: bnaishalom@bellnet.ca
* High Holy Day Services at Garnet Williams C.C. * Servicing Thornhill since 1983 * Traditional service * Family seating * Youth service/babysitting available * Guest Rabbi/Chazzan Avraham Y. Keller, from Jerusalem * Year-round day nursery/kindergarten program (16m-5y) * Kosher meals (COR) * Be a part of our future.

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE AND HEBREW SCHOOL
9711 Bayview Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9X7
Principal: Ora Shulman
Shul Administrator: Marlene Rosen
School Administrator: Marilyn Perdue
Tel: 905-770-7639 Fax: 905-770-5635
E-mail: admin@beitrayim.org
Website: www.beitrayim.org
School: K-7. 2 days/weeki. Innovative programs includes Hebrew language, holidays, Bible, Israel, prayer, history, music and dance. Recognized by BJE, affiliated with USCJ. Grads qualify for Bar/Bat Mitzvah in any Conservative Synagogue. Synagogue: Warm, friendly, family oriented Conservative Egalitarian Synagogue serving York Region. Youth and adult programs for all ages.

BETH DAVID B'NAI ISRAEL BETH AM CONGREGATION
55 Yeomans Road,
North York, Ont. M3H 3J7
Tel: 416-633-5500 Fax: 416-633-1740
E-mail: info@bethdavid.com
Website: www.bethdavid.com
Beth David is a vibrant, Conservative Synagogue where community is embraced. Join us and discover why our members keep coming back week-in and week-out. A multi-generational synagogue, we offer programming for toddlers, seniors, and every age grouping in between, including our Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Yedidim, Kadima and U.S.Y. Youth Groups and Club Chaverut (Seniors).

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA SYNAGOGUE
100 Elder St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5G7
Contact: Mrs. Bernice Levine
Tel: 416-633-3838 Fax: 416-633-3153
More than just a synagogue, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda (BEBY) is a vibrant centre of Jewish life. We are bound by our commitment to synagogue, community and Israel. Our mission is to be the focal point of the Jewish lives of our members.

BETH ISRAEL ANSHEI MINSK CONGREGATION
10 St. Andrew St. (Kensington Market),
Toronto, Ont., M5T 1K6
Contact: Rabbi Shmuel Spero
Tel: 416-595-5723
Website: www.pdora.com/~minsk
Morning and evening services daily and on Shabbat. The beautifully restored sanctuary glows with warmth and tradition. Please join our weekly Friday night dinners, Shabbat lunches, and a variety of educational and family programming. Our spirited shul community fosters a Judaism that is grounded yet spiritual, traditional and creative.

BETH SHOLOM SYNAGOGUE
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Associate Executive Director: Barbara Berke
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
E-mail: barbara@bethsholom.net
Website: www.bethsholom.net
Beth Sholom welcomes everyone of all ages. We are a warm, friendly traditional, Conservative "family" synagogue where the Rabbi knows your name, the Sanctuary is warm and inclusive. Adult education & social programs. Special memberships for young marrieds, young families and young singles. 416-783-6103. www.bethsholom.net

BETH TIKVAH SYNAGOGUE
3080 Bayview Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 5L3
Administration Director: Lillian Cornfield x307
Tel: 416-221-3433 Fax: 416-221-1602
E-mail: info@bethtikvah.on.ca
Website: www.bethtikvah.on.ca
We're a vibrant, friendly Conservative synagogue in our 37th year. Centrally located near the 401 on Bayview. We offer an outstanding array of services including: award winning music programs and choirs, Social Action, Adult Education, Hebrew School, Youth programming and more. We have something for everyone. Give us a minute and you'll stay a lifetime.

BOROCHOV CULTURAL CENTRE & KOL YISROEL CONGREGATION
272 Codsell Ave.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3X2
Tel: 416-630-9444 Fax: 416-630-9451
A Conservative synagogue situated in the Borochov Cultural Centre. Weekly Shabbat services are held in a warm, friendly atmosphere, apparent during the kiddush when everyone socializes. Bar and Bat Mitzvahs and other special occasions are held. No membership fee. High Holy Day services are held in the main hall in the Centre.

CANADIAN COUNCIL FOR REFORM JUDAISM
3845 Bathurst St., Ste. 301,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 3N2
Director: Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel
Tel: 416-630-0375 Fax: 416-630-5089
E-mail: ccrj@uahc.org
Canadian national office of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, representing over 850 synagogues throughout North America, promotes liberal Judaism through synagogue support, outreach, youth programs, Jewish camping, adult and child education, social action.

CONGREGATION B'NAI TORAH
465 Patricia Ave.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2R 2N1
Tel: 416-226-3700
Family friendly Orthodox congregation of over 300 families. We offer: Shabbat and weekday services, Shabbat and holiday babysitting, youth services for various ages, Torah study classes, library, modern social hall with kosher (COR) catering facilities and much more. We are close to many Jewish schools and kosher establishments.

CONGREGATION BINA (JEWS OF INDIA)
PO/CP 92127, 2900 Warden Ave.,
Scarborough, Ont. M1W 3Y8
Contact: Noel Joseph, 416-293-9700
Sabrina Kerbel, 416-783-1945
The main objective of Congregation BINA, a non-profit organization for Jews from India, is to assist, maintain, and promote traditional religious, social, culturral, and educational activities among its members. Each year, High Holy Day Services and social gatherings are held, and a quarterly news bulletin, Contact, is published.

CONGREGATION DARCHEI NOAM
15 Hove St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y8
Offices at 20 Martin Ross Ave.
Rabbi Tina Grimberg
President: Michael Mitchell
Tel: 416-638-4783 Fax: 416-638-5852
Website: www.darcheinoam.on.ca
Our Reconstructionist community values a fully egalitarian, participatory religious life; mutually supportive community reflecting Jewish spiritual and ethical ideals; warm, understandable, challenging services combining traditional prayer with contemporary poetry and song, and lively discussion; respect for Jewish traditions and awareness of the unique condition of our Jewish life; Hebrew School.

FIRST NARAYEVER CONGREGATION
187 Brunswick Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 6A7
Tel: 416-927-0546
Celebrate 5764 High Holy Days with the First Narayever Congregation at the newly renovated Miles Nadal JCC at Bloor & Spadina. We know you will feel enriched by the strength and warmth of our community, our traditional, egalitarian services and creative children's programming. To buy tickets please phone 416-927-0546 or visit the Miles Nadal JCC. Visit us at www.narayever.com

LODZER CENTRE CONGREGATION
12 Heaton St.,
North York, Ont. M3H 4Y6
Rabbi Matthew Kaufman (lodzerrabbi@rogers.com)
Administrator: Dina Wolfe
Tel: 416-636-6665 Fax 416-636-8861
If you are a young family with small children looking for a conservative yet egalitarian setting for your Jewish home, then look no further! The Lodzer offers a traditional alternative with a warm and friendly group of like-minded young couples. Tot Shabbat and Mommy & Me programs. Daily 9 a.m. minyan with breakfast following. Kosher caterer on premises. Social hall seats up to 300. Tickets available for High Holiday services with Rabbi Matthew Kaufman and Cantor David Edwards. Junior Congregation and babysitting. Exciting Young Families Programs throughout the year!

ORAYNU CONGREGATION FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM
Contact: Roby Sadler
Tel: 416-385-3910
Oraynu celebrates holidays, history, culture from humanistic Jewish perspective. School focuses on values in Jewish tradition and history. Excellent 2-year B'nai Mitzvah program. Holidays, Onegs, family events, adult educaton, youth group, etc. Oraynu: a welcoming, egalitarian congregation where members express their Judaism in a manner consistent with their beliefs.

SHAAR SHALOM SYNAGOGUE
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Administrator: Erma Bader
Tel: 905-889-4975 Fax: 905-889-1575
Shaar Shalom Synagogue, under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Martin Berman and Cantor Ben Silverberg, is a Conservative congregation in Thornhill. We offer full services on Shabbat and holidays, daily minyanim, catering services, active sisterhood, brotherhood, singles, seniors' group, youth groups and an afternoon Hebrew School (SK-Gr. 8).

SHAAREI-BETH EL CONGREGATION OF HALTON
186 Morrison Rd.,
Oakville, Ont. L6J 4J4
Contact: Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky
Tel: 905-849-6000 Fax: 905-849-1134
E-mail: sbe@idirect.ca
A Reform congregation with a traditional orientation. The synagogue offers Hebrew and religious classes under the direction of Ron Salamon, bar/bat mitzvah instruction, youth activities and adult educational programs. The shul has experienced substantial recent growth from Burlington and Oakville. Other members come from Milton, Mississauga, Hamilton and Toronto.

SHAAREI SHOMAYIM CONGREGATION
470 Glencairn Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1V8
Executive Director: Marilyn Somers
Tel: 416-789-3213 Fax: 416-789-1728
E-mail: info@shomayim.org
Website: www.shomayim.org
Shaarei Shomayim Congregation is a modern orthodox centre of Jewish life with approximately 1,100 member-families providing the means for the fulfillment of religious, educational and social needs. This year, there is a special rate for new members and members under 30. Please phone 416-789-3213, ext. 209 or e-mail: info@shomayim.org

SHAAREI TEFILLAH CONGREGATION
3600 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2C9
Contact: Rabbi Moshe Stern
Tel: 416-787-1631
Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, an Orthodox congregation offers Shabbat, daily minyanim, cultural, social, educational and religious activities. Your simcha is perfected at Shaarei Tefillah with exquisite Glatt Kosher catering by Menchens in our newly enhanced banquet hall.

SHIR LIBEYNU CONGREGATION
c/o 1562 Danforth Ave., P.O. 72089
Toronto, Ont. M4J 5C1
Co-ordinator: Aviva Goldberg
Tel: 416-465-5488
Shir Libeynu High Holy Day Services at 58 Cecil St. (south of College, east of Spadina). Please join us for a liberal, egalitarian, participatory service. All are welcome. Tickets $80, child-care free. Sign language interpreted, wheelchair accessible. To reserve call: 416-465-5488 or purchase at Bloor J.C.C.

SOLEL CONGREGATION
2399 Folkway Dr.,
Mississauga, Ont. L5L 2M6
Tel: 905-820-5915 Fax: 905-820-1956
A Liberal Congregation affiliated with the Reform Movement with traditional leanings in services and religious practice committed to providing opportunities to worship, study, and celebrate Judaism in a vibrant, egalitarian, nurturing environment. Services Friday evenings, Saturday mornings, all Jewish holidays, weekly minyanim Tuesday 7 a.m. Children and family participation encouraged. School - Preschool through Confirmation, adult and family education classes throughout the year.

Community Focus

Community Directory of Advertisers cont'd

Religious Life cont'd

TEMMY LATNER FOREST HILL JEWISH CENTRE
446 Spadina Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M5P 3M2
Contact: Rabbi Elie Karfunkel
Tel: 416-483-0883 Fax: 416-483-6712
E-mail: thecentre@on.aibn.com
Located in the heart of the Forest Hill Village (just up the stairs next to Starbucks), the Temmy Latner Forest Hill Jewish Centre provides an escape from hectic Toronto life. Come enjoy our Shabbat services (7 p.m. Friday and 9:30 a.m. Saturday) and our other dynamic programming. We're right at your doorstep!

TEMPLE EMANU-EL
120 Old Colony Rd.,
North York, Ont. M2L 2K2
Membership Chair: Phil Rudolph
Tel: 416-449-3880 Fax: 416-449-9831
E-mail: membership@temanuel.com
A vibrant congregation on an exquisite site, emphasizing spirituality, education for children and adults, social action. 1-day mid-week Hebrew School & Sun. Hebrew & Rel. School. A daily morning minyan, youth groups, and Parent & Tot. 1st year's membership dues free (administration fee) for unaffiliated families. Rabbi Debra Landsberg.

TEMPLE HAR ZION
7360 Bayview Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 2R7
Executive Director: Karen Grimm, ext. #4
Tel: 905-889-2252 Fax: 905-889-2258
E-mail: information@templeharzion.com
Website: www.templeharzion.com
A vibrant Reform congregation that attracts members from downtown Toronto north to Newmarket. Temple Har Zion offers preschool for 3-5 yr. olds; Hebrew and Religious School through to Confirmation (gr. 10); Jr. & Sr. Youth Groups; diverse Adult Education Programs; life cycle events. New members are welcome throughout the year.

TEMPLE KOL AMI
8777 Dufferin St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8W3
Tel: 905-709-2620
E-mail: info@templekolami.ca
Website: www.templekolami.ca
250-family egalitarian Reform congregation led by Rabbi Daniel Komito Gottlieb with Cantorial Soloist Dawn Bernstein. Wide range of religious, social and educational programs from JK to confirmation and beyond. Educational Director Chari Schwartz. Interfaith families, Jews by choice and persons with special needs welcome.

YACHDAV
Contact: Marty Kaplan
Tel: 416-785-3363
E-mail: yachdav@rogers.com
Yachdav is a small, participatory minyan. We meet regularly in the Downtown JCC for Shabbat services, 9:30 a.m. on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays of each month. We follow traditional liturgy, but are egalitarian in men's and women's involvement in all aspects of the services. Also see our High Holyday ad in this feature.

Seniors

BAYCREST HOME CARE SERVICES
3560 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E1
Tel: 416-964-6402
Whether just home from hospital, living on your own and need a little help, presently in hospital, waiting for placement in or residing in any long term care facilities. We provide assistance with nursing, homemaking/house cleaning, personal care/caregiver relief, short term respite care, escorts to medical, social and religious events. Call for information and rates 416-964-6402 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Revenue from Baycrest Home Care Services assists in maintaining services at Baycrest Centre.

BAYCREST LIFELINE
3560 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E1
Tel: 416-442-5547
The service is designed to give clients the confidence to live independently with the knowledge that whenever help is needed, it's just a push-button away. Call for information and rates 416-442-5547, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Service is available in over 130 languages. Revenue from Baycrest Lifeline assists in maintaining services at Baycrest Centre.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING
1003 Steeles Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3T6
Interim Director of Programs:
Ruth Cohen
Tel: 416-225-2112 Fax: 416-225-2097
A non-profit seniors' centre committed to maximizing the quality oif life for seniors. Over 50 programs offered, including recreational and educational courses, computer learning and Resource Centre, fitness classes, social work counselling, home support services, health promotion lectures, health screening clinics, religious services and Jewish holiday celebrations. Kosher cafeteria also caters for bar and bat mitzvahs.

CIRCLE OF CARE
530 Wilson Ave., 4th Floor,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 1T6
Tel: 416-635-2860 Fax: 416-635-1692
E-mail: info@circleofcare.com
Website: circleofcare.com
For those seeking support in their lives or help with their daily routines as they adjust to lifecycle changes, illness or accidents. Our qualified staff provide information, referrals, homemaking, personal care, supportive counselling, Meals on Wheels (COR), respite care, specialized volunteer visiting, and more.

INSA RECRUITING AND PLACEMENT SERVICES INC.
33 Empress Ave., Ste. 2906,
Toronto, Ont. M2N 6Y7
General Manager: Talya Ziv-av
Tel: 416-221-9853 Fax: 416-221-3608
E-mail: talya@insajob.com
Website: www.insa-ca.com
INSA specializes in the personalized placement of experienced, live-in caregivers to help ensure that those who require long-term care receive the in-home assistance they need - without losing their independence or dignity. It's an affordable, quality homecare solution for people with special needs.

PINE VILLA RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
1035 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2C8
Executive Director: Sharon Rosenblum
Tel: 416-787-5626 Fax: 416-787-3441
E-mail: pinevilla@cplodges.com
Website: www.insa-ca.com
Pine Villa offers the comforts of home in a gracious and caring environment in the heart of Toronto's Jewish community. Our residents create a familiar sense of home with their personal furnishings in any one of our private suites. We offer 24-hour supervised health care, 3 delicous meals plus twice daily teacart, cable TV, housekeeping and laundry services. Activities, outside trips and live entertainment are organized by our recreation therapist.

TERRACE GARDENS RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
3705 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2E8
Lifestyle & Marketing Co-ordinator:
Devorah Ohayon
Tel: 416-789-7670 Fax: 416-789-3372
E-mail: terrace@cplodges.com
Discover quality living in the heart of North Toronto's Jewish community at Terrace Gardens Retirement Residence. Whether it's for a short term or trial stay, or "around the year" retirement living, Terrace Gardens provides the comfort and peace of mind you deserve, while you enjoy delicious kosher meals, 24 hour supervised care, full recreational program, and a warm and dedicated staff. Terrace Gardens, your first choice in Jewish retirement living.

VILLAGE PARK RETIREMENT RESIDENCE
282 St. Clair Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M4V 1S3
Contact: Jordan Glick
Tel: 416-925-2283 Fax: 416-925-4861
Website: www.villageparkretirement.com
Village Park Retirement Residence, provides fully-assistance living and short-stay convalescent care. Priced from $2499 per month, Village Park offers 24-hour care and assistance, 3 meals and 3 snacks daily , housekeeping and laundry, a stimulating enriching activity program and personal care with a personal touch. For information or tour, call 416-925-2283.

Services

COUPLE ENRICHMENT INC.
1054 Centre St., Ste. 454,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8E5
Husband & wife co-therapy team:
Louise Dorfman, B.A.,
David Rubinstein, M.A.
Tel: 905-669-2333 Fax: 905-669-5877
Toll free: 1-877-897-2333
E-mail: info@couple-enrichment.com
Website: www.couple-enrichment.com
Walking on eggshells? Drifting apart? Yearning for more emotional or physical intimacy? Couple counselling intensives address the most common and difficult issues faced by couples in emotionally committed relationships. Initial consultation with this husband-and-wife co-therapy team includes one complimentary hour. Relationship counselling for singles and pre-marital couples is also available.

EDWARD JONES
7700 Bathurst St., Unit #11
(Promenade Village)
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7Y3
Contact: Monica Weissmann, CFP
Tel: 905-889-8535 Fax: 905-889-8420
Website: www.edwardjones.com
Monica Weissmann, CFP, can assist you with your insurance and investment needs including GICs, stocks, bonds, mutual funds and annuities. Advice is available to individuals focused on building long-term financial security. You can benefit from an analysis of your financial situation at no charge. Call today, 905-889-8535. Member CIPF. Insurance and annuities offered by Edward Jones Insurance Agency.

ISRAELI LAW OFFICE
Contact: Itamar Cohen, B.A., LL.B.
Member of Israeli Bar Assoc.
Tel: 905-709-3896 Fax: 905-709-3898
E-mail: itamarcohen@rogers.com
Israeli Law Office in Ontario is a branch of Law Offices in Israel. We advise clients from Canada on matters of Israeli Law, and represent their interests in Israel. Our office is the only one to be approved as an **Israeli Legal Office** in Ontario by **the Law Society of Upper Canada.**

JEWISH CAMP COUNCIL OF TORONTO
1118 Centre St., Ste. 202,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7R9
Registrar: Denise Harris
Tel: 905-881-0018 Fax: 905-881-9019
E-mail: happycamper@campnbb.com
Website: www.campnbb.com
Provides a variety of camping services to the Jewish community. Camp Northland-B'nai Brith provides a residential camping experience for boys and girls 8-16 in the Haliburton Highlands. Providing many interesting and rewarding staff positions. "Friends of NBB" holds a mini-camp weekend for families with young children in August.

JEWISH IMMIGRANT AID SERVICES TORONTO
4600 Bathurst St., Ste. 325,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 3V3
Tel: 416-630-6481 Fax: 416-630-1376
Executive Director: Janis Roth
Since 1922 JIAS has helped Jewish refugees and immigrants find a new home in Canada. JIAS provides resettlement counselling, integration programming, language training, immigration and family reunifications consultation, financial assistance and social services to those newcomers who travel the difficult journey "from immigrant to citizen."

JVS TORONTO
74 Tycos Dr.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 1V9,
Tel: 416-787-1151, Ext. 258
Fax: 416-785-7529
JVS is a long-standing community agency that helps thousands of individuals each year to identify educational and vocational goals, overcome barriers, and find work. JVS offers a wide range of education, career and employment services, our goal being to help our clients realize their potential in the job market.

L'CHAIM CANCER SUPPORT GROUP FOR JEWISH WOMEN
21 Midvale Rd.,
North York, Ont. M3H 3H8
New Contacts Co-ordinator:
Clara Shore
Tel: 416-633-0409 Fax: 416-785-8285
E-mail: ejerlich@rogers.com
L'Chaim is a support group for Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment. Our volunteers are Jewish women cancer survivors trained in peer support. We deliver gift bags to patients and are available to provide confidential peer support via telephone or visits. Speakers also available for community groups to raise cancer awareness.

LAIRD CLEANERS
790 Eglinton Ave. E.,
Toronto, Ont. M4G 2L1
Contact: Sam Markle
Tel: 416-425-9474
Laird Cleaners is the first dry cleaner in Canada to offer "The Green Earth" gentle, odor-free, non-toxic process. That is why we say we are Mother Nature's dry cleaner. The perc is there is no perc. Laird Cleaners, 790 Eglinton Ave. E., 416-425-9474. Free pick up and delivery.

O.R.D.A.
Ontario Ritual Directors Association
61 Invermay Ave., Suite 100,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 1Z6,
President: Asher Tannenbaum
Tel: 416-636-0013
O.R.D.A. is the umbrella organization for Ontario Synagogues Ritual Directors. It provides Bar/Bat Mitzvah lessons by professional teachers at reasonable rates. We also offer the recitation of Kaddish and Yahrzeit observances for those unable to do so. O.R.D.A. has established a tradition of tzedaka for community organizations in Toronto and in Israel.

PROFESSIONAL CARE PERSONNEL INC.
540 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Ste. 203,
Toronto, Ont. M4S 2M6
Co-directors:
Erin Rogul, Kelly Jacques
Tel: 416-504-8589 Fax: 416-504-6585
E-mail: placeme@pcarep.com
Website: www.pcarep.com
This established, family run firm is a full service domestic staff placement agency. Offered are pre-screened nannies, housekeepers, couples, eldercare companions and overseas sponsorsgip at no cost to the employer. Peace of mind and an affordable price will make your search for domestic help stress free.

Zuchter Berk Catering & Event Design
1895 Leslie St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3B 2M3
Owner: David Berk
Tel: 416-386-1086 Fax: 416-386-1297
Website: www.zuchterberk.com
Expect the extraordinary for your next holiday get-together, anniversary, wedding, bar or bat mitzvah. Our account executives will cover every detail to ensure your objectives and expectations are exceeded. You and your guests will be pampered by caring, attentive staff and served culinary delights that are truly extraordinary.

Travel

MANOR TRAVEL
1450 Clark Ave. W., Unit 17,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7R5
Manager: Stanley Lupka
Tel: 905-669-1347
E-mail: stan-lupka@on.aibn.com
Manor Travel is pleased to offer you an opportunity to join in a celebration of survival. November 2 has officially been proclaimed Survivors' Day. The U.S. Holocaust Museum, Washington, will coordinate a weekend of dinners, presentations, special events featuring George W. Bush and Elie Weisel. See our ad in this supplement.

Universities

CANADIAN ASSOCIATES OF BEN-GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV
1000 Finch Ave. W., Suite 506,
North York, Ont. M3J 2V5
Executive Director, Ontario Region:
Sheila Krone
Tel: 416-665-8054 Fax: 416-665-8055
E-mail: cdnbgu@on.aibn.com
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev's mission is to develop the Negev, its land, its people. BGU is of international stature, known for excellence, innovation. Creative programs, initiatives produce adademic breakthroughs, encourage advanced scholarships, influence national policies. Breakthrough solutions of improving lives of Israelis, fighting hunger, disease, poverty around the world. Over 17,000 students attend. Supporting the university is supporting the future of the Negev and Israel.

CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES, YORK UNIVERSITY
241 Vanier College, 4700 Keele St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3J 1P3
Director: Prof. Martin Lockshin
Tel: 416-736-5823 Fax: 416-736-5344
E-mail: lockshin@yorku.ca
Website: www.yorku.ca/cjs
York U. offers Jewish Studies courses ranging from ancient Israel and Hebrew language to Holocaust, contemporary Canadian Jewry and Jewish Teacher Education. Programs include BA, BEd, graduate degrees and the Advanced Certificate in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. York's Centre for Jewish Studies co-ordinates academic programs, research projects and community outreach.

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM - UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
15 King's College Circle, #314
Toronto, Ont. M5S 3H7
Administrator: Eva Hollander
Tel: 416-978-8118 Fax: 416-971-2027
E-mail: jewishstudies@utoronto.ca
Website:
www.chass.utoronto.ca/JewishStudies
For over 30 years, the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Toronto has been engaged in teaching, research and scholarship. This multi-disciplinary program, which encompasses the Arts and Science departments of English, German, History, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Philosophy, Sociology and the Study of Religion, is unique in Canada for the breadth and depth of its curriculum.

Rosh Hashanah is approaching quickly. Stay ahead of the game and use our Rosh Hashanah Food Supplements in the Sept. 11th & 18th issues.

Beat the Last-Minute Rosh

(We've saved you a seat)

Join us at Beit Rayim for the High Holy Days this year. Embrace our warm atmosphere, Conservative Egalitarian services, exceptional **Hebrew School**, and great Youth Programs.

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE

The Future is Bright

Call 905-770-7639 or visit www.beitrayim.org for more information

Community Focus

A walk through Jewish Toronto of decades past

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Smack dab in the middle of teeming Kensington Market, where Cantonese supplanted Yiddish as the language of commerce seemingly eons ago, the Romanesque Anshei Minsk Synagogue stands at 10 St. Andrews St., a stolid sentinel of the past.

Still very much a functioning shul, Anshei Minsk is a historic building, a symbol of a vanished era when the centre of gravity of Toronto's Jewish community was in today's Chinatown.

And so it was fitting that a walk in old Jewish Toronto, sponsored by the Downtown Jewish Learning Council and led by Cyrel Troster, began at the synagogue, which is flanked by a Chinese meat shop and a housewares store.

The 1½-hour tour, which took place on a sunny Sunday morning in the third week of June, attracted about 50 curious people, myself included, eager to learn about Jewish Toronto of yesteryear.

And as an ex-Montrealer, I was particularly interested in learning more about the city that has been my home since 1974.

When Anshei Minsk Synagogue opened in 1930, after eight years of on-again, off-again construction, the neighbourhood in and around Kensington Market was one of Canada's closest approximations to a European Jewish shtetl.

Nowadays, however, it is largely the preserve of Chinese, Portuguese, Vietnamese and, most recently, Somali immigrants.

Continued on page B7

The Henry Street Russian Orthodox church was the site of Beth Jacob Synagogue.
[Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Beth Sholom Synagogue

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Other newcomers replaced Jews in Kensington

Continued from page B6

With its butchers, bakers and merchants catering to all manner of tastes, Kensington Market was a mecca for Jewish immigrants.

They had originally settled in St. John's Ward, further to the south, but by the second decade of the 20th century, the Kensington area was where newly arrived Jews resided and worked.

According to J.B. Salsberg, the late labour leader, politician and newspaper columnist, scores of shuls and prayer houses sprang up to serve the religious needs of Kensington's Jews.

But in 2003, the Jewish presence in Kensington is virtually extinct. All that remains is the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, which is still recovering from last year's arson incident.

The shul, whose creamy walls are graced by murals of gentle wild beasts in repose, faces the Bright Pearl Seafood Restaurant, whose outsized Chinese characters blare the blandishments of fine Oriental cuisine.

But decades ago, the massive restaurant was the site of the Labour Lyceum, a workers' centre that has since moved to Cecil Street.

In a sign of the times, the factory workers the Labour Lyceum represents today are more likely to be Asian than Jewish.

The old United Bakers restaurant on Spadina Avenue, which counted a Jewish Who's Who among its clientele, now sits in a drab strip mall much farther north at Bathurst and Lawrence.

The Standard Theatre, which resounded to Yiddish decades ago, is no more. After being converted into a movie theatre variously known as the Strand and the Victory, it morphed into a seedy burlesque house, and then closed for good.

Many of the garment factories on Spadina Avenue were enclosed in imposing buildings, and one of the grandest is the Balfour Building.

It is presumably named after Arthur James Balfour, the British foreign minister who sanctioned the 1917 Balfour Declaration, which recognized the right of Jews to establish a national homeland in Palestine.

As I learned, the Balfour Building was designed by Benjamin Brown, who is said to be the first Jewish man trained as an architect in Toronto.

D'Arcy Street, a few blocks from the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, has been completely transformed.

The International Taoist Tai Shi Society was where the Shidlover shul was once located, and the Heydon Park Secondary School used to be a Talmud Torah.

Chudleigh House, which resounded to the festivities of Jewish weddings and bar mitzvahs, was also on D'Arcy Street. It is long gone, having been replaced by a complex of bland white brick condominiums.

Continued on page B8

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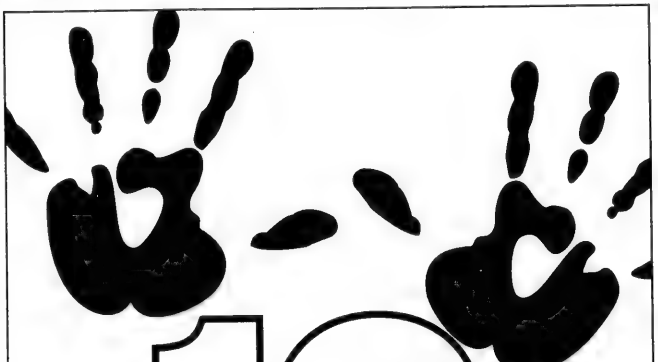

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Area's Jewish roots still evident

Continued from page B7

Beverley Street, which runs parallel to Spadina, was called Doctor's Row. There Jewish doctors established their practices.

At 27 Baldwin St., the distinctive Yiddish letters gracing a window of John's Italian Café must be something of a mystery to the young men and women who nurse drinks there on a warm summer day.

They probably are not aware of the fact that this café was once Mandel's Creamery.

Beyond a gentle curve of the road, past a pizza parlour, lies the red brick Henry Street Russian Orthodox church.

In its original incarnation, the church was the Beth Jacob Synagogue, also the work of Benjamin Brown.

During its heyday, the shul – which was built by Polish Jews and which took new form in the northern suburbs with its antiquated furnishings in the 1960s – could accommodate about 800 worshippers.

Believe it or not, but the building that currently houses the Polish Combatants Association on Beverley Street was successively the headquarters of the local Zionist movement and the Workmen's Circle.

And where the old Jewish Home for the Aged once stood is now home to the United Steelworkers of America.

Still more amazing, the Cecil Community Centre, a haunt of Chinese immigrants, was first a church and subsequently a synagogue.

Traces of the centre's Jewish roots are plainly in evidence.

Affixed to a wall, near the entrance, are two white marble plaques with gold Hebrew lettering.

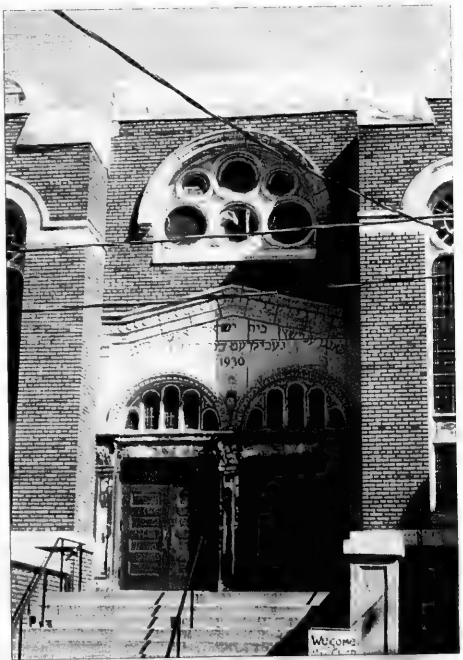
The ladies' gallery has been converted into office space.

A chandelier, suspended by a long chain, bespeaks classic synagogue architecture.

The Cecil Community Centre used to be the Ostrovtzer shul.

And a large mirror lines a wall where the bimah was located.

As the informative tour of the Kensington neighbourhood demonstrated, Toronto's Jewish past is embedded in a vibrantly functioning synagogue, redesigned buildings serving different purposes and, of course, in the deep recesses of memory.



The Romanesque Anshei Minsk Synagogue in Chinatown. [Sheldon Kirshner photos]

Community Focus

Hopeful Argentine immigrants settle in Toronto

By ELYSSE ZAREK
CJN Intern

When the Hermelin family boarded the plane for Toronto at Ezeiza International Airport in Buenos Aires, they had four one-way tickets, eight bulging pieces of luggage and, like most other immigrants, optimism that Canada held a more promising future than their native Argentina.

Despite promotional efforts to lure them to Winnipeg, Andrea Daiam and Fabian Levy-Hara immigrated to Toronto from Buenos Aires with their children Matias, 5, and Melanie, 8.

Because the seasons are opposite in the southern hemisphere, they left Buenos Aires on a chilly winter evening in June and landed in Toronto in the middle of a blistering heat wave. Friends met them at the airport and whisked them off to a new apartment in the suburbs and a new life in Canada.

That was more than a year ago. They had a difficult time when they first arrived, but now they are adjusting to life in Toronto. Luis Hermelin found a job in computers, and his wife Monica Zalcman is hoping to take her pharmacy exams to get her Canadian licence. Their children, Michelle, 15, and Aric, 12, speak perfect English with lilting Spanish accents.

This is the Hermelins' story, but it is also the story of more than 100 other immigrants from Argentina who fled the economic meltdown, insecurity and uncertainty plaguing their country and came to Toronto in search of stability.

"We are proud to be Argentine," says Monica. "We just left because we want a better future."

* * *

In the early part of the 20th century, Argentina seemed to have the same bright future as Canada, but a century of corruption, military dictatorships and poor economic choices led it down a different path. After four years of recession, Argentina's economy imploded in December 2001 and the standard of living, once the highest in Latin America, plummeted instantly. The government defaulted on its loans from the International Monetary Fund, devalued the peso and imposed harsh banking restrictions to prevent a run on the banks. The cost of living jumped more than 50 per cent, inflation soared and middle class savings were wiped out.

Now, the bank's austerity measures are easing up, but for millions of Argentines whose savings were reduced to nothing, life isn't much easier. The official unemployment rate recently dropped slightly from 20 per cent to about 16 per cent, although unofficially the figure is still much higher. More than half the country lives below the poverty line and shanty-towns have sprung up in the suburbs of major cities.

Monica Zalcman and husband Luis Hermelin arrived in Canada with their children Michelle, 15, and Aric, 12, in June 2002. "We are proud to be Argentine. We just want a better future."

* * *

Security, education, justice, health care, work, pension. Monica Zalcman recites the list of six things that led her and her husband to decide that Argentina wasn't the place where they wanted to grow old, even though they had good jobs, she as a pharmacist and he as an information technology consultant for Exxon Mobil.

"We both had good jobs, even if there was a crisis. But you know the six aspects, they were not going to be changed in years. So to have a job isn't everything to us, because you can have a job one day and not have one the day after," she says.

Continued on page B10

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Community Focus

Planning for the future is very hard in Argentina

Continued from page B9

Her concerns are echoed by many others. The Hermelins are part of a mass exodus of Argentines. Thousands are reclaiming the citizenship of their ancestors and returning to Spain, France, or Italy. Few choose the United States because of its tough immigration laws, but many arrive in Miami on tourist visas and try to extend their stay indefinitely. Others turn to Mexico, Israel and Canada. In the 2001 census, 4,200 Canadians said they were born in Argentina and more than 9,000 listed their ethnicity as Argentine, and the numbers have increased since then.

The Jewish community in Argentina felt uneasy even before the economic downturn. The bombings of the Israeli embassy in 1992 and AMIA, the Jewish community building, in 1994 scarred its collective psyche and made security its top priority. Synagogues and community centres across Argentina post security guards outside their doors and visitors must show identification before entering. Although it is widely suspected that Hezbollah was responsible for the attacks, former president Carlos Menem's government did little to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"AMIA and the embassy bombing is another issue that pushed us out. It didn't happen directly to us but AMIA was ours. It's been nine years without justice," says Daniel Pomeranchik, who moved here with his wife Gabriela two months ago. They had been planning to leave Argentina since they were married two years ago.

Now, the economic recession has also taken its toll. Out of over 200,000 Jews, about 10,000 have emigrated and more than 61,000 are living below the poverty line. Enrolment in Jewish schools is down and many families can't afford to pay for membership in Jewish community centres. A centre for abused children has sprung up in the Jewish neighbourhood of Once (pronounced "on-say"), and soup kitchens and relief centres provide hot meals and shelter.

* * *

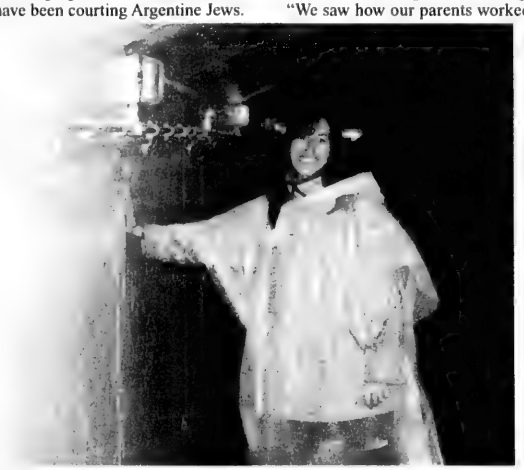
Aware of the situation, the aging Jewish communities in Montreal and Winnipeg have been courting Argentine Jews. Ads promoting immigration to Canada are posted throughout Buenos Aires. One touting Winnipeg caught the attention of Fabian Levy-Hara and his wife Andrea Daiam.

"We weren't [consciously] thinking of immigrating, but obviously that was what we had in the back of our minds, because when we saw the notice, it caught our attention," he says.

Shortly after that, Fabian, an IT specialist, and Andrea, an elementary school teacher, chose to come to Toronto with their two children. Despite the promotional efforts of the Manitoba capital, they say they decided on the GTA because it's more cosmopolitan than Winnipeg.

They're here for the long term, they say, because saving money and planning for the future are nearly impossible in Argentina. Like Luis Hermelin and Monica Zalcman, they, too, did not want to grow old in Argentina.

"We saw how our parents worked all their lives only to reach retirement age without any security. When they can't work any more their children have to support them," says Fabian. "The social security is very bad, health care is very bad, the public hospitals are not good and the pensions are a joke. It's nothing, *es nada*."



Patricia Wendy visited Niagara Falls earlier this summer with husband Daniel and their two children. After a two-year wait for visas, the family came to Toronto from Argentina in June, because their standard of living was "middle class and falling."

Fabian and Andrea got their visas for Canada in November 2001, four months after they applied and one month before the devaluation and the riots that ousted five presidents in less than two weeks. They arrived in April 2002.

"When we got the visas, they were good for one year. We waited and decided to spend Passover there together with the family, the last holiday, then we came," says Andrea.

Continued on page B31

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Shlepping my way to a stronger Jewish identity

By LAUREN KRUGEL
CJN Intern

Jill, my roommate in first year, had never met a Jewish person before she met me.

Among the many things she found amusing about me, Jill was most intrigued by my use of the word "shlep."

Try defining the "shlep" – or any Yiddish word, for that matter – for a non-Jew. It's nearly impossible.

Whether I was shlepping to French class or wearing a shleppy pair of sweat pants, Jill could never stop chuckling at my quirky vocabulary.

Around Christmas time, she would belt out her Yiddish-laced rendition of Jingle Bells – instead of "dashing" through the snow, it was "shlepping."

Latkes and hamantaschen, courtesy of my Bubbie, were also a treat, as Jill had never seen or tasted homemade Jewish cuisine before. I'd leave my room for half an hour, come back and realize my goodies had mysteriously disappeared.

For the first time in my life, I was an oddity, which made me feel both proud and self-conscious. It seemed the farther away I was from other Jews, the more aware I became of my Jewish ideosyncracies.

I grew up in what I like to call a selectively religious household. We're not regular

Lauren Krugel

shul-goers, we don't keep kosher and we're not shomrei Shabbat (Saturdays are for Costco expeditions, not shul).

It wasn't until I went away to Carleton University that being Jewish really meant something to me.

I began to miss the jokes, the food, the songs and the simchahs. I missed not having to explain what exactly I ment by "*oy vay*." While I was never very actively Jewish, a love for my community seemed to seep in through osmosis over the years.

At the same, time it was exciting to meet and exchange stories with people of cultures I would have never encountered in Thornhill (Jill happened to be the first Cree person I had ever met).

With my meagre knowledge of Jewish customs, I would try to explain why I lit a chanukiah during Chanukah (in defiance of the rule against lighting candles in residence rooms) or why I (attempted to) fast on Yom Kippur.

I wasn't alone, thankfully. I had my Bubbie and her friends in Ottawa to welcome me with open arms. I always had a place to go for holiday and Shabbat dinners – and I had my own free dating service to boot (though nothing really worked out with the nice Jewish boys they tried to set me up with).

While I never got involved in the Hillel on campus, I made my own small network of Jewish friends.

The first Jewish friend I made was Jason, a stray Jew my Bubbie's friend took under her wing at a Rosh Hashanah service.

It became a tradition that Jason would throw "Jew-dos" every holiday. He hosted latke parties, matzah brie brunches and potluck Shabbat dinners. These get-togethers often involved large quantities of Maneschewitz wine and more food than our stomachs could handle.

Going away to university was an eye-opening experience in other ways.

Of course, I faced anti-Semitism on campus, but I also had the opportunity to learn about the other side of the Middle East conflict through discussion and debate. The "us versus them" mentality, I learned, is completely counterproductive.

The endless discussions I would have with my Jewish and non-Jewish friends left me feeling more frustrated and more alive than I ever had before. I began to wade into the grey areas, and refused to accept anything I was told at face value – from the Israeli or Palestinian side.

I'll probably never be fluent in Hebrew or strictly observant, but leaving my sheltered Jewish bubble in Thornhill opened the floodgates to new ideas, new challenges and a stronger sense of Jewish identity.

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Community Focus

Early Toronto kashruth situation chaotic

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Special to The CJN

The following article is adapted and updated from a series of articles previously published in The CJN in September 1997.

A strong, central body to regulate kashrut is often said to be a hallmark of a sophisticated Jewish community. Certainly, such a body ensures consistency in policy, methodology and philosophy of supervision.

Toronto is one such city, where the Kashruth Council of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto (COR) oversees institutions, businesses and products that wish to be acceptable to the kosher public.

The idea of a single communal body is generally accepted in the city, and COR is considered a reputable hechsher. Some small groups or individual rabbis – such as chassidic dynasties or Sephardim on Pesach – occasionally supervise individual institutions or products that conform to their specific requirements, but they also cooperate with COR.

It was not always that way. At times, the situation has been so rancorous that some sections of the community were either not talking to each other, avoided eating food supervised by one of the other groups, or ostentatiously ate only salads at an institution or function whose kashrut was certified by the "opposing" side.

In the late 19th century, the then-Orthodox Holy Blossom, the first synagogue established in Toronto, imported a shochet from Buffalo to provide the congregation with kosher meat.

The problem, explained Stephen Speisman, former director of the Ontario Jewish Archives and author of *The Jews of Toronto; a history to 1937*, was that "when Toronto had kosher meat, Buffalo didn't."

Holy Blossom soon hired a congregational minister who was also a shochet, and arranged for a butcher at the St. Lawrence Market to keep a separate table and set of utensils for kosher meat. While anyone could use the meat, Holy Blossom members had the first choice of cuts, and the rest of the community took what was left over. For many, it was not a satisfactory solution.

In the years before World War II, some attempts were made to have a universal kashrut system, but the efforts were sporadic and eventually ceased.

People shopped using the principle that the food would be kosher if they bought from a butcher or baker they knew and trusted. However, there was a good deal of fraud, with meat being advertised as kosher that wasn't, and conflicts of interest often affected the supervision.

This chaotic situation could not continue, especially with the influx of religious survivors of the Holocaust who demanded reputably supervised kosher meat, poultry and baked goods.

Meyer Gasner, an active and respected communal leader, became the founding chair of the Division of Orthodox Synagogues, in the early 1950s. Under his leadership, rabbis, community leaders and representatives of Canadian Jewish Congress joined to establish a body to supervise kashrut.

An early report by Gasner charged that only 50 per cent of poultry sold in Toronto as kosher, at kosher prices, was actually ritually slaughtered by a shochet.

He also charged that some butchers who catered to the Jewish community and displayed the word "kosher" on their windows and in their ads, used meat that was *treif*.

In 1954, after much negotiation, the new division signed co-operation agreements with rabbis David Ochs, Meyer Greenwald and Avraham Aron Price, in which each side agreed to accept the supervisory jurisdiction of the other.

But the situation was not fully remedied until the 1960s, when the federal government's Department of Consumer Affairs passed a law forbidding the fraudulent use of labelling, packaging, advertising or selling food that did not meet the requirements of kashrut.

For over 30 years, Rabbi Gedaliah Felder, a renowned talmudic scholar, was chair of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth, the body of rabbis that served as advisors and consultants to the kashrut department. In addition to his scholarship, Rabbi Felder was respected and accepted by all segments of the Jewish community.

This also applied to Nachman Shemen, an ordained rabbi and scholar (he did not use his title of "rabbi" in his work with the kashrut department), who was executive director of the vaad for nearly 50 years.

Shemen and Rabbi Felder were succeeded at their deaths by rabbis Yitzchak Kerzner and Mordechai Levin.

The Kashruth Council, as it is now called, supervises a growing number of restaurants, bakeries, butcher shops and institutions. It publishes a regularly updated guide to kosher products and businesses, and is planning to open a Web site.

Many people believe that kashrut supervision is, or should be, a straightforward, mechanical matter, and they find it hard to understand why kosher products are more expensive than non-kosher ones, especially meat and poultry.

Some of the difference is easily explained. Kosher schchitah (ritual slaughter) is a more expensive process than non-kosher slaughter, because of its meticulous attention to methods used, the acceptability of far fewer pieces of meat or poultry and the fact that only the front half of a cow can be used. (The back half is sold to non-kosher butchers.)

As well, because there is so much more non-kosher meat available, stores can offer much better specials on it.

Continued on page B15

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Mashgiach checks products at every stage of preparation

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

David Berk of Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers, says the basic rule behind operating a kosher catering business is that if the kitchen is open, the mashgiach is there.

The mashgiach, or kashrut supervisor, who is there under a contractual agreement with the Kashruth Council of Toronto, checks all products brought into the kitchen, and supervises the preparation of food.

He also takes any new equipment such as pots and pans or cutlery to the mikvah to be properly koshered. All glass, metal and ceramic utensils are *toiveled* – immersed in a vessel mikvah in a separate room, using water that flows from the same source as that used in the main part of the mikvah.

Berk, who provides catering at four synagogues, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Adath Israel, Pride of Israel and Adath Shalom, as well as for private clients, says his mashgiach, a Lubavitch rabbi with smichah from Israel, ensures that every food item brought into their establishment has an approved *hechsher*.

He is also in charge of checking produce such as lettuce, broccoli and asparagus tips for bugs, he says.

Currently, the Kashruth Council of Toronto forbids the use of berries such as raspberries or blackberries because those fruits are too difficult to check.

"They are very delicate and once they are checked they are not suitable for use. They cannot be washed sufficiently to satisfy kosher requirements," Berk says.

The mashgiach is also involved in supervising food that is cooked in Zuchter Berk's own kitchens and transported to off-site locations.

"He ensures that all the food is packed up and sealed, and is only opened at the other end by another mashgiach. It is a strict chain of events; we are not allowed to tamper with any box that has already been sealed."

Berk says the Kashruth Council of Toronto is continually updating information about kosher products, and caterers are kept right up to date. "We are not a dairy caterer, so it is essential for us to ensure that every product we use is pareve or meat."

Miriam Myerovitz, of Miriam's Table, who caters at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, as well as for private functions, says the mashgiach – their former mashgiach has now been replaced by his son – checks all their bills to ensure that items come from a kosher establishment.

"People can be assured that if the Kashruth Council declares a kitchen kosher, it is kosher."

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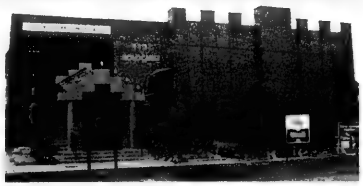
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Supervising kashruth a complex matter

Continued from page 13

Kosher grocery items, on the other hand, are not generally more expensive than non-kosher brands. A spokesperson from the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations, whose OU hechsher is one of the most often seen and respected, told *The CJN* that food manufacturing companies consider kosher supervision a marketing device, a means of attracting more customers, and feel that the costs are evened out by the goodwill generated.

Many large supermarket chains have an increasing number of house brand products under kosher supervision. This brings the cost down considerably, since their prices are determined the same way as those of the non-kosher products. President's Choice, Smart Choice and Our Compliments, for instance, have extensive and high quality kosher product lines.

Finally, the higher prices of kosher products from Israel and the United States reflect the cost of shipping and handling, as well as the poor showing of the Canadian dollar as compared to the American.

Other foods besides meat and poultry offer challenges for kashrut supervisors, particularly in the face of rapidly changing food production technologies. Thus, Rabbi Levin, an expert in ingredients and flavours used in processed products, and supervisors and inspectors must have a wide knowledge of the complexities of food technology and biochemistry.

Some 700 mashgichim – inspectors and supervisors – oversee cooking or manufacturing processes in businesses, institutions and restaurants. This involves keeping files on all the ingredients used to prepare, process and preserve a product, as well as any changes in those processes that manufacturers may introduce from time to time.

As well, they must ensure that the equipment used is acceptable by halachic standards. For instance, a company may begin to process baked beans in the same equipment in which it processes pork and beans.

Bakeries must ensure that in the baking process, challah is taken. Halachah demands that whenever a certain amount of flour is used in a recipe, some of it must be separated and burned in the oven. This practice was implemented to replicate somewhat the sacrifices in the Temple.

Oil can also be problematic. The term "vegetable oil" does not always mean that there is absolutely no animal fat – government labelling laws permit a tiny amount of an ingredient to be omitted from the ingredient label.

Cheese may contain rennet, a coagulant that often contains animal products.

Vegetables, which at first appear to have no kashrut considerations, do in fact have to be checked. Rabbi Levin explained that with government bans on the use of pesticides, there are often bugs, which we are not permitted to eat, in the folds and flowerets of vegetables. While in a private home it is easy to carefully check a head of lettuce or broccoli, a large facility, which might easily use several hundred lettuces for a salad course, would find it far more difficult.

It is acceptable, he said, to use vegetables such as asparagus and broccoli if they are carefully cleaned, washed, inspected and then ground up, for example, to make soup.

Certain vegetables, like romaine lettuce which for some unknown reason seems to attract bugs, require so much checking, that it is simply not warranted to use them, he said, although new technologies being developed, such as hydroponics, may help.

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Krispy Kreme doughnuts at centre of kashrut controversy

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The Kashruth Council of Canada (COR), perhaps Canada's premier kashrut supervisory body, is embroiled in a dispute over doughnuts.

Late last summer, Krispy Kreme, a large American doughnut manufacturer based in Winston-Salem, N.C., opened a restaurant outside Hillcrest Mall in Richmond Hill. It was the company's second location in Canada – the first was in Mississauga – but the new one had one major difference: its doughnuts were kosher.

They were not, however, under the supervision of COR. Instead, the doughnuts (not the restaurant proper, it must be noted) are under the supervision of KSA, Kosher Supervisors of America, a Los Angeles-based kashrut body.

Although no one, including COR, questions the validity of KSA as a hechsher on packaged goods, the acceptability of the Richmond Hill Krispy Kreme doughnuts has become a serious bone of contention, as well as a ubiquitous subject of conversation, among kashrut-observant Jews.

This has caused particular confusion in the mind of many members of the public, because packaged goods supervised by such out-of-town agencies as O-U, O-K, Star-K, MK and the Chicago Rabbinical Council (CRC) are seen everywhere.

COR insists that since there is established and accepted kashrut supervision in the GTA, KSA has no right to issue its own hechsher here. Many of the city's rabbis agree and have advised their congregations not to buy Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

COR has gone further, ordering establishments under its supervision to remove all products with a KSA hechsher from their shelves. Supermarkets, such as Sobey's on Clark Avenue in Thornhill, which has a large kosher section, do carry KSA products, although not in their kosher sections.

Jason Greenspan, customer relationship manager of KremeKo, which operates Krispy Kreme stores in Canada, except for British Columbia, said the company wanted to have a uniform standard of kashrut across the country.

"KSA allows us to have a kosher product across Canada. It is a hechsher that is recognized across Canada and around the world."

All the stores are supervised by local mashgichim, Greenspan said. The doughnut mix, however, which is supplied by the parent company, is under the supervision of Kosher Overseers of America (KOA), a hechsher based, as is KSA, in Los Angeles. Other ingredients, such as sugar, are bought locally, and must have proper hechshers.

KSA takes no responsibility for products sold in the outlets other than the doughnuts, Greenspan said.

Rabbi Binyomin Lisbon, rabbinic administrator of KSA, said Krispy Kreme doughnuts are certified kosher on the same basis as any manufactured product, such as cookies or salad dressing. Even if they are baked by non-Jews or baked by them on Shabbat, they can still be kosher, he said.

"When you buy a box of cookies, you don't even think about when they were made, or who made them. Just that they are properly supervised."

Continued on page B17

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Community Focus

Kashrut dispute centres on doughnuts

Continued from page B16

Rabbi Ari Weiss of Toronto co-ordinates the relationship between KSA and Krispy Kreme in the GTA. He noted that MK supervises Krispy Kreme doughnuts in Montreal, as does Star-K in Baltimore.

"We feel that we have an obligation to provide kashrut supervision when possible," Rabbi Weiss said. "It is a vital service to the Jewish community."

Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner, chair of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth of the Kashruth Council, told *The CJN*, "We are not saying that Krispy Kreme is kosher, or that it is not kosher. We simply don't know enough about the workings of KSA [in Toronto] to make any decisions."

Part of COR's concern is that Krispy Kreme does not comply with one of its main criteria: Shabbat observance. The business is open on Shabbat, and doughnuts are baked on that day.

Rabbi Kerzner said the decision to not recognize Krispy Kreme doughnuts "wasn't only my personal opinion. It was unanimously endorsed by the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth."

There is no way "we can supervise what is happening on Shabbat, and we don't know exactly what is going on or the procedures that are carried out in the manufacture of these doughnuts," he said.

But kashrut itself is not the only question. It is a matter of maintaining COR's status as the only source of kashrut supervision in the city.

COR is a non-profit organization and seeks only to cover its expenses, which are mainly the salaries of mashgichim and the costs of administration.

Other large cities, such as Los Angeles and New York, have considerably larger Jewish populations than Toronto and the effects of having multiple hechshers there are not as great. If several supervisory bodies were competing in the city for business, Toronto, with a finite number of Jewish firms and institutions, could easily find itself either without a central body at all, or inundated with unacceptable or downright fraudulent hechshers. This is certainly what has happened in New York, for instance.

On the other hand, some in the community think that having competition in the kashrut supervisory system would bring down the cost of keeping kosher in Toronto. Others say there is no concrete evidence to prove that this is so.

After-Shabbat seating ban hits eateries

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Pizza is at the centre of a second kashrut controversy in the city.

Kosher restaurants on the strip of Bathurst Street just south of Lawrence Avenue have been instructed by a number of local roshei yeshiva – on pain of losing their hechshers, the owners believe – to forbid seating after Shabbat – that is, to operate only as take-out – and to close at 11:30 p.m.

There are appear to be two somewhat interconnected reasons for these directives. First, this is the area where the murder of David Rosenzweig took place last summer, and it's reputed to be one where illegal drugs are easily obtained. The alleged killer was said to be looking for drugs the night of the murder.

As well, it is also a place where frum youths of both sexes congregate and socialize after Shabbat. Several roshei yeshiva feel this kind of behaviour is unacceptable.

Restaurants where youngsters do not tend to hang out do seat patrons after Shabbat. As well, restaurants elsewhere in the city, including branches of those on the Bathurst-Lawrence strip, also seat patrons.

Restaurant owners, when asked who was responsible for the orders, attributed them somewhat vaguely to "the rabbis."

But both Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner, chair of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth of the Kashruth Council, and Rabbi Mordechai Levin, executive director of the Kashruth Council, told *The CJN* emphatically that these directives did not come from COR.

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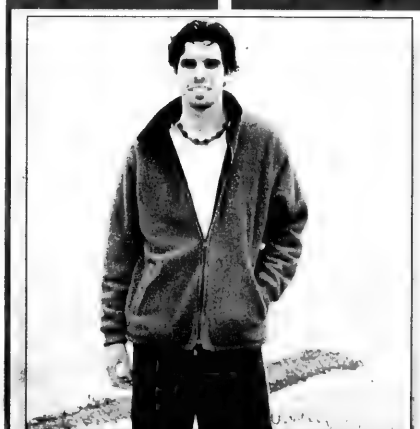

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Jewish Toronto Tomorrow: a progress report

By FRANCES KRAFT
and LAUREN KRUGEL
Staff Reporters

Hard hat on head and cellphone in hand, Zac Kaye, executive director of Hillel of Greater Toronto, led a small tour group through the construction site of the Jewish campus group's soon-to-be headquarters last month.

The long-awaited Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life – Canada's first "purpose-built" Hillel centre – is scheduled to open in October at the northwest corner of Huron and Harbord streets. The 12,000-square-foot building will serve Jewish students at the University of Toronto's downtown campus and will also house the staff of Hillel of Greater Toronto, the umbrella for Jewish students groups at U of T, York University, Ryerson University and Seneca College.

Miles Nadal JCC [Lauren Krugel photo]

"It's very exciting," said Kaye. Although the skylit canopied entrance promises to be "quite dramatic," he is equally ebullient about the basement of the three-story building, with its kitchen and 150-person seating capacity. It will be a great place for seminars, he said, not to mention Shabbat dinners.

The main floor will house a student lounge with a gas fireplace and offices for U of T Hillel staff. Upstairs, a resource room and semi-circular "spiritual space" will be the main focus. There is even a sukkah balcony, Kaye pointed out.

Kaye's office and office space for his staff, along with two apartments, are on the third floor.

In addition to function, the Wolfond Centre will offer visual appeal, said Kaye. "[Architect] Susan [Friedrich] put a lot of thought into the esthetic look of the building."

Kaye said the centre will be "a place for students to hang out, to study and to do Jewish learning." With time he hopes Hillel can provide an increasing number of meals.

He said Hillel will continue to have a visible presence on campus, with tables and programs, even though it now has a well-located building that is significantly more appealing than its former, cramped basement location. "We want to be out there."

Meanwhile, a few blocks away at the southwest corner of Bloor Street and Spadina Avenue, the 50-year-old Miles Nadal JCC is finishing up a massive facelift to help it continue as the epicentre of downtown Jewish life.

This weekend, the centre will be "open from the ground up," said executive director Naomi Rose from her temporary office a few doors down.

From left, Eli Savage, associate director, Wolfond Centre's Stephanie Wener and Zac Kaye of Hillel of Greater Toronto. [Frances Kraft photo]

While many older people in the community remember going to dances and other events in the old building's heyday, a number of new activities are being offered within the centre's new gleaming glass facade.

Rose said at first she underestimated the number of Jews who could benefit from the Nadal JCC. According to the 2001 census, about 32,000 Jews live between Eglinton Avenue and Lakeshore Boulevard.

Rose said she hopes the centre will be a "magnet for Jewish people to gather."

The revamped building will accommodate a wider variety of programs, she said. The centre plans to expand activities for teens, seniors and young adults. A toddler shabbat program and expanded holiday services will start in early September.

"We're capitalizing on the expanded space. We're looking forward to renewed levels of activity," she said.

Rose said the Nadal JCC will also provide the only venue for Toronto's "vibrant Jewish arts community." The Al Green Theatre, formerly a small gymnasium, has been transformed into a professional-quality, 288-seat performance space. She said the stage's shock-absorbing sprung floor makes it ideal for dance and theatre, while the theatre's retractable seating makes it a "flexible space" that can also be used for parties and dances.

The retail shops that line the first floor of the JCC facing Bloor Street have "been an advantage to anyone who lives in the neighbourhood," said Rose. In addition to a Second Cup right on the corner, there is also a bubble tea shop and a newsstand.

Continued on page B19

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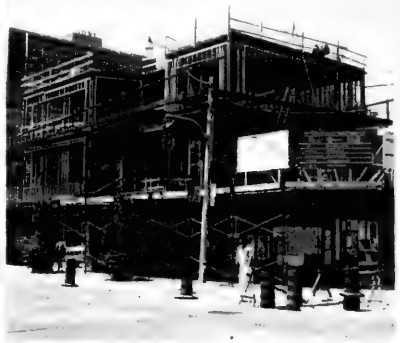

Wolfond Centre under construction in July
[Frances Kraft photo]

New campuses to meet future needs of Toronto's Jews

Continued from page B18

Another new addition is the Minto Corporation Technology Centre, where students and others in the community can sharpen their computer skills.

While members continue to work out and take fitness classes in the building, these programs will also undergo some changes. What is now the gutted bottom floor of the Nadal JCC will be a state-of-the-art fitness centre by next spring.

The Wolfond Centre and the Nadal JCC constitute the downtown "campus" of an ambitious three-pronged plan, known as Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT), which was launched by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto in 2000 to meet the long-term needs of the city's Jewish community, including a Jewish population in York Region that is expected to reach more than 75,000 people by 2010.

The other two campuses – the Lipa Green Building/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre site and a 50-acre lot at Bathurst Street and Weldrick Avenue in Richmond Hill – are now the subject of extensive discussions with municipal officials, planners and federation leadership, said Howard English, federation's director of marketing and communications. "The proposed projects will be unprecedented in scope and quality, not only for our city, but for North America as well."

More details are expected to be announced in the fall, he said.

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Community Focus

The Eglinton Theatre, a Kaplan and Sprachman project
[Photo courtesy Ontario Jewish Archives]

Architect firms' records now at Ontario Jewish Archives

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Photographs, blueprints and press clippings documenting the career of the late Toronto architect Harold Kaplan and his firm Kaplan and Sprachman are now in the Ontario Jewish Archives.

Records of Kaplan and Sprachman's work are also at the City of Toronto Archives, the Archives of Ontario and the National Archives of Canada.

Kaplan's two daughters, Phyllis Pepper of Toronto, a physio/occupational therapist, and Ruthetta Reiss of New York, an architect, donated the materials to OJA. They said they wanted their father's contribution to Canadian architecture available to Toronto's Jewish community.

"As we started going through my father's papers, we found out that the Jewish archives did not have any of his memorabilia," Pepper said. "So we decided that this was where we wanted his material to remain permanently."

Kaplan was a partner with Abraham Sprachman at Kaplan and Sprachman from the early 1920s to 1965.

Continued on page B21

Community Focus

Firm designed shuls, clubs, movie houses, institutions

A 1952 photo of Jewish Home For The Aged under construction.
[Courtesy Ontario Jewish Archives Harold Kaplan collection]

Continued from page B20

The architectural firm designed the historic Anshei Minsk Synagogue, the Shaarei Shomayim synagogue at 840 St. Clair Avenue W., Beth Israel Synagogue in Edmonton, Beth Israel in Vancouver, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, the new Mount Sinai Hospital, Oakdale Golf and Country Club and numerous other synagogues and institutions throughout the country.

The firm also designed new and modernized old movie houses, including the award-winning Eglinton theatre and the Towne Cinema on Bloor Street.

Harold was born in Bucharest, Romania, and moved with his widowed mother, Tillie Hohan, to England when he was three years old. Four years later, they moved to Toronto, where his mother married Frank Kaplan.

Continued on page B22

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Kaplans a "traditional family"

Continued from page B21

When he was a teenager, Harold went to Philadelphia to live with his uncle, where he learned draftsmanship. When he returned to Toronto, he attended night school and graduated in architecture. He married Dorothy Spain in 1923.

The Kaplans, who belonged to Holy Blossom Temple, were "a very traditional family," Pepper said.

Pepper remembers her father as "a very refined man." She said he would go to work early in the morning and arrive home promptly at 6 p.m. for dinner with the family. He would wear his silk smoking jacket during dinner, and he would return to his Dundas Street office every evening.

Harold continued to work as an architectural consultant after Kaplan and Sprachman was dissolved in 1965. He died in 1973, at the age of 77. The Kaplans had four grandchildren, Andrew and Douglas Pepper, and Jonathan and Rosemary Reiss, and seven great-grandchildren.

Above, Anshei Minsk

Please see more historical community pictures on next page.

Right, Bellevue Theatre

[Photos courtesy Ontario Jewish Archives Harold Kaplan collection]

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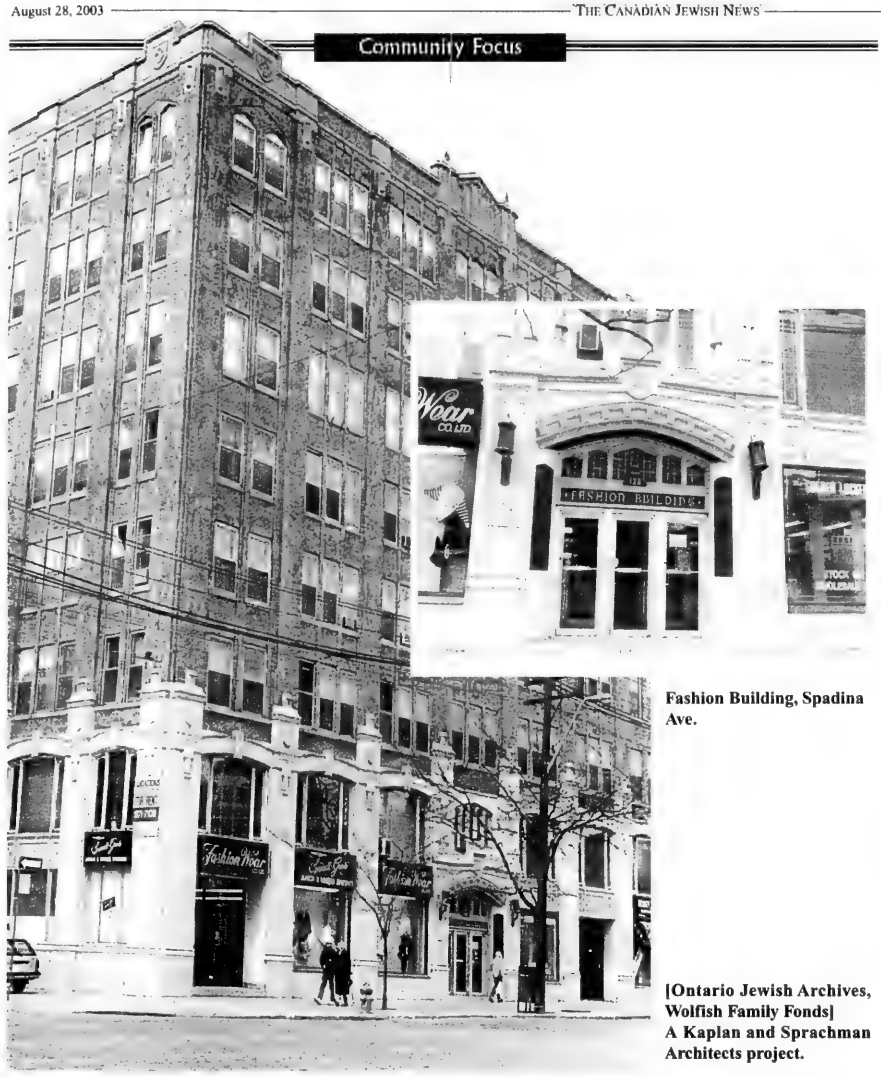
Community Focus



Fashion Building, Spadina Ave.

[Ontario Jewish Archives, Wolfish Family Fonds]
A Kaplan and Sprachman Architects project.

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JIAS Toronto looking for volunteers to befriend immigrants

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Janice Roth, executive director of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Toronto for the past four months, says the community has an obligation to ensure it's a welcoming place for everybody. "That's my framework."

Some people think the agency, which serves about 800 families a year, is "very Russian," she said, referring to the largest proportion of immigrants JIAS serves, but it also serves French-speaking, Hebrew-speaking and Spanish-speaking immigrants who hail mainly from Argentina.

"All services have to be available in all languages," said Roth in an interview in her office. She works in the Lipa Green Building, adjacent to the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre where she was director of programming for six years before taking on her new position.

Work is 'uplifting'

A social worker by profession, Roth worked with people who have developmental disabilities at the Miriam Home in her native Montreal before she moved to Toronto in 1997. It helped shape her "focus on developing inclusive communities," she said.

Roth sees JIAS Toronto's role not just as resettlement but integration. "I see JIAS as the Jewish community's agency to build the community to be receptive to immigrants' needs, to make it more welcoming and to work with the established agencies to ensure that the immigrants' needs are met."

A task force that co-ordinates services for Argentine immigrants among different agencies reflects that vision. The group includes JIAS Toronto, JVS, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Jewish Information Service.

But "we'll use it as a framework for welcoming all immigrants," whose priority needs are employment, affordable housing and day care, Roth said.

Poverty is "quite high" among immigrants, she said, adding that it's more common than one might think for three generations to live in a one- or two-bedroom apartment with one washroom.

"I don't think people realize what it means to start over," said Roth. "There are a lot of costs associated with upgrading and retraining, in addition to resettling... Even if they know the situation in advance, it doesn't change living it. That initial period is incredibly unsettling."

Difficulties notwithstanding, Roth said her work is "really uplifting. People come with hope and excitement, and it's our job to maintain that as we help them find their way."

Janice Roth holds a multi-lingual welcome sign. [Frances Kraft photo]

While JIAS' job is to offer services to clients, it's also to educate and sensitize the community, Roth believes. "There are educated and skilled immigrants, but it doesn't necessarily translate into a job here."

JIAS also helps families integrate Jewishly, Roth said. Although JIAS Toronto has facilitated Passover seder invitations and High Holy Day synagogue tickets in the past, now the organization is also looking to match immigrant families with established families who can befriend them and advise them on things like schools and other neighbourhood amenities.

The Toronto agency, with one volunteer worker and a staff of seven, including Roth, is in the final stages of becoming an independent agency as part of a restructuring process that has taken almost two years.

Previously, JIAS Toronto and its counterpart in Montreal were both affiliated with JIAS Canada, which now deals with immigration issues in other communities.

Continued on page B25

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Community Focus

Jias restructured

Continued from page B24

"Certainly there will be work we'll be doing together, but it will be a separate agency," said Roth.

JIAS Canada, which used to be housed in the Lipa Green Building with JIAS Toronto, moved on May 1 to new 900-square-foot premises in an office building on Dufferin Street, north of Finch Avenue.

Mila Voihanski, executive director of the national agency and immediate past acting director of JIAS Toronto, said that although the two organizations are "still legally one," they are acting independently, with separate boards and budgets.

In fact, budgeting was restructured July 1, 2001. Prior to that, UIA Federations Canada (UIAFC) funded the JIAS offices in Montreal and Toronto, as well as the national agency. Now the Montreal agency receives its funding from Federation CJA, and JIAS Toronto is funded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The rest of Canada – informally referred to as ROC – still receives funding from UIAFC. The national office deals with immigration issues in communities from Vancouver to the Maritimes. JIAS Canada purchases services from local Jewish family service agencies, Jewish federations or Jewish community centres, said Voihanski, a social worker and native of Ukraine who has worked for JIAS for 28 of the 29 years she's been in Canada.

Continued on page B26

"The Prophet" by Ilya Gefter. Oil on canvas 1999. This gift from the artist hangs in the offices of JIAS Canada in Toronto.

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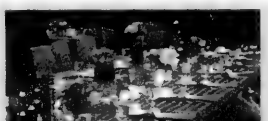

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New standards to be used across Canada

Cont'd from page B25

The national office, staffed by Voihanski, her assistant and a part-time bookkeeper, deals with government advocacy and public relations on immigration and refugee issues, such as family reunification, that apply to the entire country, said Voihanski.

Part of her role, she said, is to serve as the "in-house consultant" on immigration for all communities except Toronto and Montreal.

This October, she will attend a national conference on settlement in Calgary as an Ontario delegate. In May, she ran a conference for professionals whose services JIAS Canada uses.

JIAS Canada task forces address issues such as guidelines for financial assistance, which have varied from one city to another in the past, said Voihanski.

In February, the board approved a set of standards to be used across Canada, said Voihanski.

Funding has become more challenging under the new structure, said Voihanski, because Montreal and Toronto are the "biggest contributors to the national responsibility envelope."

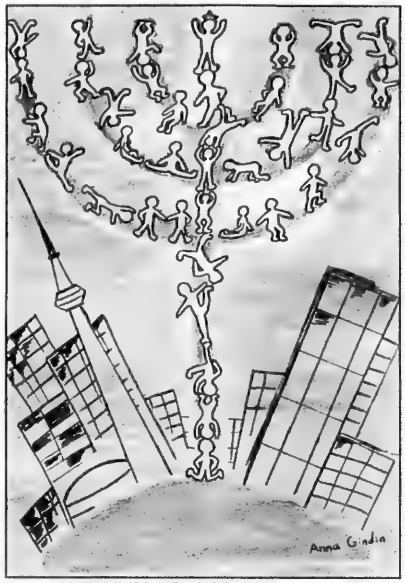
JIAS Canada's budget was increased for the 2003-2004 year by $205,000, mostly to meet financial assistance needs in Vancouver.

"The immigrant community [in Vancouver] has increased and [the number of] new families is almost the same as in Toronto. Also, the economic situation in Vancouver is very poor. The labour market is very poor, social service programs have been cut, and there is extremely little affordable housing."

Because of that, she said, Jewish immigrants tend to settle farther from the Jewish community and Jewish institutions, leading to difficulties with integration.

Perry Romberg, the director of planning and community services for UIAFC, told *The CJN* that the pressure on the Canadian Jewish dollar is very high because of the need to balance local and national needs with the needs of Israel, Argentina and the former Soviet Union.

"It puts a huge responsibility on us."



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Young immigrant Anna Gindin's artwork hangs in JIAS Canada's Toronto office and was used on the invitation to the opening of the new offices.

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Community Focus

"Zucker" synonymous with preparation for bar and bat mitzvah

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

For many people in Toronto, the phrase bar and bat mitzvah teacher is synonymous with the name Phillip (Faivel) Zucker.

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"It has long been said that anyone trained by Mr. Zucker can *layn* [read] virtually anything, even at a moment's notice," said Ralph Wintrob, a retired educator who studied with Zucker for more than two years.

"He is very knowledgeable and understands the content of the Torah completely and totally and its interpretations. You can ask him any question and he will give you an instant answer."

Zucker taught at the Associated Hebrew Schools for 32 years, and served as baal koreh (Torah reader) at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue for 40 years.

Phillip and Helen Zucker

Zucker was born in Serock, Poland, and as a teenager, he went to study at the Nvardoker yeshiva. At the outbreak of World War II, at the age of 21, he was taken prisoner by the Nazis, and sent across the border into Russian occupied eastern Poland, where the Jews worked in hard labour camps.

When the war was over in 1945, he was approached by a woman who begged him to marry her sister Chaja (Helen) Tuchman, who had lost her citizenship papers and was unable to leave the area.

Tuchman's family were from Kosow, 10 kilometres from Treblinka. She and her family had also been transported to Russian occupied Poland.

Zucker said he wasn't thinking of marrying, but Tuchman's sister insisted and they were married in the Russian territory.

Continued on page B28

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Community Focus

Zucker proud of contribution to Shaarei Shomayim

Continued from page B 27

"It took us 10 days to get a rabbi and we had to gather a minyan," he said. "We were married in a town near Kirov in 1946."

They were repatriated back to Poland in 1946. Zucker recalled that the long journey back to the border was a joyous trip during which they sang about the Messiah, songs filled with the hope of reuniting with family and friends.

To their surprise, when they crossed the border to Poland at Brest-Litovsk, they were greeted with stones and angry chants from the stone throwers shouting, "They are still alive."

They were in shock, Zucker said. They closed the wagon doors, and began to understand that they could not return to their own towns.

He discovered that his entire family – siblings, parents, grandparents and more than 100 extended family members – had perished in the Holocaust. As well, all of Helen Zucker's family in Poland had been killed.

They lived in Lodz for six months, but when they learned of a pogrom in nearby Kielce, Philip said, they ran. With the assistance of the Jewish underground, they crossed several borders. Their first daughter, Fay, was born in Germany.

In 1949, they came to Canada where Helen had a sister. They had two more daughters, Shirley and Bella. Phillip went to work in a men's sportswear factory for $35 a week. He was there for three years, but he wanted to earn more money.

"That Yom Kippur, I prayed to be able to make $1,000 more a year. Shortly afterwards, my prayers were answered when Jack Burke, principal of the evening school at the Associated Hebrew Schools, called and offered me a job.

'That Yom Kippur, I prayed to be able to make $1,000 more a year'

"I didn't think I knew the chanting. Mr. Burke opened a chumash, and asked me to read. After a minute, he said I was hired for $1,000 for the year. For seven years, I worked in the factory during the day and taught bar mitzvah at night. When a full-time job became available at the day school, I gave up the factory job."

The Zuckers have been members of Shaarei Shomayim for 44 years. Phillip had a stroke in 2000 and left his position as baal koreh there. He was paralyzed on one side, but today, after ongoing therapy, he has almost totally recovered.

"I have been very blessed to have good-hearted people in the shul who have helped me a great deal," Zucker said. He attends services at Shaarei Shomayim every morning. Since he no longer can walk to Shaarei Shomayim, on Shabbat he attends Beit Haminyan, which is a block from his house. He still reads the Torah sometimes. And he studies Talmud several times a week.

Looking back, he said he is pleased that he was part of the building of Shaarei Shomayim.

"I supplied young boys and girls with the knowledge to chant a Haftorah or the Megillah, and I believe this helped enlarge the membership."

Zucker's commitment to his students and his synagogue is recognized by many families.

"My husband is so committed to his work that we rarely took a vacation," Helen Zucker said. "We were given a trip to Israel on Shaarei Shomayim's 25th anniversary and by the Associated Hebrew Schools on his retirement – and we made three other trips to Israel."

The Zuckers have nine grandchildren, one great-grandchild and another one on the way.

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UJA VOLUNTEERS GIVE THEIR ALL: UJA Federation Board Chair Leslie Gales (fourth from left, standing) enjoys a moment of fun with a group of young volunteers at the 33rd annual UJA Federation Walk With Israel, held May 25. 20,000 people came together in support of Israel at the world's largest Israel solidarity walk.

BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL PROGRAM TAKES FLIGHT: Young Jews from across the GTA were part of the largest-ever Canadian summer Birthright Israel experience. More than 1600 young Jewish Canadians participated in the 10-day journey of self-discovery, funded in part by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, between May and August.

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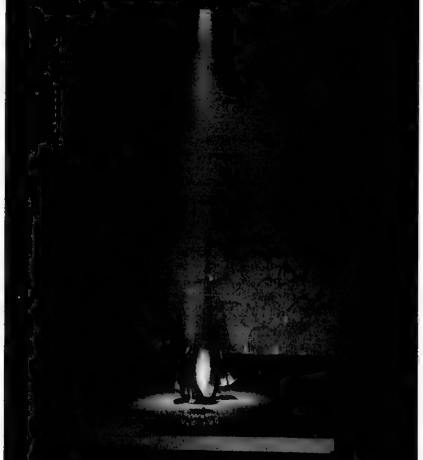

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Community Focus

ALLAN AND RICHARD WITH MEL AND MEIR: More than 20,000 members of the community participated in the UJA Federation Walk With Israel in May 2003, one of the first events in Campaign 2004. Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman (third from left) opened the Walk. Pictured here are (from left) Campaign 2004 Co-Chair Richard Venn, Israel Consul General Meir Romem, Lastman and Campaign 2004 Co-Chair Allan Silber.

TORONTONIANS MARCH IN HONOUR OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE: In May, more than 10,000 Torontonians came together to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel Independence Day, in a march up Bathurst Street.

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Community Focus

Slow adjustment to Canadian ways

Continued from page B10

Although their five-year-old son adjusted quickly, they still worry about the impression that Argentina left on their eight-year-old daughter. Melanie watched the street riots from their balcony, and Fabian fears that she incorrectly associated the riots with their leaving.

Melanie, however, has other concerns. She wants to know how Canadian children live. Do kids here take their baths before or after dinner-time, she wonders.

The lifestyle changes, from an eight-year-old's perspective, are huge. "In Buenos Aires we eat at 9 p.m. Here the kids are asleep by 9 p.m.," Fabian explains.

* * *

During the two years that Patricia Wendy and her husband Daniel waited for their visa applications to be processed, they researched Toronto so they would know exactly what they had to do when they got here.

In Buenos Aires, Patricia worked developing educational programs but had lost her job. Daniel was doing contract work in the computer industry. They were living off their savings and their situation was, as Patricia puts it, "middle class and falling." Even the tension on the city streets was palpable.

"It was hard to go out on the street there. Every day you found out that someone was killed or someone was kidnapped, so you went out with fear. That was the kind of insecurity that we could look forward to in the future," she says in Spanish.

Patricia and Daniel considered going to Israel, but decided against it because of her worries.

"It seems to me that it would be harder to break into Israeli society because the culture is very different from ours. None of us speaks Hebrew. And there is also insecurity there. To leave one insecure country to go to another insecure country – no. Living in Israel with the permanent conflict and the insecurity frightened me a lot."

Still Miss Argentina

They chose Toronto because it had more in common with Buenos Aires than Vancouver and Winnipeg, the other cities they considered, and arrived in June after waiting two years for visas. Neither Patricia nor Daniel has found a job yet, nor did they have a permanent address until recently, when Monica Zalcman helped them find an apartment in her building.

Patricia has noticed small differences between Toronto and Buenos Aires. For instance, she says, in Toronto, there is more greenery, everyone seems to speak a second language and bank machines always have money.

Her two daughters, ages 10 and 6, are getting used to calling Canada home, but she says it hasn't been easy.

"The older one says, 'I want to go back, I miss my friends, my grandparents, my cousins. I want to go back.' But on the other hand, she goes to summer camp and comes back happy," Patricia says. "It's a process that's going to take several months."

* * *

Despite their new life here, Andrea Daiam and Fabian Levy-Hara miss their native country.

She misses their house and their friends. He misses seeing familiar faces on the street, and has even taken to doing things that he's never done before.

"I started to listen to tango," says Fabian. "I've never listened to tango, and now I've started to listen to it."

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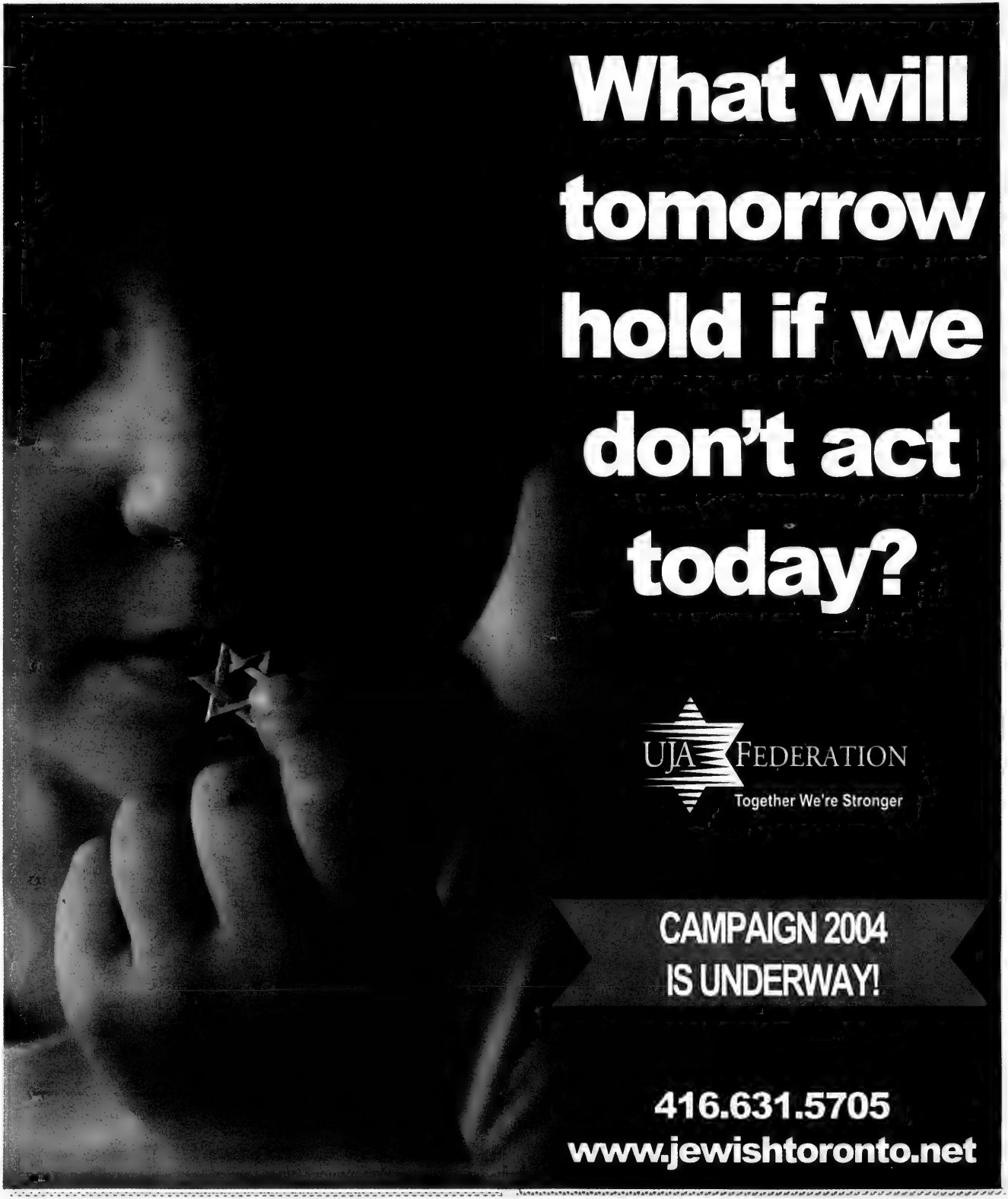
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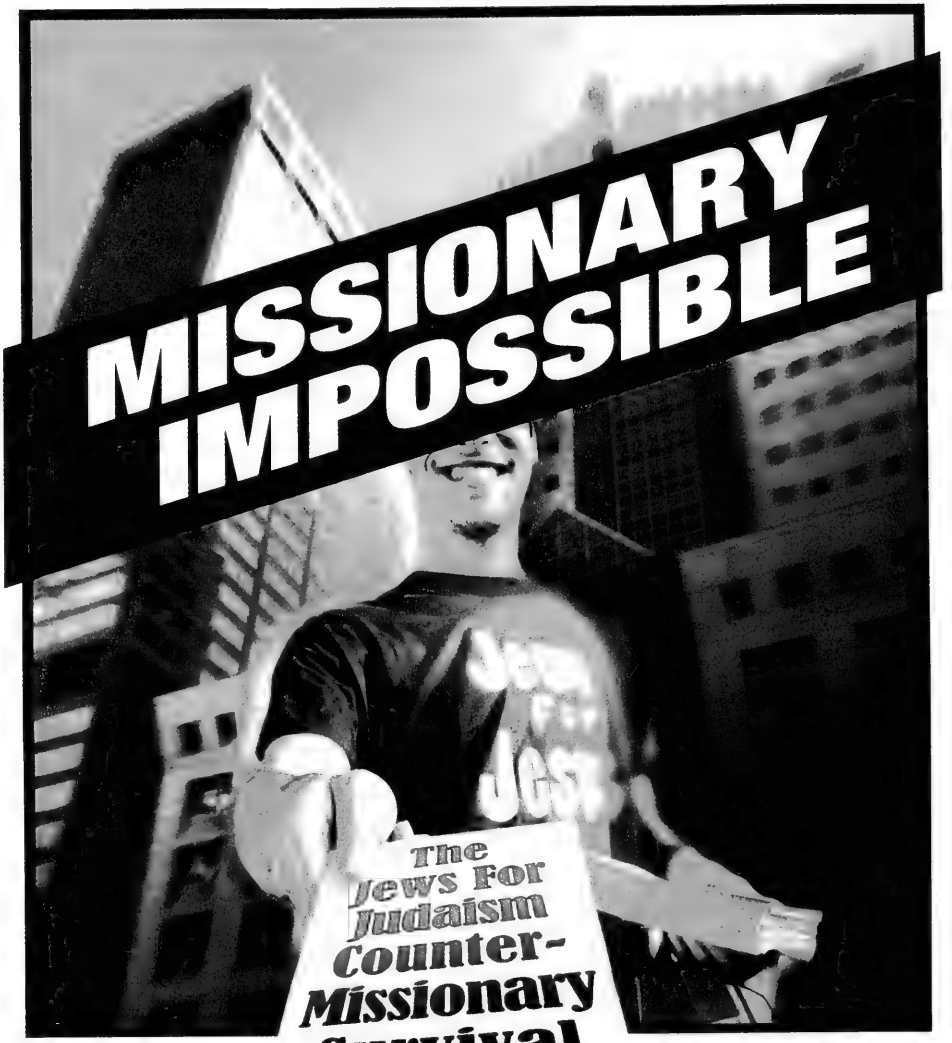


Jews for Judaism

www.jewsforjudaism.org

UJA Federation

Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region

BY RABBI MICHAEL SKOBAC

This summer, the Jewish community of Toronto will be the target of an aggressive missionary crusade by the notorious Jews for Jesus organization. From August 25 until September 14, they will blitz our city with a slick mass marketing campaign to convert Jews to Christianity. JEWS FOR JUDAISM, the world's leading counter-missionary organization, has prepared this practical guide to help you understand the tactics of groups like Jews for Jesus, and show you how to respond to their challenges.

WHO'S BEHIND JEWS FOR JESUS?

Most Christian denominations, including Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches and most mainline Protestant groups, such as the United Church, no longer have programs to convert Jews. On the other hand, Evangelical Protestants, who constitute about 10% of the Canadian population, devote a tremendous amount of money and energy to promote their faith among Jews. These Evangelicals fund over 1,000 different ministries worldwide, with over 40 in southern Ontario, that specifically target the Jewish community for conversion. Jews for Jesus is the largest and best-known of these groups. Their upcoming crusade in Toronto is part of a five-year, multimillion-dollar campaign targeting over 60 cities worldwide with Jewish populations of over 25,000.

• *Why do Evangelical Christians seek to convert us?*

Evangelicals assert that the only way to have a relationship with G-d is by embracing Jesus. They feel driven to "save" all non-Christians who they believe will be doomed to an eternity in hell unless they convert.

• *But isn't it true that Evangelical Christians are very supportive of Israel?*

Yes. Many Evangelicals are lending important political and financial support to the State of Israel. However, most of them also engage in, or support, efforts to convert Jews.

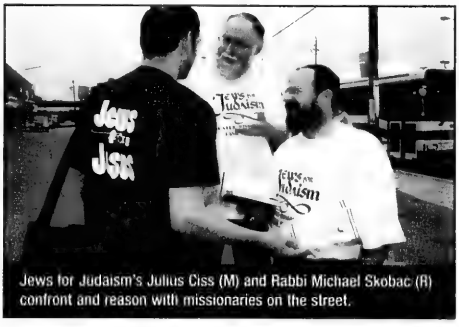
Over 250,000 Jews have been converted to Christianity over the past 30 years.

• *Are these missionary groups really a serious threat?*

Unfortunately, these groups have become increasingly successful. Over the past 30 years, more than 250,000 Jews have been converted and the numbers continue to grow.

• *Why are these missionaries so successful?*

There are two significant factors. The first is the increasing vulnerability of Jews due to a lack of solid Jewish education and meaningful Jewish spiritual experiences. The second is the missionaries' development of a cunning marketing strategy designed to overcome resistance to conversion and feelings of guilt by promoting the deceptive message, "It's Jewish to believe in Jesus". Some of their tactics include mimicking Jewish holidays and rituals. For example, missionaries may wear skullcaps and prayer shawls, light Shabbat candles and celebrate Chanukah. They distort the meanings of these practices, claiming, for example, that the three matzos at the Passover Seder symbolize the Christian Trinity. In addition, they frequently use misleading euphemisms, such as 'rabbi' in place of pastor, 'become a completed Jew' instead of 'convert to Christianity', 'mikvah service' for baptism and 'synagogue' instead of church.



Jews for Judaism's Julius Ciss (M) and Rabbi Michael Skobac (R) confront and reason with missionaries on the street.

photo: www.ponkawonka.com

FAST FACTS ON JEWS FOR JESUS

- *Jews for Jesus and similar groups claim to be Jews who have come to believe in Jesus.*

Actually, many members of groups like Jews for Jesus and even their leadership are gentiles. They are not and have never been Jews.

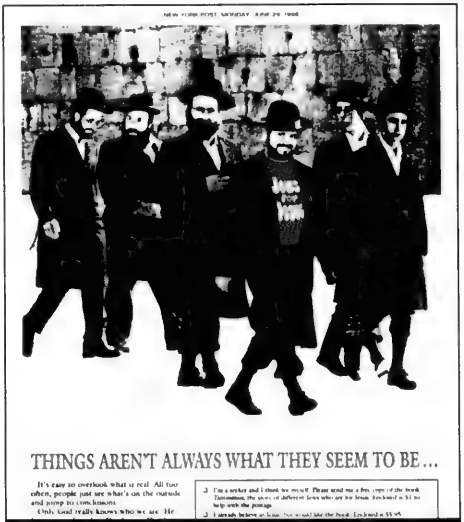
- *They claim that it is "Jewish" to believe in Jesus and that Jews can retain their Jewish identity even after becoming Christians.*

Being Jewish is not just a matter of lineage, but includes being part of a faith community. Therefore, people who were not born Jews can become Jews by embracing the spiritual path of Judaism. Jews who convert to another religion voluntarily cut themselves off from the Jewish faith community.

That Jesus and his followers were Jews does not automatically confer Jewish legitimacy to their movement. The worshippers of the Golden Calf in the desert were also Jews – but being Jews didn't make them right. There was nothing "Jewish" about their idol worship.

As soon as the followers of Jesus changed the Jewish concept of Messiah from a human redeemer who leads the world to a utopian age into a divine saviour who dies to atone for sin, they began transforming into a different religion. This critical change led to the development of a comprehensive theology that dramatically veered from its Jewish roots, and was eventually formalized with the canonization of a set of scriptures vastly different from Judaism's Bible.

Regardless of their superficial attempts to appear Jewish, "Jews for Jesus" is an oxymoron and a theological contradiction. Putting on skullcaps or sprinkling their conversations with Hebrew or Yiddish expressions doesn't change the fact that they are following a religion that is not Jewish! A Jew who converts to Christianity is like a vegetarian who begins to eat meat. Even if he continues to eat vegetables, his diet can no longer be considered vegetarian.



A Jews for Jesus promotion that appeared on large public billboards and as full-page newspaper ads depicts their missionaries as Chassidic Jews at the Kotel.

- *Since they clearly identify themselves as "Jews for Jesus", they deny being deceptive.*

This claim itself is not true, as many of their missionaries are not Jews. In addition, they are often not totally up-front about their beliefs. While focusing on the claim that Jesus was the Messiah, their actual belief is that Jesus was god incarnate, the second person of the Christian Trinity. Although Jews for Jesus rejects the validity of rabbinic teachings, they use many practices instituted by these same rabbis in their evangelistic presentations. Their primary deception is promoting Christianity as Jewish, and because of these tactics, many Christian groups condemn them. The Long Island Council of Churches accused Jews for Jesus of "engaging in subterfuge and dishonesty" and of "mixing religious symbols in ways that distort their essential meaning."

Today's missionaries promote the deceptive message that "It's Jewish to believe in Jesus."

WHAT ARE THE JEWISH ANSWERS TO THEIR CHALLENGES?

QUESTION: Why don't you believe in Jesus?
ANSWER: Although Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, he died without fulfilling the Biblical criteria that define the Messiah. The essential concept of the Messiah is of a wise and righteous king who will reign over a restored Jewish homeland and bring about a utopian world of universal peace and universal knowledge of G-d. (Isaiah 11:1-9; Jeremiah 33:14-16; Ezekiel 34:23-30, 37:24-28; Micah 4:1-4; Zechariah 8:23; Psalm 86:9 and more.) In light of Jesus' failure to fulfill these and numerous other prophesies, early Christianity proposed that Jesus would return in the future and bring about a redeemed world. Aside from the fact that this claim could be made for any failed Messiah, this concept simply does not appear anywhere in the Jewish Bible.

Furthermore, the Jewish belief in G-d as absolutely one and non-corporeal (Deuteronomy 4:12,15,35; 6:4; Isaiah 43:10-11, 45:5-6, 46:9) makes it impossible to accept the Christian belief that Jesus was god incarnate. The Torah warns us against worshipping a concept of G-d that our ancestors didn't know (Deuteronomy 13:3,7,14) and our ancestors had no concept of a Trinitarian Deity.

QUESTION: Did you know that the Jewish Bible contains many passages proving that Jesus was the Messiah?
ANSWER: This claim is baseless. Christians believe in Jesus as a matter of faith, but there is nothing in the Torah that can be used to prove this belief. Many Christian scholars acknowledge this fact. Some of the "prooftexts" used by missionaries are based upon mistranslations. For example, their claim that the Jewish scriptures contain a reference to the Messiah being born to a virgin has been repudiated by almost all modern Christian translations of the Bible.

Most missionary "prooftexts" are quoted out-of-context and are based upon circular reasoning. Christian missionary Walter Riggans states in his 1995 book entitled *Yehoshua Ben David*, "Let me repeat this point, there is no self-evident blueprint in the Hebrew Bible which can be said to ambiguously point to Jesus." Some "proofs" cited by missionaries are actually based upon texts that are totally fabricated.

QUESTION: But didn't Jesus perform miracles, and don't many Christians experience miracles today?
ANSWER: The Jewish Bible never teaches that we will be able to identify the Messiah by the miracles he will do. The reason is that even false prophets may have the ability to perform miracles (Deuteronomy 13:2-5). Even the Christian scriptures acknowledge that false Messiahs can perform supernatural miracles (Matthew 24:24).

Biblical "prooftexts" used by missionaries are based upon circular reasoning, quoting verses out-of-context and mistranslation.

Miracles cannot prove that a particular religion is true because people of all religious faiths experience them. This is also true of subjective feelings of joy and spiritual fulfillment. No religion has a monopoly on these, either. Furthermore, Jews don't necessarily accept all of the stories in the Christian scriptures as historically true. Interestingly, even Jews for Jesus' publications maintain that many claims of the miraculous by contemporary Christians are highly questionable.

QUESTION: How will you get forgiven for your sins today without Temple sacrifices?
ANSWER: It is an error to think that animal sacrifices were the essential way of dealing with our personal failures. None of the Biblical prophets taught that animal sacrifices were indispensable in order to be forgiven for our sins. As a matter of fact, the prophets constantly berated people who mistakenly thought that sacrifices, in and of themselves, can attain forgiveness (Isaiah 1:11-20; Amos 5:22-24; Psalm 51:17-19*; Jeremiah 7:1-10; Micah 6:6-8).

The Bible clearly teaches that the only way of atoning for sin is through repentance – a process of transformation that includes acknowledging our wrongdoing and confessing it to G-d, feeling regret, making restitution if we harmed someone, resolving to improve our behaviour, returning to G-d and praying for forgiveness (II Chronicles 7:14; Ezekiel chapters 18 and 33; Jeremiah 36:3; Isaiah 55:6-7 and Jonah 3:10).

The Bible's sin offering was only mandated for unintentional sins (Leviticus 4) and only when the Temple was standing in Jerusalem. Someone too poor to offer an animal could bring fine flour to the Temple (Leviticus 5:11-12). The sin offering was supposed to be an outward symbol of the person's inner change; it didn't secure forgiveness by itself. Today, in the absence of the Temple, we reconnect with G-d in the wake of sin through sincere repentance (I Kings 8:46-50).

QUESTION: Did you know that you can have a personal relationship with G-d through Jesus?
ANSWER: Every person has a personal relationship with G-d because we are His creations and we all possess a Divine soul. All we need to do is turn to G-d with a sincere heart and this action awakens our intrinsic spiritual closeness with Him. The Bible teaches, "G-d is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him with sincerity" (Psalm 145:18).

The Bible never speaks of the need to approach G-d through an intermediary. The Bible's holiest people, such as Moses and King David, experienced deep intimacy with G-d directly, without believing in Jesus. Prayer, Torah study, acts of charity and kindness, and living in obedience to G-d's will are the means of developing closeness with Him.

**(In some Bibles, Psalms 51:15-17)*

UNDERSTANDING & DEALING WITH MISSIONARY TACTICS

Note: Missionary groups may not employ all of the following techniques. These are some of the tactics that you might encounter.

Famous scientist Louis Pasteur used to say, "Fortune favours the mind that is prepared." It is crucial to realize that missionaries operate as salespeople and not as educators. Knowing their techniques of influence and developing your own critical thinking skills is vital to resisting their overtures.

1. ASSUMING SUPERIORITY

Missionaries may attempt to elicit as many "I don't know" responses as possible in order to establish their superiority and credibility. Don't allow yourself to be intimidated. Bear in mind that they are not interested in a genuine exchange of ideas. Missionaries are driven by their agenda of attempting to sway you from your faith. Their "questions" are not really questions seeking an answer, but set-ups to their sales pitch. You can simply state that you would prefer to learn about Biblical concepts from someone who doesn't have a hidden agenda.

2. DECEPTION

Missionaries may claim to have traditional Jewish backgrounds with a solid Jewish education. All too often, this is an exaggeration or outright fabrication designed to establish their credibility. The implied message is that this Jew for Jesus came to accept Christianity after knowing and overcoming all the Jewish objections. Some missionaries may even present traditional Jewish objections to their position and then demonstrate how these objections lack substance. Don't expect to hear a fair or accurate presentation of the Jewish position from the missionary.

3. LOVE BOMBING

Salespeople often flatter and charm potential customers to prime their receptivity and clinch the sale. Someone's warmth and friendliness has nothing to do with the validity of their ideas or sales pitch.

4. COVER-UP

Missionaries may focus on issues where there is little resistance and may avoid revealing beliefs that are less palatable. For example, they may stress the idea of Jesus as the Messiah while avoiding the bottom-line Christian doctrine that Jesus was actually god incarnate. Missionaries may also gloss over their conviction that good people who don't accept Jesus will be consigned to eternal damnation in hell.

5. THE NUMBERS GAME

Some missionaries may inundate you with endless lists of verses from the Bible. Of course, truth is not determined by volume. They may claim that there are over 300 Biblical "proofs" for their position. A careful examination of the passages – in context – will immediately refute their presentation. They may hide behind the numbers and say, "You may be right, but if you look at all the 'proofs' together, they are pretty impressive." It's important to remember that numerous weak pieces of evidence don't become stronger by combining them. 300 x 0 is still 0!

6. MANIPULATIVE LOGIC

Occasionally, missionaries may try to force you into accepting a proposition with false premises. One popular example is the assertion that "Jesus was either a lunatic, a liar or the Messiah." Missionaries assume that you won't feel comfortable with the first two options, and you'll accept the third. Of course, there are other possible explanations, such as Jesus sincerely believed he was the Messiah, but he turned out to be mistaken. This scenario is consistent with Jesus' dying words related in the Christian scriptures, "My G-d, my G-d, why have You forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46).

7. EXPLOITING AMBIGUITY

We live in a confusing and frustrating world where reality is more often gray than black and white. Sometimes, missionaries may attempt to intensify your anxieties and insecurities by focusing on issues about which you feel powerless, such as terrorism, war, rampant immorality, illness and your own mortality. Or, they may play on the guilt you feel over a personal failure. Then, they offer simplistic answers to these critical problems. The lure and comfort of certainty can sometimes interfere with our normal instinct to verify their claims.

8. SHORT-CIRCUITING THOUGHT

Some missionaries may denigrate your desire to carefully analyze and evaluate their claims by stating, "You rely too much on your head – you have to open your heart!" The Torah never tells us to base our critical decisions upon our emotions. Our Torah always warns us to think and use our minds because our hearts can often lead us astray. Another tactic the missionaries use is to pressure you for a quick commitment, such as, "What is preventing you from accepting Jesus into your heart right now?"

9. PROVOKING US TO JEALOUSY

Most Jews who convert to Christianity never experienced Judaism as a real spiritual path – as a way of developing a personal relationship with G-d. Missionaries readily exploit this weakness by introducing potential converts to their enthusiastic worship services full of music and emotion. Bear in mind that a person's passion does not prove the truth of their beliefs. Every religion has adherents who have profound spiritual experiences and intense worship. The great tragedy of our times is that far too many Jews are unaware of this vital potential within their own faith.

> It is tragic that too many Jews are unaware of the profound meaning and spirituality within their own faith.

10. PRESUPPOSITION

A common technique employed by missionaries is to throw out the challenge, "Why don't you pray to Jesus and ask him to reveal himself to you, or give you a sign?" This is a manipulative tactic to preempt thoughtful consideration and maneuver you to tacitly accept their position. And, of course, missionaries will interpret virtually anything that happens to you as a divine sign, as something "meant to be."

A "Hebrew Christian" congregation in Toronto uses an authentic Torah scroll at their "Shabbat service".

PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS

• Missionaries working with organizations like Jews for Jesus are well-trained, like an aggressive sales force, to push their product. They are taught to overcome all your objections and "close the sale". It is unlikely that you will be able to reason with them. Therefore, JEWS FOR JUDAISM strongly recommends that you avoid trying, unless you're thoroughly schooled in the relevant biblical and theological issues. A polite but firm, "No thank you." is the most appropriate response.

• Resist the temptation to respond angrily or with hostility because this reaction only bolsters their determination. Remember, although you may feel offended by their activities, they are not behaving in this way to offend you. For the most part, Jewish converts to Christianity are not villains, but the unfortunate victims of Jewish educational and spiritual malnutrition.

• Please report any missionary activity to JEWS FOR JUDAISM and their staff and trained volunteers will respond.

• The most effective way to counter the efforts of predatory missionaries is to make ourselves, our families and our communities less vulnerable. Missionaries can only be successful where there is an educational and spiritual vacuum. It is vital that all Jews have a meaningful Jewish education that leads to a profound appreciation for the wisdom and beauty of Judaism. Obviously, intellectual knowledge of Judaism alone isn't enough. We must bring the teachings and spirituality of Judaism into our hearts, our homes and our daily lives. When our lives are enriched by Jewish living, when we embrace our Judaism with passion, we become inoculated against the missionary threat and are less likely to stray to alien faiths.

• We realize that not knowing how to answer all the questions posed by missionaries seeking to convert you can be frustrating. This booklet is only a brief introduction to issues you may want to explore on a deeper level. JEWS FOR JUDAISM has an extensive array of educational materials and offers stimulating speakers and classes throughout the year. We are available to answer your questions. As well, we provide counseling to families dealing with a loved one who has embraced another faith, and we have been successful in helping these people return to their families and to Judaism.

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Talmud (Sanhedrin 37a)

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